



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) The total number of positive flu tests decreased in week 50 (Dec. 13-Dec. 19) (Fig. 1). Though this may in part be due to a decrease in the number of labs reporting this week, the % of flu tests that tested positive also decreased suggesting that flu activity continues to decline in LAC (Fig. 1). The % of emergency department visits due to ILI (influenza-like illness) increased slightly but is consistent with levels normally expected during this time of year (Figs. 2 & 3). One new ILI outbreak in an elementary school was reported during week 50 (Table 1). As many schools are on break, a low number of reported outbreaks is not unexpected. Since the beginning of the pandemic in April, there have been 336 ICU/ deaths due to H1N1 of which 115 have been deaths. The % of RSV tests that tested positive increased in Week 50 (Fig. 1).

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 50	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [‡]	5.5	17.2
Percent Positive RSV Tests [†]	2.7	0.8
Percent Flu A / Flu B [±]	100 / 0	99.7 / 0.3
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	1 (0)	96 (9)
Respiratory Outbreaks	1	352
Influenza Deaths	0	66

*See <http://apublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods. 2009-2010 surveillance started on 8/30/09 (week 35) and ends May 22, 2010 (week 20)

± Sentinel sites (7 participating facilities in week 50)

‡ Sentinel sites (4 participating facilities in week 50)

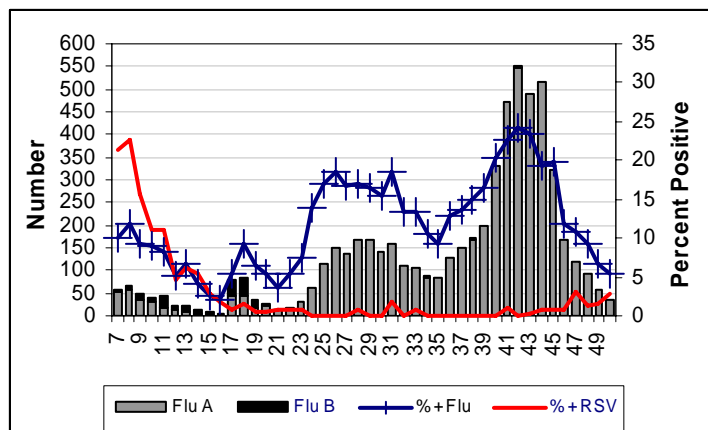
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During week 50 (December 13-December 19), influenza activity in California remained **widespread**.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

United States Influenza activity decreased in the US during week 50 (Dec. 13-Dec. 19) in which 7 states reported widespread activity, 18 states reported regional activity, 13 states reported local activity, 11 states reported sporadic activity, and 1 state reported no activity. Of all the subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC in week 50, 100% were pandemic influenza A (H1N1) viruses. www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

Figure 1: Total Positive Flu and % Positive Flu by Week



*Influenza data represent testing completed in 9 facilities except in weeks 39 and 44 in which data represent testing in 8 facilities and in week 50 (7 facilities).

In The News Sao Paulo, Brazil. Researchers examined lung tissues of 21 case patients who had died in July and August with confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infections. Most patients were between 30 and 59 years old and 76% had underlying medical conditions such as heart disease or cancer. Most fatal cases presented with difficulty breathing (dyspnea) as opposed to non-fatal cases which more often presented with fever and myalgia. Distinct patterns of lung damage were found indicating the virus may kill in distinct ways. Severe acute lung injury was sometimes associated with necrotizing bronchiolitis or a hemorrhagic pattern. Influenza infections in patient with an underlying medical condition and necrotizing bronchiolitis were associated with the presence of bacterial co-infections. Researchers also found evidence of the “cytokine storm”, associated with influenza infections, where a patient’s robust immune response to the viral infection causes damage to lung tissues. Results will be published in the Jan. 1, 2010 issue of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, All Ages

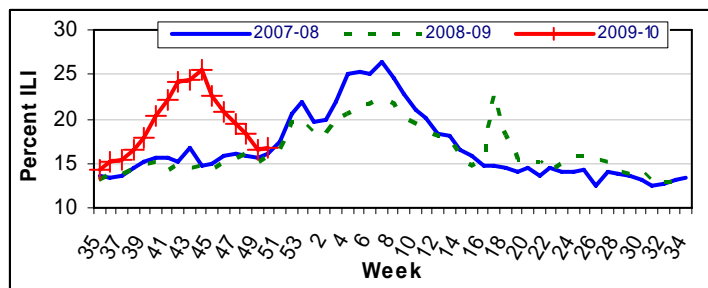


Figure 3: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, 5-14 Years

