



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County (LAC)** The 2009-2010 flu season began with week 35 (August 30-September 5). Thus, the table below and Figure 2 have been reset accordingly. Four severe pediatric flu cases occurred during week 34 while two cases occurred in week 35. Six new (2 in week 34 and 4 in week 35) ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (four in schools, one in a nursing home, and one in an office) were reported during weeks 34 & 35. The percent of flu tests that were positive decreased during weeks 34 and 35 (Figure 1). The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI is slightly higher compared to the same time in previous years (Figure 2).

### Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 35	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests <sup>±</sup>	14.5	14.5
Percent Positive RSV Tests <sup>†</sup>	0.0	0.0
Percent Flu A / Flu B <sup>±</sup>	100 / 0	100 / 0
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases <sup>†</sup>	2	2
Respiratory Outbreaks	4	4

\*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods.

± Sentinel sites (8 and 6 participating facilities in weeks 34 & 35 respectively)

† Sentinel sites (4 participating facilities)

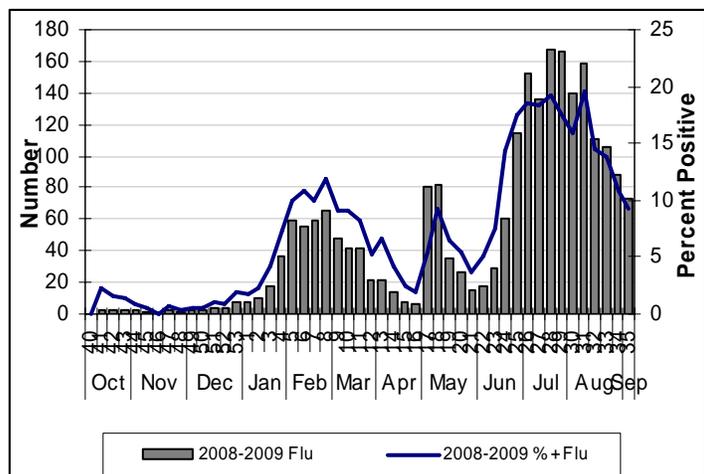
‡ The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

**California** During weeks 33 & 34 (August 16-August 29), influenza activity in California remained **regional**.

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

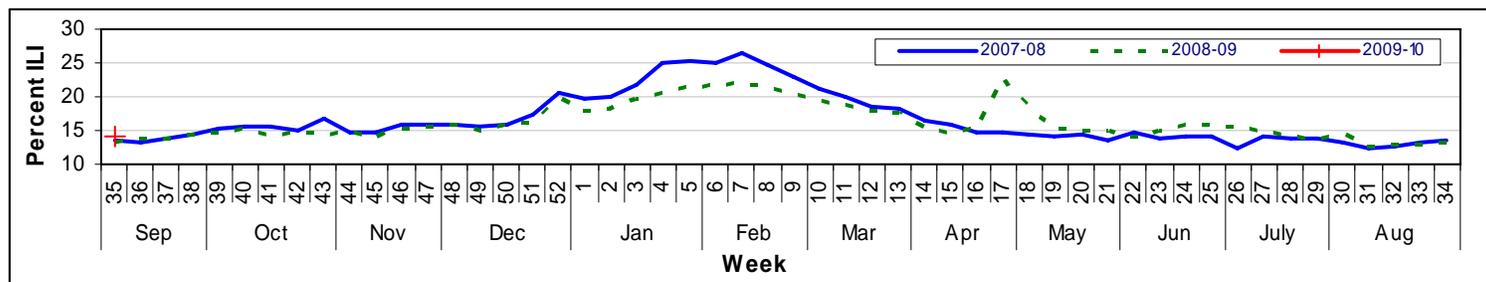
**United States** Influenza activity increased across the United States during week 34. In week 34, 6 states reported widespread activity, 13 states reported regional activity, 10 states reported local activity, 19 states reported sporadic activity, and 2 states reported no activity. Approximately 97% of all sub-typed influenza A viruses being reported to CDC in week 34 were novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

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



\*Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities except for week 35 when influenza data represent testing completed in 6 facilities.

**Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week**



**In the News** Two studies published in the New England Journal of Medicine indicate that just one dose of a novel H1N1 vaccine will illicit a big enough antibody response in healthy adults to protect against the virus within 10 days. The first study out of Australia showed that within 21 days a single standard dose of vaccine elicited an immune response in 96% of adults studied. While 45% of subjects experienced side effects, these adverse effects were mild to moderate. The second study out of Britain concluded that a single dose of vaccine would likely illicit protection within 14 days. Previously it was believed that 2 doses of vaccine would be necessary to protect against the virus in adults. A one dose protocol will greatly enhance the supply of vaccine and hasten individual immunity.

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMoa0907413?query=TOC>

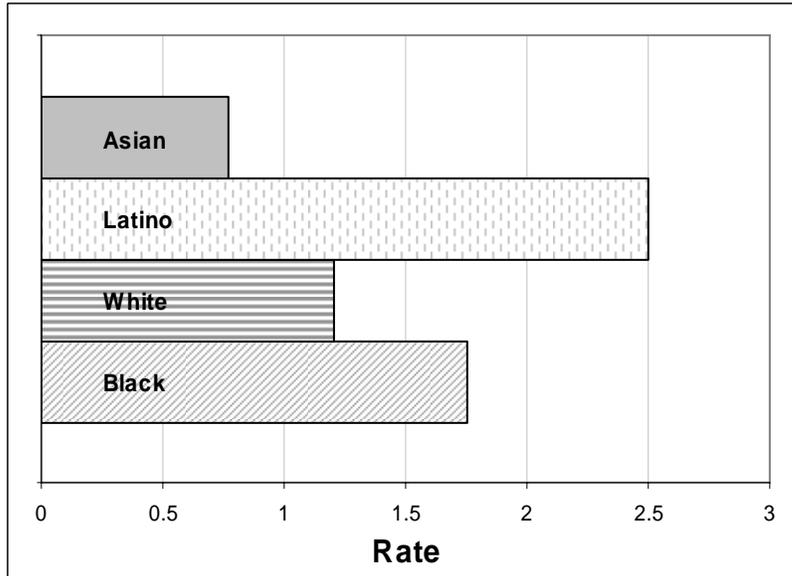
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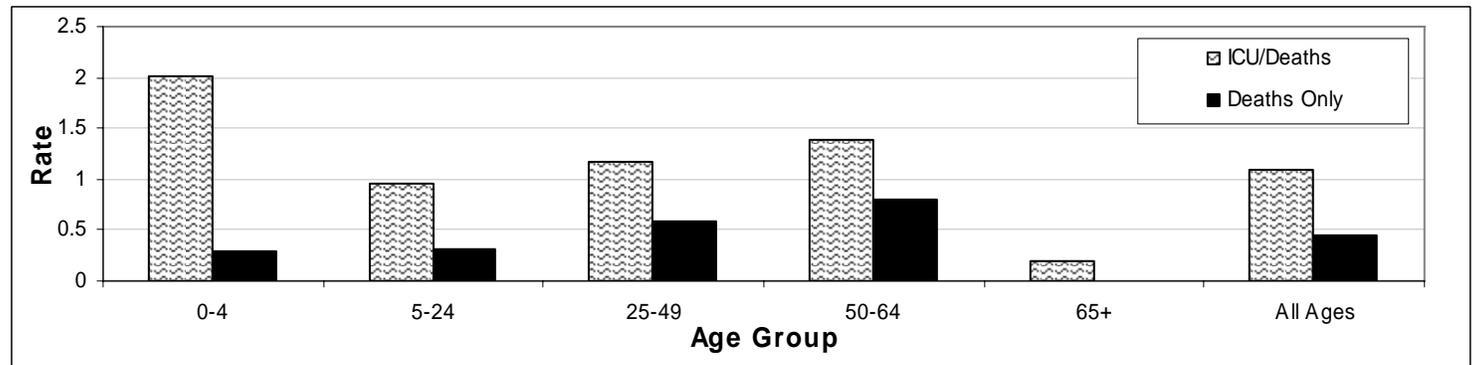
## Breakdown of Novel H1N1 Cases in Los Angeles County

**Figure 3: Rate per 100,000 of Hospitalized Novel H1N1 by Race**



Individual case reporting for hospitalized novel H1N1 cases stopped on August 6, 2009 and was replaced by aggregate reporting of hospitalized cases of *any* influenza by age group. Individual case data through this date show that Latinos had the highest rate of hospitalization due to novel H1N1 (Figure 3). It is unclear if novel H1N1 is disproportionately affecting Latinos or if Latinos are more likely to seek medical care at hospitals instead of private doctors. Patients aged 0-4 years have the highest rate of hospitalization and ICU admission due to novel H1N1 (Figure 4). However, this age group has the lowest rate of death with the exception of patients aged 65 and over who have seen no deaths due to novel H1N1. Patients aged 65 and over have the lowest rate of hospitalization and ICU admission due to Novel H1N1. This is consistent with national data. Since aggregate reporting began in week 32 (August 9 - August 15), the number of hospitalized cases due to *any* influenza has remained relatively stable (Figure 5) although the number of hospitals reporting each week has varied from 55-69. For more information on testing, treating, and preventing influenza in Los Angeles County go to: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/h1n1.htm>.

**Figure 4: Rate per 100,000 of Novel H1N1 by Age Group as of September 10, 2009**



**Figure 5: Hospitalized Influenza Cases by Week of Onset as of September 10, 2009**

