



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) The total number of positive influenza tests as well as the percent of influenza tests that tested positive increased significantly in week 40 (Figure 1). Three severe pediatric flu cases occurred during week 40, one of which was a death. Thirty-four new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (33 in schools and 1 in a nursing home) were reported during week 40. The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI remained higher compared to the same time in previous years (Figure 2), especially in those 5-14 years old (Figure 3).

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 40	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [±]	21.7	15.0
Percent Positive RSV Tests [‡]	0.0	0.1
Percent Flu A / Flu B [±]	99.6 / 0.4	99.4 / 0.6
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	3 (1)	16 (4)
Respiratory Outbreaks	34	81

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

± Sentinel sites (6 participating facilities in week 40)

‡ Sentinel sites (2 participating facilities in week 40)

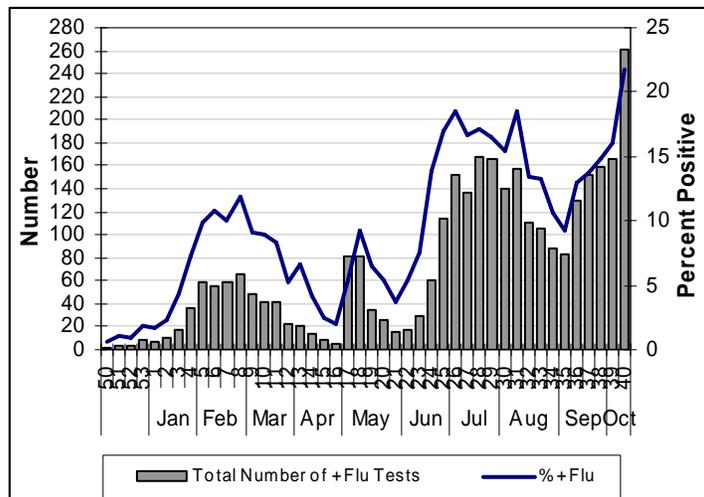
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During week 40 (October 4-October 10), influenza activity in California remained **widespread**.

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

United States Influenza activity remained elevated across the United States during week 39 (September 27-October 3). In week 39, 37 states reported widespread activity, 11 states reported regional activity, and 2 states reported local activity. Approximately 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC in week 38 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 weeks 38 (8 facilities), 39 (6 facilities), and 40 (6 facilities).

In the News Two articles recently published in JAMA describe the clinical characteristics of critically ill patients hospitalized with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) in Mexico and Canada during the early part of the pandemic. In Mexico, the *median* age of these critically ill patients was 44 years, and 21% were obese. The mortality was 41%. In Canada, the *mean* age of critically ill patients was 32 years, and the overall mortality at 90 days was 17.1%. In both Mexico and Canada, critically ill patients tended to be relatively healthy young adults who rapidly progressed to respiratory failure. (In contrast, critically ill patients in Los Angeles County tend to have at least one underlying medical condition.) Both studies showed that shock and multi-system organ failure were common, and hypoxemia was prolonged and severe. No nosocomial transmission was evident in either study. These studies provide clues as to what hospitals and clinicians may expect to see in the upcoming months if they haven't already. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/2009.1536v1> and <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/2009.1496v1>

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

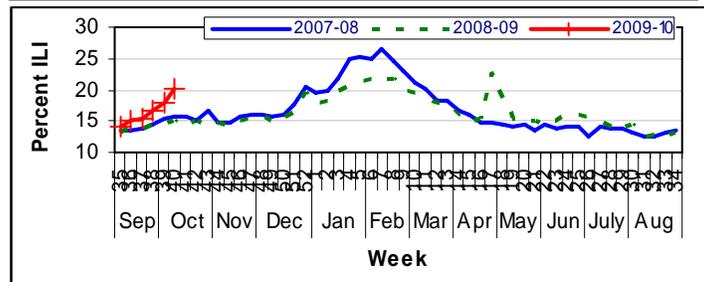


Figure 3: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, 5-14 years

