



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) The total number of positive flu tests as well as the % of flu tests that tested positive decreased in week 48. While the % of RSV tests that tested positive decreased relative to week 47, it remains high compared to earlier weeks. Six new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (3 in elementary schools, 2 in assisted living facilities, and 1 in a nursing home) were reported during week 48 (Table 1). The % of emergency department (ED) visits due to ILI continued to decrease but remains higher relative to the same time in previous years for all ages (Figure 2). However, the % of ED visits due to ILI among persons 5-14 years of age has returned to levels normally expected during this time of year (Figure 3). Since the beginning of the pandemic in April, there have been 297 ICU/deaths due to H1N1 of which 102 have been deaths.

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 48	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [±]	9.4	18.1
Percent Positive RSV Tests [†]	2.9	0.8
Percent Flu A / Flu B [±]	100 / 0	99.7 / 0.3
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	0 (0)	80 (7)
Respiratory Outbreaks	6	338
Influenza Deaths	1	52

*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods. The 2009-2010 season began on 8/30/2009 (week 35).

± Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities in week 48)

† Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities in week 48)

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During week 48 (November 29-December 5), influenza activity in California remained **widespread**.

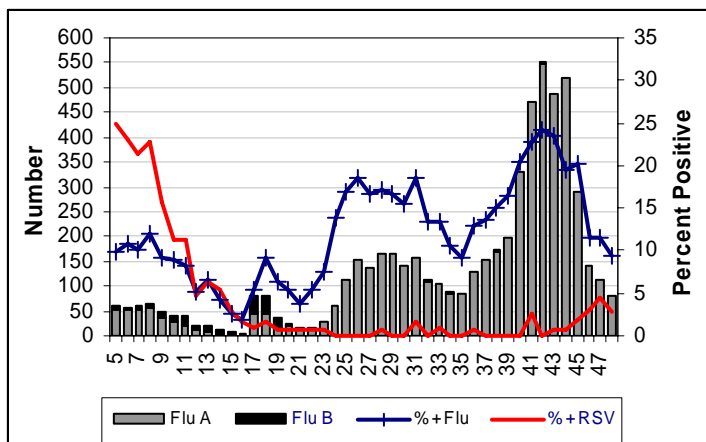
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

United States Influenza activity decreased in the US during week 47 (Nov 22-Nov 28) in which 25 states reported widespread activity, 17 states reported regional activity, 6 states reported local activity, and 2 states reported sporadic activity.

Over 99% of subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC in week 46 were novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

In the News On Dec. 7, the CDC issued updated recommendations for the use of antiviral drugs to prevent and treat flu. Updates include FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of oseltamivir for treatment of patients <1 year old who have H1N1 and who have been symptomatic for no more than 2 days. The FDA also issued EUAs authorizing treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir of patients with H1N1 who have been symptomatic for more than two days and patients sick enough to require hospitalization. While data is not sufficient for FDA approval of peramivir, the FDA has issued an EUA for treatment with this drug of hospitalized patients with potentially life-threatening suspected or laboratory-confirmed infection with H1N1. Because vaccines do not provide 100% protection, treatment for vaccinated persons should parallel treatment for unvaccinated persons. Further details and guidance available at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm/?date=120709#c>.

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



*Influenza data represent testing completed in 9 facilities except in weeks 39 and 44-48 in which data represent testing in 8 facilities.

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

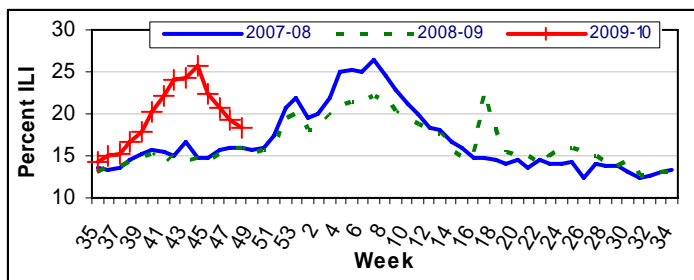


Figure 3: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, 5-14 Years

