

FLU ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO DECLINE

Local flu activity continues to drop with all indicators showing a decline. The percent of emergency department visits for influenza-like illness is near pre-season levels typically seen in September (Figure 1), and both the number of specimens submitted for respiratory testing and the percentage of positive flu tests continues to decrease since peaking in late February. Most flu viruses currently circulating in Los Angeles County are type A, in contrast to the beginning of the season when type B was the predominant strain.

LA County Surveillance Summary (2010-2011)

LA County Surveillance Summary	Week 18	10-11 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	1 / 285 (0.4%)	2,119 / 21,090 (10.0%)
Flu A / B	100% / 0%	57% / 43%
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	2 / 197 (1.0%)	1,301 / 12,204 (10.7%)
Respiratory Outbreaks	1	62
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Deaths, Confirmed)	0 (0)	27 (1)

Figure 1
Influenza-like Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2011)

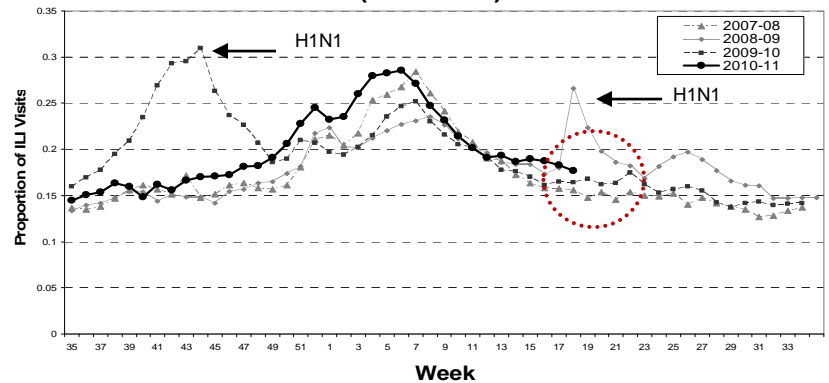
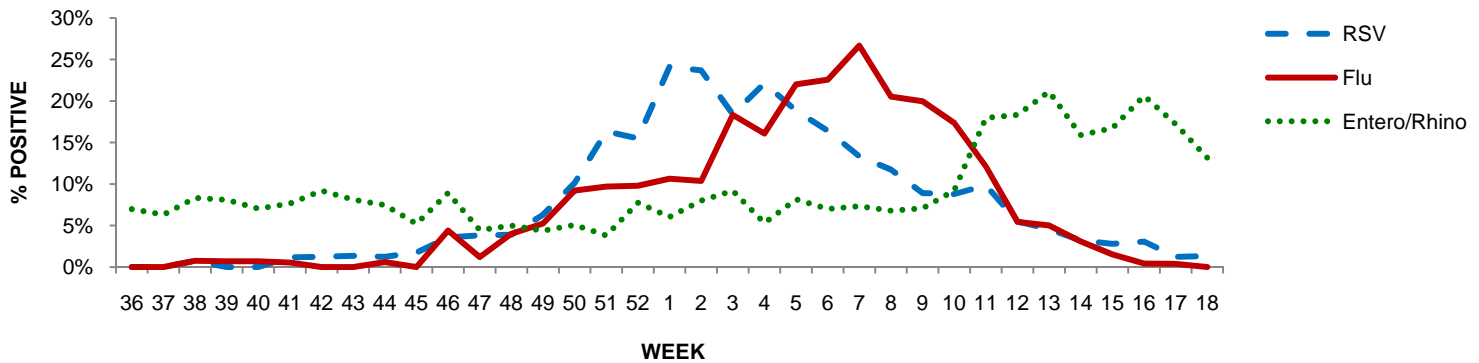


Figure 2 Percent Positive Influenza, RSV, and Enterovirus/Rhinovirus by MMWR week (2010-2011)



COMPARISON OF INFLUENZA, RSV, and ENTEROVIRUS/RHINOVIRUS in LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The data in Figure 2 were collected from three reference laboratories in Los Angeles County that use PCR and multiplex testing on respiratory specimens. PCR and multiplex testing are more sensitive than rapid testing. RSV peaked first in week 2 (1/9/2011-1/15/2011) with a percent positivity of 23.7%. Influenza peaked in week 7 (2/13/2011-2/19/2011) with a percent positivity of 26.7%. Enterovirus/Rhinovirus peaked much later in the season in week 13 (3/27/2011-4/2/2011) with a percent positivity of 21.1% and its activity is still relatively high. Human rhinovirus has been associated with asthma and wheezing respiratory infections in children.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21494174>

FLU VACCINATION RECOMMENDED FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

Even though flu activity is low both locally and nationwide, flu continues to circulate during the summer months—particularly in the Southern Hemisphere. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the CDC recommend travelers obtain influenza vaccination at least two weeks prior to travel. This guidance is especially important for those with conditions that increase their risk for severe outcomes from influenza infection (such as obesity, chronic heart and lung conditions and pregnancy).

Additional information on influenza vaccination for travelers at:

www.cdc.gov/flu/travelers/?source=govdelivery