

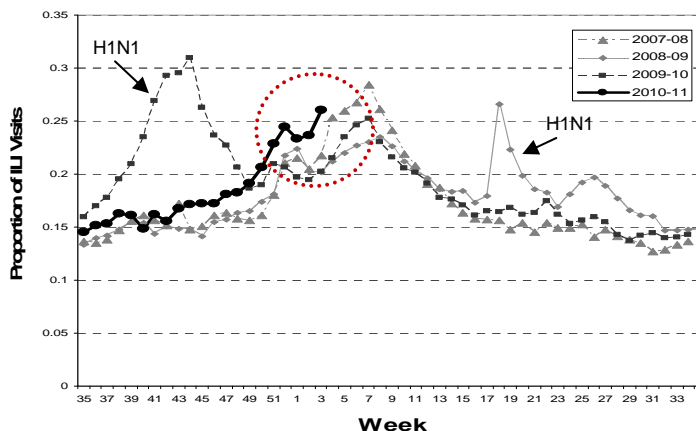
INCREASED FLU ACTIVITY INCLUDING SCHOOL OUTBREAKS CONTINUE IN LA COUNTY

Los Angeles County continues to experience moderate levels of flu-activity resulting from several viral strains: type B and type A, both H3N2 and 2009 H1N1. In addition, over the past two weeks LACDPH has received reports of significant increases in flu-like illness from several schools; flu-like illness in those <18 years has also increased in emergency rooms. Accordingly, physicians are urged to continue flu vaccination, and in particular to follow CDC guidance and vaccinate all children 6 months to 18 years without contraindications.

LA County Surveillance Summary (2010-2011)
Surveillance Weeks 2 to 3

| LA County Surveillance Summary | Week 2 | Week 3 | 10-11 Season YTD |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests) | 93 / 636 (14.6%) | 121 / 600 (20.2%) | 464 / 8,094 (5.7%) |
| Percent Flu A / B | 48 / 52 | 51 / 49 | 47 / 53 |
| Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests) | 127 / 289 (43.9%) | 111 / 257 (43.2%) | 712 / 3,970 (17.9%) |
| Respiratory Outbreaks | 5 | 5 | 13 |
| Total Flu Deaths (Pediatric Deaths) | 0 (0) | 0 (0) | 3 (1) |

Influenza-like Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2011)
Surveillance Week 3



SOME ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOOL FLU OUTBREAKS

- Q: How many ill students constitute an outbreak at a school?
A: LACDPH encourages doctors and schools to report outbreaks when they identify 5 sick children, with similar symptoms, in a common setting (i.e., sharing the same classroom, team or learning group) during a one week period.
- Q: Do children ill with flu need a doctor's note to return?
A: No. The vast majority of children sick with flu-like illness will get better without the need to see a doctor, so seeing a doctor to receive clearance is not medically necessary and can needlessly overwhelm medical offices.
- Q: When is it OK for sick children to return to school?
A: Children can return to school 24 hours after their fever has resolved. Sometimes a mild cough might still be present, but should not be cause for excluding a child from school activities. This guidance is also recommended for faculty and staff.
- Q: Do schools experiencing flu outbreaks need to close and conduct strict disinfection?
A: No. Flu viruses are relatively fragile, so simple, standard and routine cleaning is sufficient. For more on cleaning school surfaces, visit: www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm.

To learn more about flu prevention in school settings and guidance for reporting to LACDPH, visit:

www.laschoolhealth.com

FLU RESOURCES!

LACDPH has many flu-related resources, several in multiple languages, ideal for: schools, nurses' or doctors' offices, waiting rooms, and other areas.

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/HealthEdFlu.htm