

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 nearing levels seen in November and December (Figure 1), and both the number of specimens submitted for respiratory testing and the percentage of positive flu tests continued a six-week decline since the peak 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)
Surveillance Weeks 12 to 13

LA County Surveillance Summary	Week 12	Week 13	10-11 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	24 / 586 (4.1%)	24 / 417 (5.8%)	2,069 / 18,652 (11.1%)
Percent Flu A / B	79 / 21	75 / 25	57 / 43
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	17 / 308 (5.5%)	15 / 285 (5.3%)	1,267 / 10,763 (11.8%)
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	0	60
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Deaths, Confirmed)	0 (0)	1 (0)	20 (0)

Figure 1
Influenza-like Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2011)
Surveillance Week 13

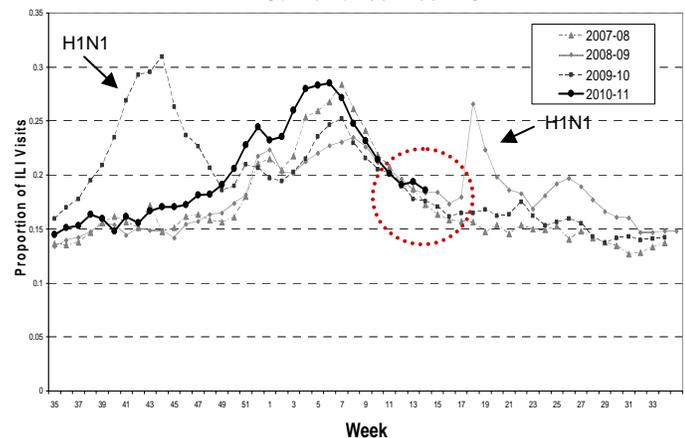
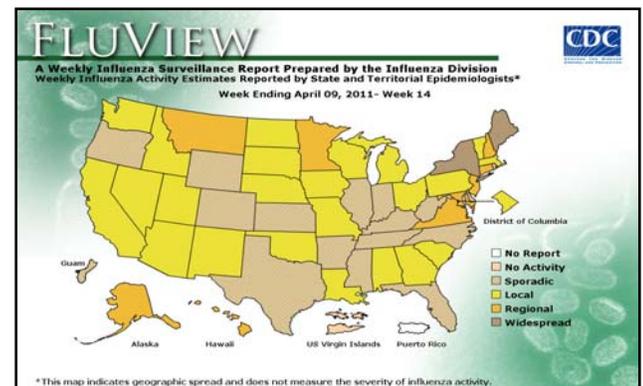
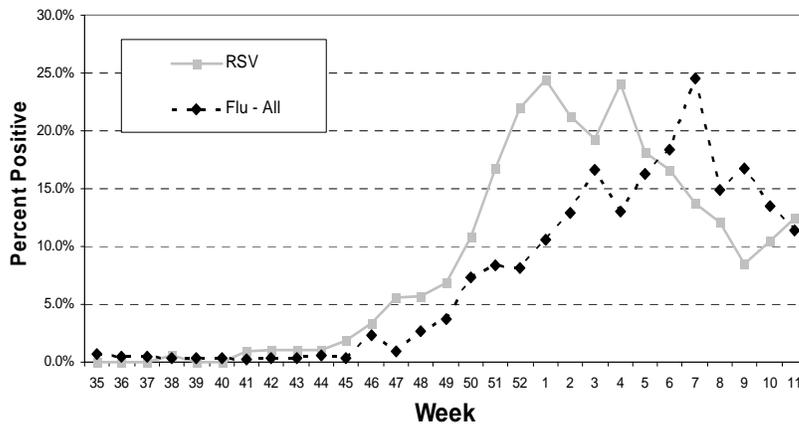


Figure 2
Percent Positive Influenza and RSV, LA County (2010-2011)
Surveillance Week 13



Nationwide flu activity has decreased substantially in recent weeks. During week 14, only two states (Maine and New York) reported the highest level of activity, down from 18 states in week 11 and 39 states during week 9.

CALIFORNIA STUDY SAYS 50-SOMETHINGS HAD HIGHEST 2009 H1N1 DEATH RATE

A study of deaths in California from the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus showed that among adults, people in their 50s had the highest H1N1 mortality rate. Writing in *PLoS One**, the California Department of Public Health reports that 541 adults (20 years and older) died of H1N1 flu from April 2009 through August 2010. The annualized fatality rate per 100,000 population was highest in 50- to 59-year-olds at 2.6, followed by 60- to 69-year-olds at 1.7. The rates for younger and older age-groups ranged from 0.3 to 1.4. The researchers noted that adults over 60 may have had some protection because of preexisting immunity.

Locally, the findings among this season's flu fatalities are consistent with this study. To date, among the 20 known influenza-related deaths, all but one (95%) were due to influenza type A; and of those that were able to be further strain typed, all (100%) were due to 2009 H1N1. The overall mean age of Los Angeles' flu fatalities is 48.7 years (median 49.5 years).

* Louie JK, Jean C, Acosta M, Samuel MC, Matyas BT, et al. 2011 A Review of Adult Mortality Due to 2009 Pandemic (H1N1) Influenza A in California. *PLoS ONE* 6(4): e18221. www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0018221