

Flu Activity Continues to Increase

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) has confirmed the first influenza-associated death of the season. The fatality occurred in an elderly woman with underlying medical conditions who resided in the Pomona Valley. Two testing methods identified influenza type B. The full press release can be found here: [Public Health Confirms First Influenza Death of the Season](#). Following the press release, two additional deaths were reported to LACDPH; both type A (Table 1). In addition, all other surveillance indicators show influenza activity continues to increase and will likely remain high in the coming weeks (Figures 1 & 2). National data show similar trends, and report local activity for California, while areas in the Northeast and Southeast are experiencing more intense widespread activity (Figure 3). Influenza type A H3N2 continues to be the dominant circulating strain, followed by type B and even lower levels of A H1N1.

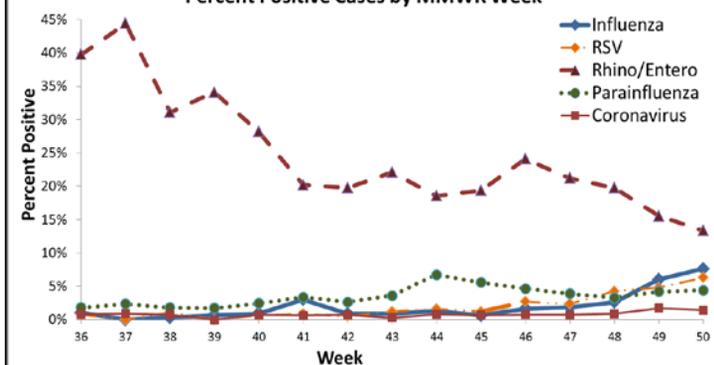
Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary 2014-2015

	Week 51 [‡] 12/14/14-12/20/14	2014-15 YTD (9/1/14-Present)
Positive Flu Tests/Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	31/403 (7.7%)	267/10197 (2.6%)
Percent Flu A/B	92/8	82/18
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Flu Deaths, Confirmed [†]	2	3

[†]Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, compatible symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death

[‡]Only 50% of sentinel sites have reported for week 51

Figure 1. Respiratory Viruses, LA County 2014-15
Percent Positive Cases by MMWR Week



*Sentinel laboratory data for week 51 is incomplete and has been excluded from this graph

Figure 2. Percent Positive Visits to Emergency Departments
for Influenza-Like-Illness, LAC 2007-2014

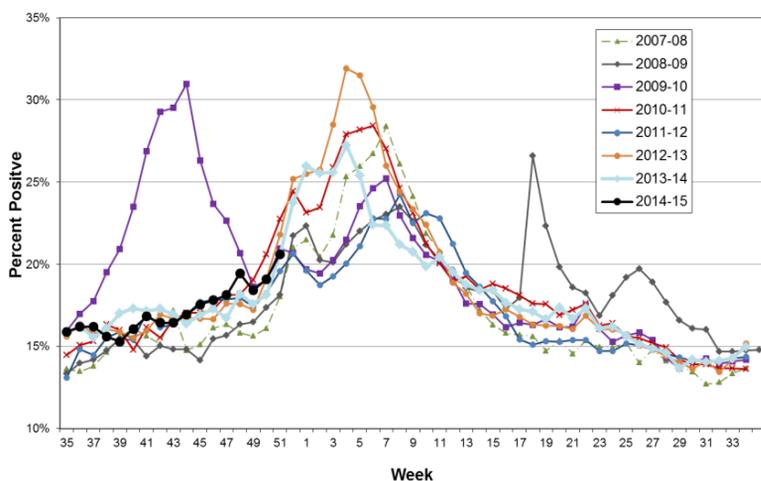
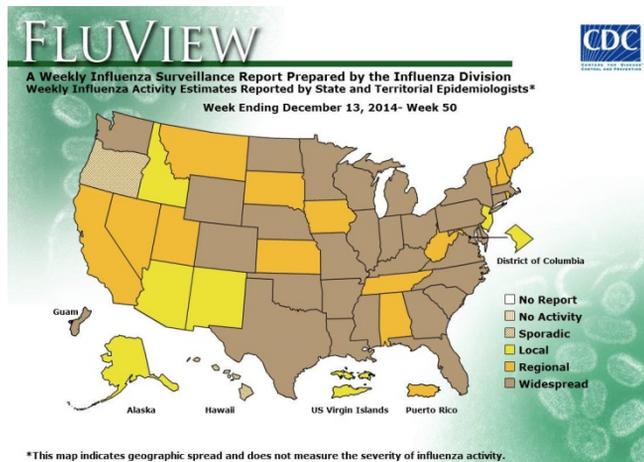


Figure 3. United States Geographic Spread of Influenza



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.