

Influenza Decreasing But Still Elevated

Over the past 2 surveillance weeks, influenza activity in Los Angeles County (LAC) has decreased, but remains elevated. Influenza A remains the dominant strain however reports of B are increasing. Influenza activity appears to have peaked in January and currently respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is on the upswing (Figure 1 and 2). This week the first pediatric influenza-associated death was confirmed in LAC. The infant had influenza A (no subtype identified) and was severely immunocompromised with multiple co-morbidities. To date there have been a total of 28 reported influenza-associated deaths in LAC, which is significantly less (only 1/4) compared to surveillance week 6 of last year (Table 1). Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports flu activity is decreasing in some states but remains elevated overall with widespread activity still being reported for California (Figure 3).

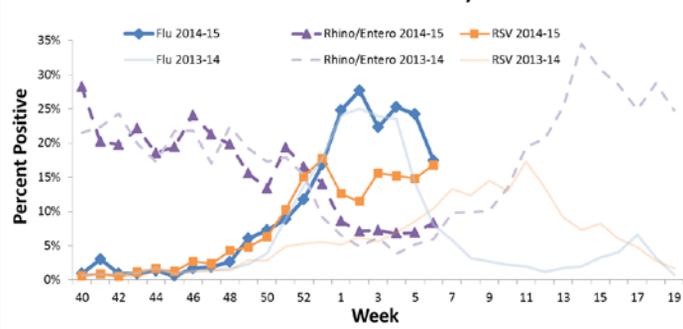
Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary

	2014-2015		2013-2014	
	Week 6	YTD [†]	Week 6	YTD
Percent Positive Flu Tests	17.4%	15.1%	8.0%	13.0%
Percent Flu A/B	85/15	92/8	94/6	97/3
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	4	1	7
Influenza Confirmed Outbreaks	0	5	0	2
Pediatric Flu Deaths ^{††}	1	1	0	2
Adult Flu Deaths	2	28	16	82

[†]The influenza surveillance year starts September 1

^{††}Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, ILI symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death

Figure 1. Influenza, Rhino/Enteroviruses, and RSV LAC 2013-2015 Percent Positive Cases by MMWR Week



Healthcare Providers Play an Important Role in Vaccinating Pregnant Women Against Influenza

The CDC's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Systems data show that pregnant and postpartum women are five times more likely to receive a flu vaccine if their health care provider recommended or offered it than women who were not given a recommendation. This suggests that healthcare providers play a significant role in increasing vaccination coverage in pregnant women and are instrumental in reaching the Healthy People 2020 goal of 80% of pregnant women receiving seasonal influenza vaccination. Healthcare providers who treat pregnant women may include obstetricians and gynecologists, primary care physicians, and certified midwives.

[CDC - PPRAMS and Flu - Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System - Reproductive Health](#)

Figure 2. Respiratory Illness Emergency Department Visits, LAC 2009-2015

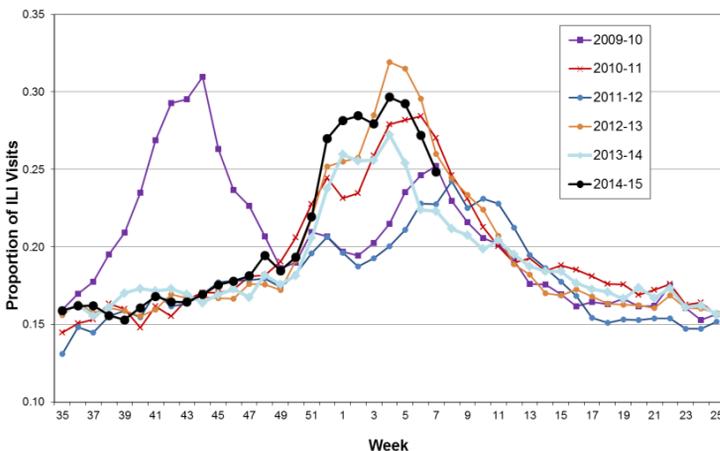


Figure 3. CDC Weekly US Map: Influenza Summary Update

