

## Influenza Activity on the Decline

During week 15 (ending April 15), a little less than 1 in 20 laboratory tests (4.5%) were positive for influenza among those with influenza-like illness presenting at our sentinel clinic sites (Table 1). This season the percent positive remained over 10% for 12 consecutive weeks, beginning December 17, 2016, for a total of 84 days (Figure 2). In contrast, the duration of peak activity over the previous four seasons was much shorter—the average duration of percent positive over 10% lasted only 9.5 weeks, 66.5 days. In addition, this season older adults were more likely experience severe illness from influenza as compared to previous recent seasons. Among the 76 influenza-related deaths identified in Los Angeles County to date, 3 out of 4 (75%) were older than 65 years of age. The average age of influenza-related deaths this season is 77 years (median 84 years, range 4–102 years), substantially older than the past four years; average 62 years (median 65 years, range 0.5–99 years).

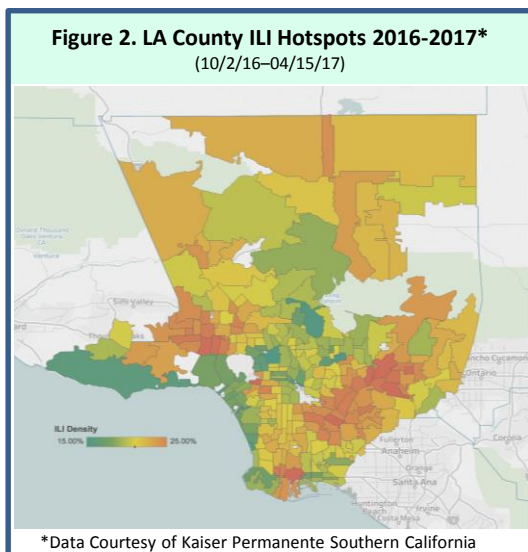
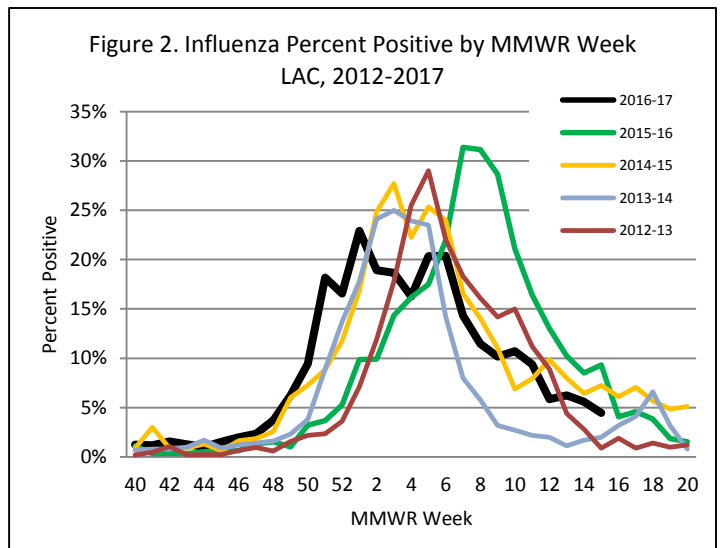
Even though influenza season is winding down, influenza viruses continue to circulate and can cause severe illness, especially among older adults and others also at [high risk](#) for severe consequences from this disease (such as pregnant women and individuals with asthma or chronic health conditions). Because antiviral treatment is most effective when provided within the first 48 hours of illness, high risk individuals should seek treatment immediately if they experience influenza-like [symptoms](#) and treatment should not be delayed while waiting for laboratory confirmation.

	2016-2017		2015-2016	
	Week 15*	YTD <sup>†</sup>	Week 15	YTD
Positive Flu Tests/Total Tests (% Positive Flu Tests)	49/1,097 (4.5%)	6,547/59,338 (11%)	115/1,233 (9.3%)	6,588/50,060 (13.2%)
Percent Flu A/B	53/47	95/5	55/45	52/48
Pediatric Flu Deaths‡	0	1	0	2
Adult Flu Deaths	0	73	1	73

\*For the 2016-2017 season, week 15 extends from 4/9/2017 to 4/15/2017.

†The influenza surveillance year started August 28, 2016.

‡Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, ILI symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death. Data is provisional and subject to change.



## Influenza-Like Illness Hotspots in LA County

Even though influenza-like illness (ILI) has been widespread across Los Angeles County this season, several areas experienced greater levels of illness. Data courtesy of Kaiser Permanente of Southern California identified several hotspots of activity with the highest level of ILI, defined as the number of Kaiser Permanente (KP) patients diagnosed with ILI in an area divided by the number of KP members in that area. This season (from 10/2/16–4/15/17) the top three ILI hotspots by zip code were: Los Angeles (90035), Tarzana (91356), and Baldwin Park (91706). Influenza season is now winding down, however respiratory viruses continue to circulate year-round. LAC DPH and KP urges everyone to take steps to limit the spread of disease by practicing healthy habits such as washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when ill.

Zip	City	ILI Density	Zip	City	ILI Density
90035	Los Angeles	29.35%	91732	El Monte	27.07%
91356	Tarzana	29.34%	90744	Wilmington	27.00%
91706	Baldwin Park	28.28%	91316	Encino	26.85%
91744	La Puente	27.64%	91723	Covina	26.62%
90241	Downey	27.23%	91790	West Covina	26.39%