

## Influenza Levels Increasing, but Remain Low Overall

Influenza activity in Los Angeles County (LAC) remains low, with consistent marginal increases expected for this time in the season (Figure 1). During week 49 ending December 10, 6% of all respiratory specimens collected from our local sentinel sites tested positive for influenza (Table 1). Similar overall low levels also are occurring nationwide with only sporadic activity reported across most states including California (Figure 2). While current activity is mild, there is typically a lag in the severe consequences from influenza, and hospitalizations and deaths usually do not occur until later in the season. At this time last year, influenza activity in LAC was slightly lower—only 1% of respiratory specimens tested positive—yet influenza activity peaked mid-February and ultimately caused 70 confirmed deaths including 3 pediatric fatalities. Because influenza typically peaks in January and February and can linger well into the spring, vaccination is still highly recommended. The LAC Department of Public Health urges everyone older than 6 months of age and without contraindications to be vaccinated annually. The benefits of vaccination are substantial—during last season, the CDC estimates 5 million cases of influenza and 71,000 hospitalizations were prevented as a result of vaccination.

	2016-2017		2015-2016	
	Week 49*	YTD†	Week 49	YTD
Positive Flu Tests/Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	80/1360 (5.9%)	309/15,116 (2.0%)	13/1270 (1.0%)	124/13,653 (0.9%)
Percent Flu A/B	98/2	94/6	77/23	82/18
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1	0	7
Influenza Confirmed Outbreaks	0	0	0	0
Pediatric Flu Deaths‡	0	0	0	0
Adult Flu Deaths	0	1	0	0

\*For the 2016-2017 season, week 49 extends from 12/4/16 to 12/10/16.

†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.

### the benefits of flu vaccination 2015-2016

The estimated number of flu **illnesses prevented** by flu vaccination during the 2015-2016 season:

## 5 million

as many people use Denver International Airport in one month



The estimated number of flu **medical visits prevented** by vaccination during the 2015-2016 season:

## 2.5 million

equal to the population of Portland, Oregon



The estimated number of flu **hospitalizations prevented** by vaccination during the 2015-2016 season:

## 71,000

enough to fill every registered hospital bed in the state of Texas



get vaccinated

[www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

Figure 1. ILI Proportion of ED Visits Los Angeles County 2012–2017

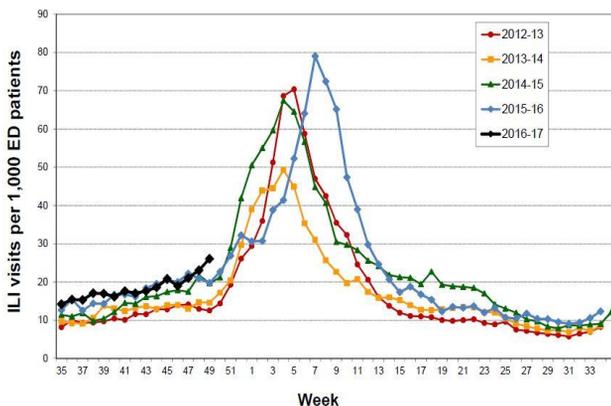


Figure 2. Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division  
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists\*

