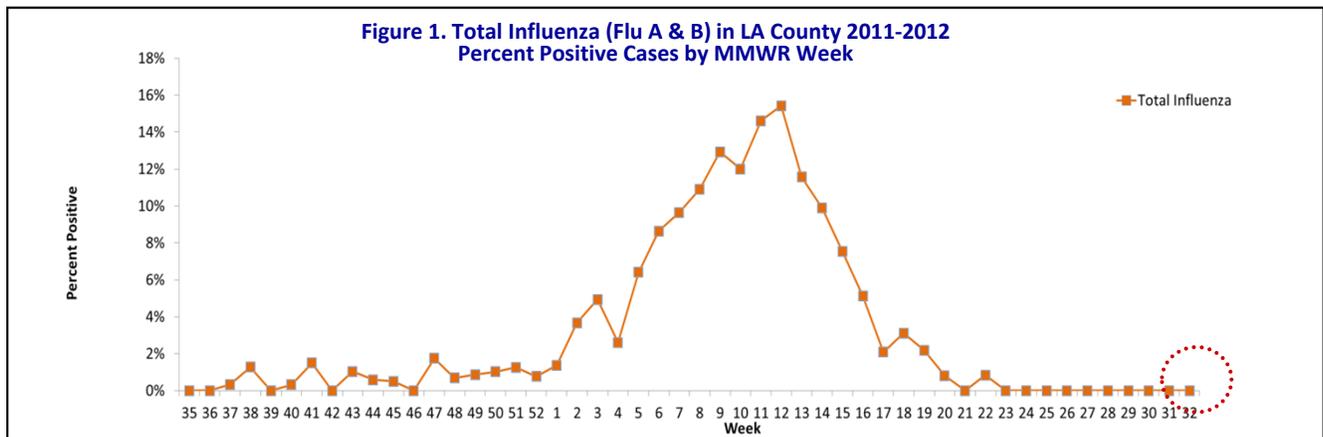


New Cases of Swine-Origin H3N2v Influenza Virus Reported in US

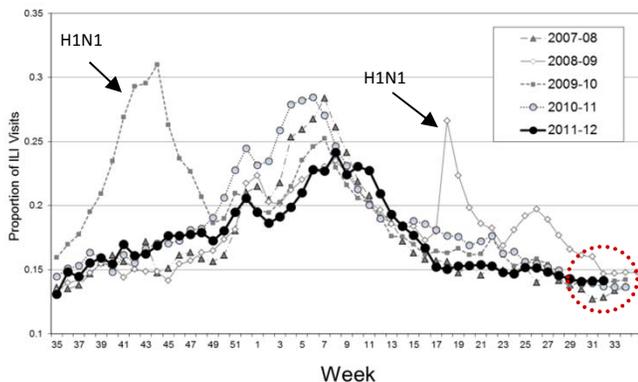
On August 10, 2012, the CDC issued a report regarding a recent increase in new human cases of variant influenza A (H3N2v) infection in four states (Hawaii [1], Illinois [1], Indiana [120], and Ohio [31]). The H3N2v virus commonly occurs in pigs and usually does not infect people. All the recent cases have had contact with pigs from attending or exhibiting swine at agriculture fairs. The majority of cases have been children. Signs and symptoms of H3N2v infection are similar to seasonal influenza and have been generally mild. The H3N2v virus is not spread by eating properly handled or prepared pork or pork products. Human-to-human transmission has not been detected to date.

The H3N2v virus was first identified in July 2011 and contains the matrix (M) gene from the influenza A pandemic virus (H1N1pdm09) virus which may confer increased transmissibility to and among humans, compared to other variant influenza strains. This virus is related to human flu viruses from the 1990s, so adults should have some immunity, but young children probably do not. Early steps to make a vaccine against H3N2v have been taken, but no decision to mass produce such a vaccine has been made. Seasonal flu vaccine now being shipped for the 2012-2013 influenza season does not protect against H3N2v.

To date, no H3N2v cases have been identified in California. Locally, in Los Angeles County there have been no laboratory-identified cases of any influenza since June 2012 (Figure 1) and ILI activity is currently minimal (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Influenza-like Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2012)
Surveillance Week 32**



Key Messages about H3N2v Virus Infection

While there are no known cases of H3N2v outside the 4 US states currently affected, physicians should be alert for possible associations between swine exposure and influenza-like illness (ILI).

- Ask patients with flu-like symptoms if they have recently touched or been near a pig, or had contact with a sick person who has been near pigs, particularly in states with confirmed H3N2v cases.
- Notify LACDPH Acute Communicable Disease Control of any patient with flu-like illness who reports that they have recently been near pigs or had close contact with someone who has been near pigs. They should be tested for H3N2v virus infection. Rapid flu testing cannot identify the H3N2v virus; PCR testing must be done.
- Encourage those who are sick to stay home until they are well.
- Promote everyday preventive actions against the flu such as covering cough, hand-washing and avoiding contact with sick people.
- Encourage patients to get the seasonal flu vaccine. This vaccine will not protect against H3N2v virus, but it will help slow the spread of seasonal flu viruses in our communities.
- Inform patients on how to protect themselves from H3N2v virus.
- Treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir is expected to be effective for H3N2v.

Additional CDC H3N2v Resources

- **General info:** <http://tinyurl.com/99bu8xe>
- **Clinician information** on H3N2v: <http://tinyurl.com/bq49nck>
- **Factsheet** "Take Action to Prevent the Spread of Flu Between People and Pigs at Fairs" <http://tinyurl.com/cvs93lv>
- **MMWR** "Evaluation of Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests for Influenza A (H3N2)v Virus" see: <http://tinyurl.com/8bvejpt>

For guidance on preventing and slowing the spread of flu in schools, see Guidance for School Administrators to Help Reduce the Spread of Seasonal Influenza in K-12 Schools at <http://tinyurl.com/2abttja>