



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) The total number of positive flu tests and the percent of flu tests that were positive remained approximately the same during weeks 28 and 29 (Figure 1). Nine new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks in schools, camps, detention centers, and health facilities were reported during weeks 28 & 29. The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI is only slightly higher relative to the same time in previous years. Two severe pediatric flu cases (one confirmed Novel H1N1 and one probable Novel H1N1) were reported during week 29 but occurred in weeks 25 and 27. Both cases died and both had pre-existing medical conditions.

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 28-29	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [±]	19.5	7.9
Percent Positive RSV Tests [‡]	1.3	13.2
Percent Flu A / Flu B [±]	100 / 0	86 / 14
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	0	13 (2)
Respiratory Outbreaks	9	59

*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods.

± Sentinel sites (8 & 7 participating facilities in weeks 28 & 29 respectively)

‡ Sentinel sites (4 participating facilities)

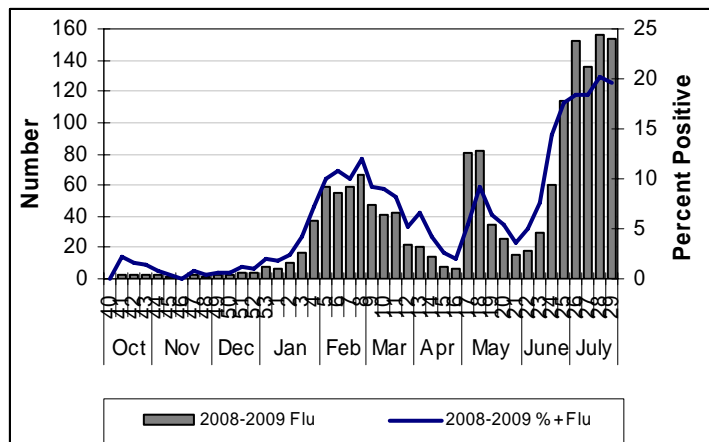
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During weeks 27 and 28 (July 5-July 18), influenza activity in California remained **widespread**.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/>

United States Influenza activity decreased slightly across the United States during weeks 27 and 28. In week 28, 7 states reported widespread activity, 13 states reported regional activity, 13 states reported local activity, and 17 states reported sporadic activity. However, there were still higher levels of ILI than normal for this time of year. Over 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC in week 28 were novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

Figure 1: Total Positive Flu and % Positive Flu by Week

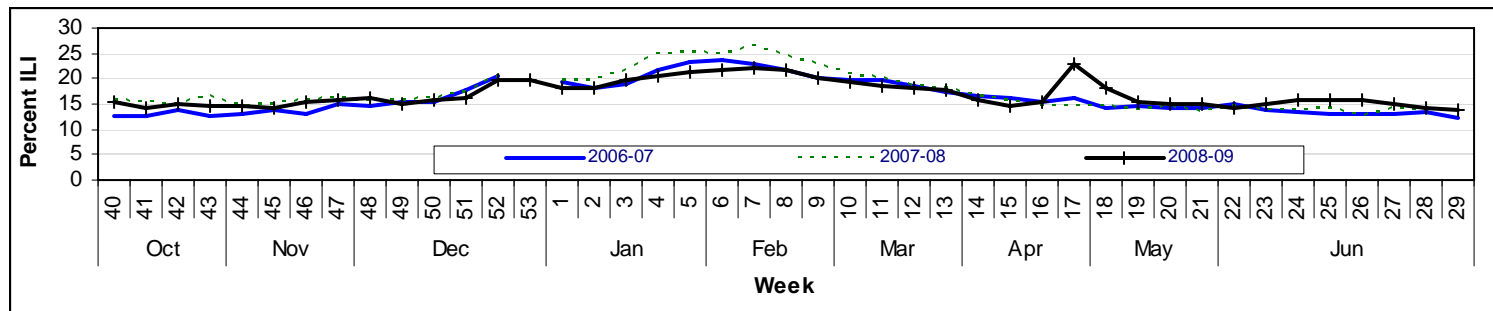


*Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities except for weeks 28 and 29 where influenza data represent testing completed in 8 and 7 facilities respectively.

In the News In the July 31st issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), the CDC outlines 2009 recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for seasonal influenza vaccination. The 2009/2010 trivalent vaccine virus strains are A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens. ACIP recommends that all children aged 6 months to 18 years be vaccinated as soon as the seasonal vaccine is available. In addition, children aged 6 months-4 years and older high-risk children should continue to be the primary focus of vaccination efforts. The MMWR also stressed that most seasonal influenza A (H1N1) strains are now resistant to oseltamivir. Recommendations for diagnosis and antiviral use will be published later this year. Until then, the recommendations issued in December of 2008 should be used for guidance.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5808a1.htm>

Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week





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Breakdown of Novel H1N1 Cases in Los Angeles County

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus by Age Group Los Angeles County as of July 28, 2009		
Age Group (years)	All Hospitalized Total (%) n=143	ICU Total (%) n=35
0-4	37 (26)	3 (9)
5-17	23 (16)	3 (9)
18-29	32 (22)	7 (20)
30-49	28 (20)	11 (31)
50-64	20 (14)	10 (29)
65+	3 (2)	1 (3)

During weeks 28 and 29, 81 additional hospitalized novel H1N1 cases were reported for a total of 143 hospitalized cases to date. As of July 28, 17 deaths due to novel H1N1 had been reported. Of all hospitalized cases, 24% were admitted to the ICU. Hospitalizations seem to have peaked during week 25 (June 21– June 27). However, it is important to note that there is often a delay in the reporting and confirmation of cases. Thus, there may be an increase in the number of hospitalizations after 6/27 as more reports come in. While it was previously reported that the largest percentage of hospitalized cases in adults aged 18-49 years, the data now show the 0-4 years age group to be the largest hospitalized age group (26%). This was due to a delay in the reporting of cases in children. Patients aged 30-49 years make up the largest percentage of cases admitted to the ICU. Most of the patients admitted to the ICU had pre-existing conditions which would make them at higher risk for severe complications of influenza. This parallels trends in the United States and California. For more information on testing, treating, and preventing influenza in Los Angeles County go to: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/Swine.htm>.

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus: Case Characteristics Los Angeles County (as of July 29, 2009)				
Case Status	Gender (M %/ F%)	Mean Age (years)	Median Age (years)	Age Range (years)
Hospitalized Cases	55 / 45	24	21	0 - 72
ICU Cases	51 / 49	36	41	0 - 72

Figure 3: Influenza A Novel H1N1 Hospitalized and ICU Cases by Week of Onset as of July 29, 2009

