



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County (LAC)** The total number of positive tests in week 38 increased though a smaller number of labs reported. However, the percent of influenza tests that tested positive increased (Figure 1). No severe pediatric flu cases occurred during week 38. Twelve new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (7 in elementary schools, 2 in middle schools, 1 in a high school, 1 in a college, and 1 in a nursing home) were reported during week 38. The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI remains slightly higher compared to the same time in previous years (Figure 2). In addition to influenza A, some labs are reporting activity with parainfluenza, influenza B, and seasonal (non pandemic H1N1) A.

## Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 38	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests <sup>±</sup>	16.6	14.0
Percent Positive RSV Tests <sup>‡</sup>	0.0	0.3
Percent Flu A / Flu B <sup>‡</sup>	98/ 2	99.4 / 0.6
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases <sup>†</sup>	0 (0)	8 (4)
Respiratory Outbreaks	12	31

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

± Sentinel sites (6 participating facilities in week 38)

‡ Sentinel sites (2 participating facilities in week 37)

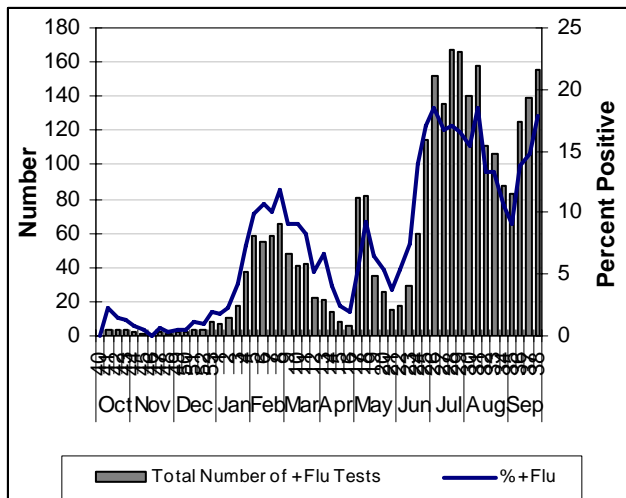
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

**California** During week 38 (September 20-September 26), influenza activity in California was upgraded to **widespread**.

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

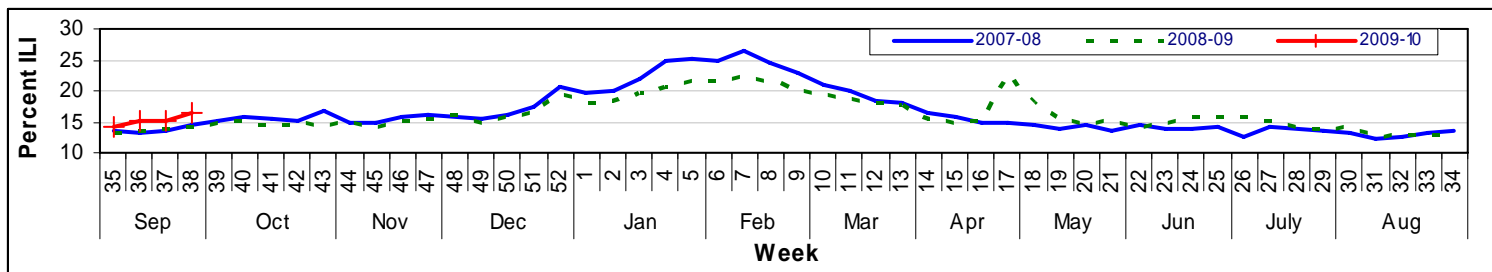
**United States** Influenza activity increased across the United States during week 37 (September 13-September 19). In week 37, 26 states reported widespread activity, 11 states reported regional activity, 12 states reported local activity, and 1 state reported sporadic activity. Approximately 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC in week 37 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 9 facilities except for weeks 36 and 37 (8 facilities) and week 38 (6 facilities).

**Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week**



**In the News** On September 29th, in an early release of an MMWR, the CDC summarized the results of a study of 77 fatal cases of confirmed 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1). A total of 22 (29%) of the 77 fatal cases had evidence of concurrent bacterial infections, including 10 caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, 6 with *S. pyogenes*, 7 with *S. aureus*, 2 with *Streptococcus mitis*, and one with *H. influenzae* (4 of the cases involved multiple pathogens). Duration of illness was known for 17 of the 22 cases. The median duration of illness was 6 days and ranged from 1-25 days. Of the 18 cases for which medical information was available, 14 sought medical care while ill and 8 (44%) were hospitalized. These findings show that secondary bacterial infections are occurring in patients with fatal 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1). This study highlights the importance of 1) early identification of bacterial pneumonia in persons with influenza and 2) ensuring pneumococcal vaccination in persons with increased risk of pneumococcal pneumonia. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58e0929a1.htm>