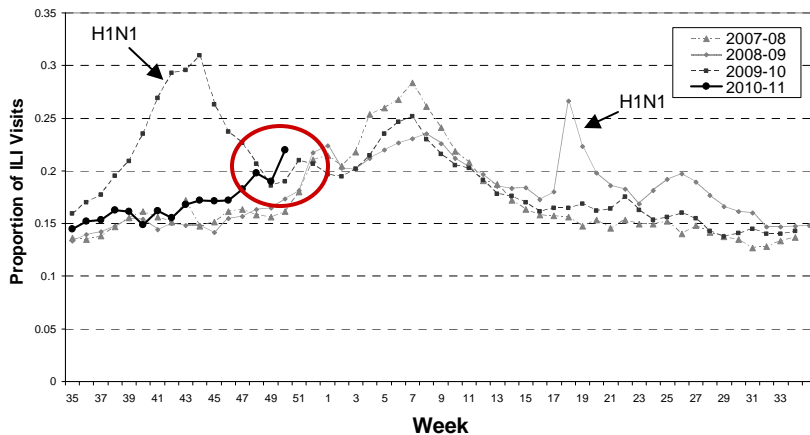


A VARIETY OF RESPIRATORY VIRUSES CURRENTLY CIRCULATING IN LA COUNTY

Respiratory illness activity continues to slowly increase nationwide and in LA County (see figure). As shown in the table below, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza activity have increased in recent weeks. Locally, the predominant influenza strain to date has been type B. Nationwide surveillance continues to demonstrate that this year's vaccine is an excellent match to circulating strains; and because flu will likely continue to circulate for some time and won't peak for several weeks, vaccination is still very important and should continue into the new year.

Influenza-like Illness ED visits in LA County (2007-2011)
Surveillance Week 49



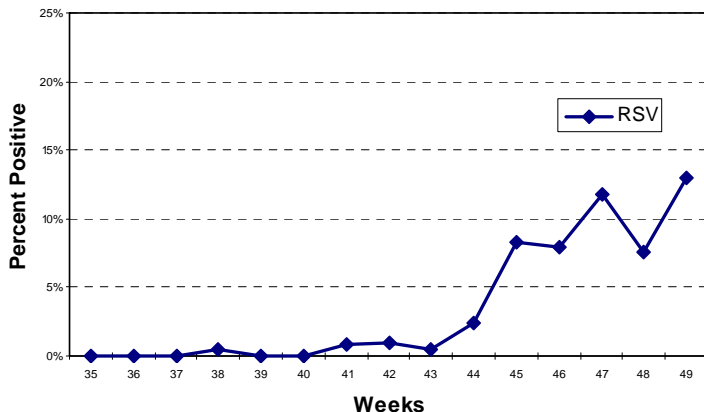
LA County Surveillance Summary (2010-2011)
Surveillance Week 49

	Week 48	Week 49	10-11 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	8 / 393 (2.0)	13 / 292 (4.5)	43 / 4,545 (0.9)
Percent Flu A / B	25 / 75	62 / 38	47 / 53
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	20 / 265 (7.5)	28 / 216 (13.0)	109 / 2,904 (3.8)
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	0	2
Flu Deaths	0	0	0

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN RSV OCCURRING IN LA COUNTY

LA County is currently seeing substantial increases in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV); among tests for respiratory illness conducted by our sentinel sites, the percent positive for RSV has more than tripled since the beginning of November (see figure below). Physicians should consider prophylaxis treatment (palivizumab) to prevent complications from RSV for their patients at high risk, especially immunocompromised infants 2 years of age or younger.

Percent Positive RSV Tests, LA County 2010-2011



RSV: AN OVERVIEW

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a virus that infects the lungs and breathing passages. Like influenza, annual increases in this illness tend to occur in the US from November to April. Most people recover from RSV infection in 1 to 2 weeks; however, infection can be severe in some—especially infants. RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia in children under 1 year of age in the US: each year, 75,000 to 125,000 children 1 year old and younger are hospitalized due to RSV. Almost all children are infected with the virus by their second birthday, only a small percentage develops severe disease. Those most at risk for severe disease include: premature infants, children less than 2 years of age with congenital heart or chronic lung disease, and children with compromised immune systems due to a medical condition or treatment. In addition, RSV is more often being recognized as an important cause of respiratory illness in older adults: adults with compromised immune systems and those 65 and older are at increased risk of severe disease. RSV is transmitted via respiratory droplets which typically spread when an infected person sneezes or coughs. A vaccine is not available to prevent RSV so healthy habits are essential (covering coughs, washing hands, staying home) to prevent disease. A prophylaxis antibody, palivizumab, has shown to reduce hospitalizations due to RSV and may be considered for infants at high risk for severe disease.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/rsv