

Tail End of Influenza Season

Although local surveillance indicators-such as visits to emergency departments for respiratory illness and percent positive respiratory viral tests from sentinel sites-show influenza is slowing down, influenza continues to cause illness in Los Angeles County (LAC). To date, 36 influenza-associated deaths (1 pediatric) have been confirmed in LAC, which is substantially lower compared to the same reporting week last year (Table 1). Influenza A H3 continues to be the dominant strain both locally and nationwide, with lower levels of B and even less A H1N1. CDC reports declining activity nationwide as well, with most states downgraded from widespread to regional activity, however flu may continue to circulate well into spring (Figure 2).

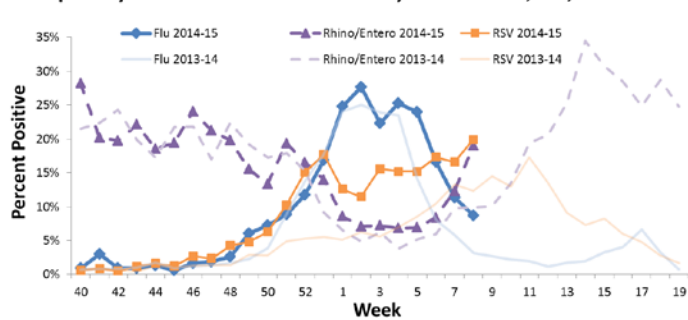
Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary

	2014-2015		2013-2014	
	Week 8	YTD [†]	Week 8	YTD
Percent Positive Flu Tests	8.7%	14.8%	3.2%	12.1%
Percent Flu A/B	81/19	92/8	71/29	97/3
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	5	1	9
Influenza Confirmed Outbreaks	0	5	0	2
Pediatric Flu Deaths ^{††}	0	1	1	3
Adult Flu Deaths	1	35	3	94

[†]The influenza surveillance year started September 1, 2014

^{††}Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, ILI symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death

Figure 1. Influenza, Rhino/Enteroviruses, and RSV Percent Positive of Respiratory Viral Tests from Sentinel Sites by MMWR Week, LAC, 2013-2015



2015-2016 Vaccine Update

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) endorsed the recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the composition of the 2015-2016 seasonal influenza vaccine in the northern hemisphere.

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.

The quadrivalent formulation will contain the above three viruses and an additional B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. The H1N1-like and B/Brisbane (quadrivalent only) components are the same as the 2014-2015 seasonal vaccine, however the A/Switzerland H3N2-like and B/Phuket-like viruses are new for next season.

In addition, for the upcoming 2015-2016 season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will recommend influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older with either the nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) or inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) with no preference for one over the other. This is a change from the current 2014-2015 season when the LAIV nasal spray was recommended over the IIV shot for children 2-8 years old. More information is available here:

[Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) reaffirms recommendation for annual influenza vaccination](#) | [CDC Online Newsroom](#) | [CDC](#)

Figure 2. Respiratory Illness Emergency Department Visits, LAC 2009-2015

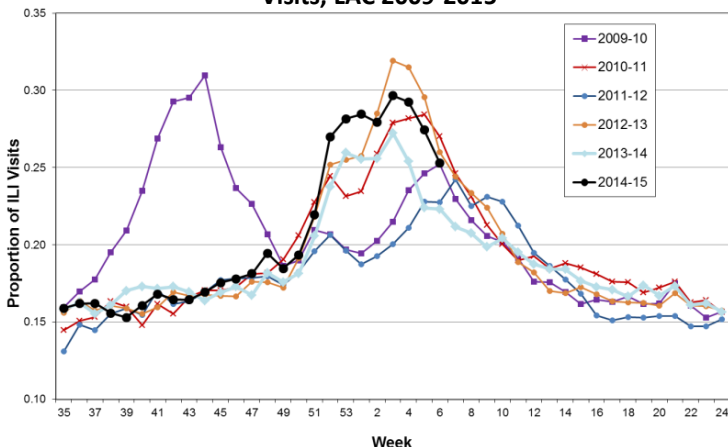


Figure 3. CDC Weekly US Map: Influenza Summary Update

