

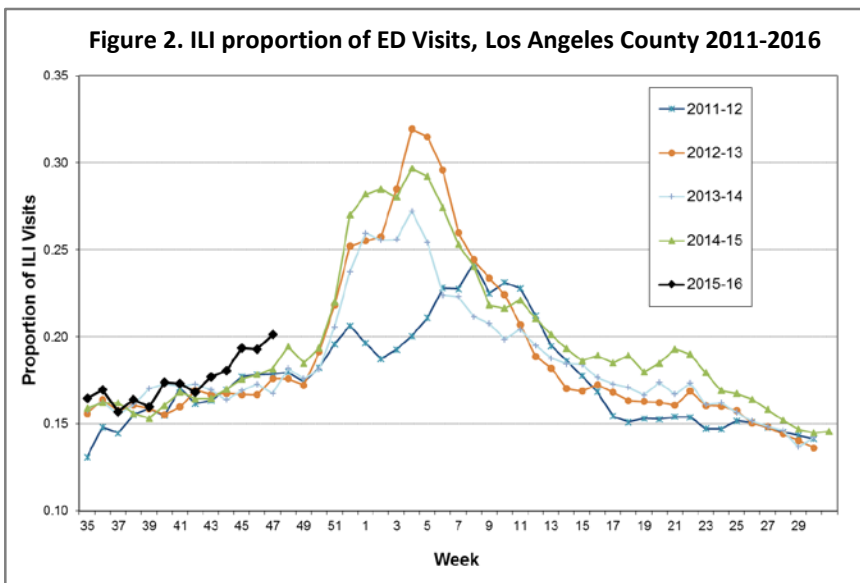
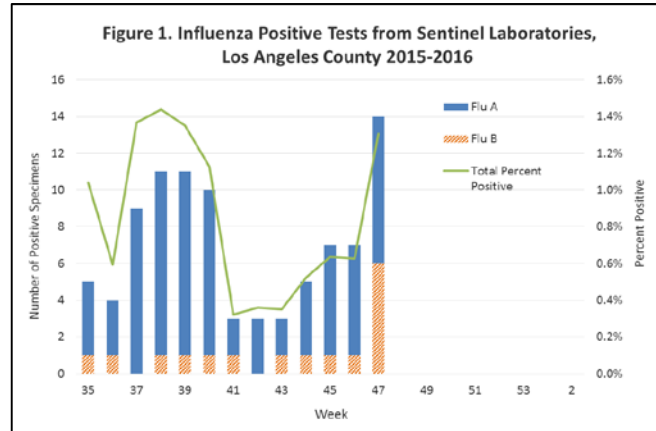
Influenza Increases Slightly

Influenza activity in Los Angeles County (LAC) marginally increased compared to previous weeks, however continues to remain low overall. Percent positive influenza tests from respiratory specimens was a low 1.3% (Table 1). More influenza B was identified during surveillance week 47 compared to this same time last year. Syndromic surveillance of influenza-like-illness (ILI) in participating emergency departments show activity is similar to previous seasons (Figure 2). No influenza-associated deaths have been confirmed in LAC so far this season.

Nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that influenza across the US is low. Consistent with local data, during surveillance week 47, a large percentage of influenza identified across US laboratories was type B. However, overall this season, influenza A (H3) remains the predominant strain. Genetic sequence analysis of select influenza viruses continues to show this season's vaccine is a good match to circulating strains. There have been two pediatric influenza-associated deaths reported to the CDC, one of which was from California and occurred in early November. Despite the low flu activity, health care providers should encourage everyone 6 months of age and older receive their flu vaccination as soon as possible. Next week, December 6-12, is National Influenza Vaccination Week which emphasizes the importance of getting a flu vaccine through the holiday season and beyond. [National Influenza Vaccination Week | National Influenza Vaccination Week \(NIVW\) | CDC](#)

Table 1. Los Angeles County Influenza Surveillance Summary				
	2015-2016		2014-2015	
	Week 47	YTD [†]	Week 47	YTD
Positive Flu Tests/Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	14/1,071 (1.3%)	92/10,822 (0.9%)	14/757 (1.8%)	90/7,137 (1.3%)
Percent Flu A/B	57/43	83/17	93/7	70/30
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	4	1	1
Influenza Confirmed Outbreaks	0	0	0	0
Pediatric Flu Deaths [†]	0	0	0	0
Adult Flu Deaths	0	0	0	0

[†]The influenza surveillance year started August 30, 2015
^{††}Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, ILI symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death



Pregnant Women Should Get a Flu Shot

Influenza (flu) can cause severe outcomes in pregnant women and their unborn babies including premature labor and delivery. Pregnant women who get the flu are at higher risk of severe illness than women who are not pregnant. The flu shot is the best protection against the flu for both expecting mothers and their babies before and after birth. Pregnant women can get vaccinated at any stage of pregnancy and transplacental maternal antibodies transferred to the baby following birth can offer protection in early infancy.

[Pregnant Women & Influenza \(Flu\) | Seasonal Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](#)