



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) The total number of positive flu tests remained low during weeks 12-13 (Mar 21 - Apr 3) (Figure 1). The % of flu tests that tested positive is also low and remains lower than 2007-08 and 2008-09 levels (Figure 1). The % of RSV tests that were positive continues to decline from its peak in week 5 and is consistent with 2008-2009 levels (Figure 2). The % of emergency department visits due to ILI continued to decrease in weeks 12 and 13 and is on par with previous years (Figure 3). No influenza deaths, no severe pediatric influenza cases, and no respiratory outbreaks were reported during this period. Since the beginning of the pandemic in April there have been 386 ICU admissions and 148 deaths due to pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1). Of the 148 deaths, 134 (91.2%) were also ICU admissions (not shown).

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Weeks 12-13	2009-10 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [±]	0.4	12.4
Percent Positive RSV Tests [‡]	6.3	11.3
Percent Flu A / Flu B [‡]	75.0 / 25.0	99.4 / 0.6
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	0 (0)	106 (9)
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	347
Influenza Deaths	0	107

*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods. 2009-2010 surveillance began 8/30/09 (week 35) and ends 10/22/2010 (week 20)

± Sentinel sites (9 participating facilities except in week 12 (8 facilities) and week 13 (6 facilities).)

‡ Sentinel sites (4 participating facilities except in weeks 12 and 13 (3 facilities).)

† The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During weeks 12 and 13 (Mar 21-Apr 3), influenza activity in California remained **sporadic**.

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

United States Flu activity decreased slightly in the US during weeks 12 and 13. In week 13 (Mar 28-Apr 3) no states reported widespread activity, 3 states reported regional activity, 3 states reported local activity, 33 states reported sporadic activity, and 11 states reported no activity. All subtyped flu A viruses reported to CDC in week 13 were pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) viruses. www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

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

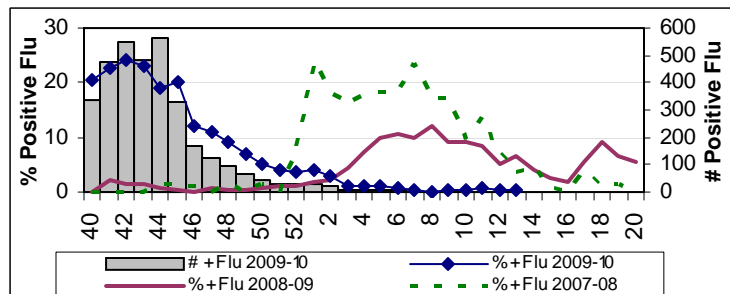


Figure 2: Total Positive RSV and % Positive RSV by Week

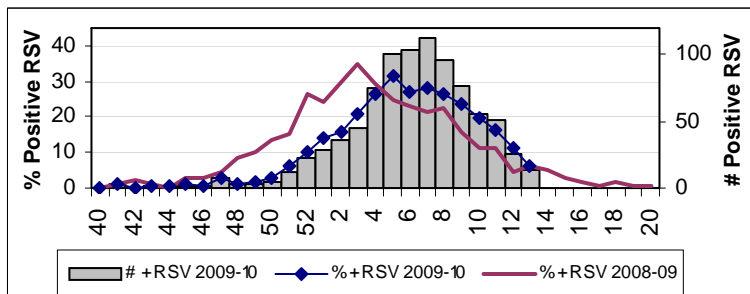
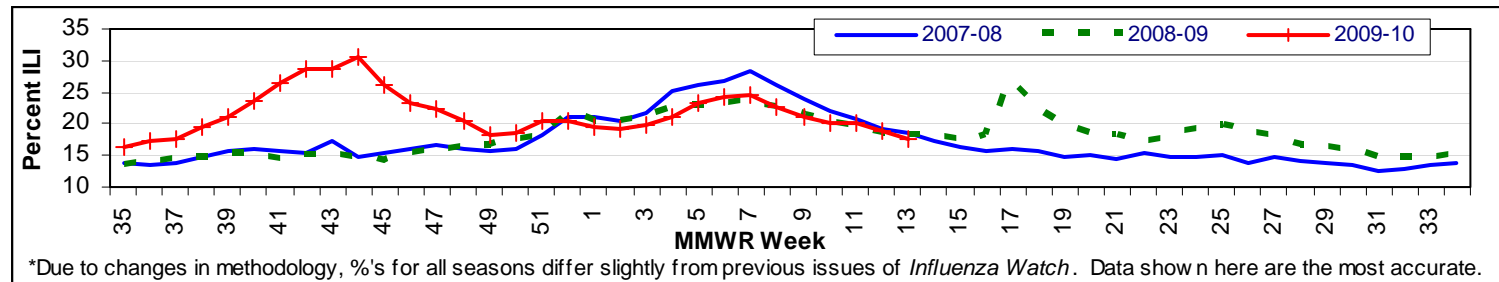


Figure 3: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness by Week, All Ages*



*Due to changes in methodology, %'s for all seasons differ slightly from previous issues of *Influenza Watch*. Data shown here are the most accurate.

In the News An open access [article](#) published in *PLOS Medicine* discusses a Canadian study which found that seasonal trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) was associated with a 1.03- to 2.74-fold increase in the risk of illness caused by pandemic H1N1. This increased risk was found after controlling for comorbidities, age, and geography. Several biological mechanisms by which TIV could result in an increased risk of pH1N1 illness are discussed, however, these mechanisms remain somewhat hypothetical. While three other Canadian studies provide support for this finding, other studies produced conflicting results. Due to potential bias and confounding associated with observational studies, the authors of the review article believe it would be premature to conclude that TIV increases the risk of illness caused by pH1N1.