COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Public Health

INFLUENZA WATCH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) There were no positive flu tests during weeks 14-15 (Apr 4 - Apr 17) (Figure 1). The % of flu tests that were positive (0%) remains lower than 2007-08 and 2008-09 levels (Figure 1). The increase in the % of RSV tests that were positive is most likely due to a lack of reporting by specific facilities that usually report a relatively low % positivity for RSV (Figure 2). The % of emergency department visits due to influenza-like illness continued to decrease in weeks 14-15 and is on par with previous years (Figure 3). No flu deaths, no severe pediatric flu cases, and no respiratory outbreaks were reported during this period. Since the beginning of the pandemic in April 2009 there have been 387 ICU admissions and 149 deaths due to pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1). Of the 149 deaths, 135 (90.6%) were also ICU admissions (not shown).

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Weeks 14-15	2009-10 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.0	12.2
Percent Positive RSV Tests‡	11.0	11.2
Percent Flu A / Flu B±	0.0 / 0.0	99.4 / 0.6
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0 (0)	106 (9)
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	345
Influenza Deaths	0	108

*See http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm for a description of surveillance methods. 2009-2010 surveillance began 8/30/09 (week 35) and ends 5/22/2010 (week 20)
± Sentinel sites: 9 participating facilities except in week 12 (8 facilities), week 14 (8 facilities) and week 15 (7 facilites).
‡ Sentinel sites: 4 participating facilities except in week 14 (3 facilities) and week 15 (2 facilities).
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During week 14 (Apr 4-Apr 10), influenza activity in California remained **sporadic.** Information for week 15 is not yet available. http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/PageCaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx

United States Flu activity decreased slightly in the US during weeks 14 and 15. In week 15 (Apr 11-Apr 17) no states reported widespread or regional activity, 4 states reported local activity, 31 states reported sporadic activity, 14 states reported no activity, and one state did not report. All subtyped flu A viruses reported to CDC in week 15 were pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) viruses. www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

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

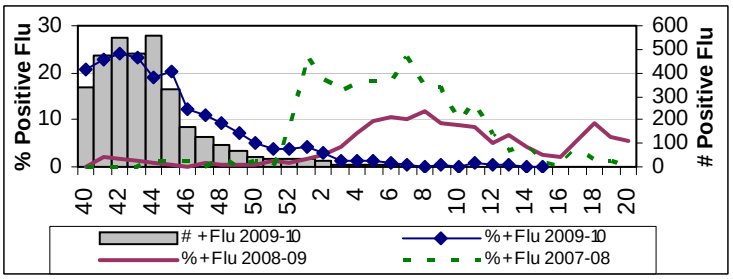


Figure 2: Total Positive RSV and % Positive RSV by Week

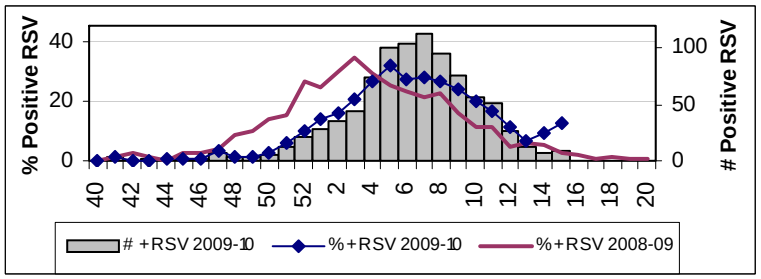
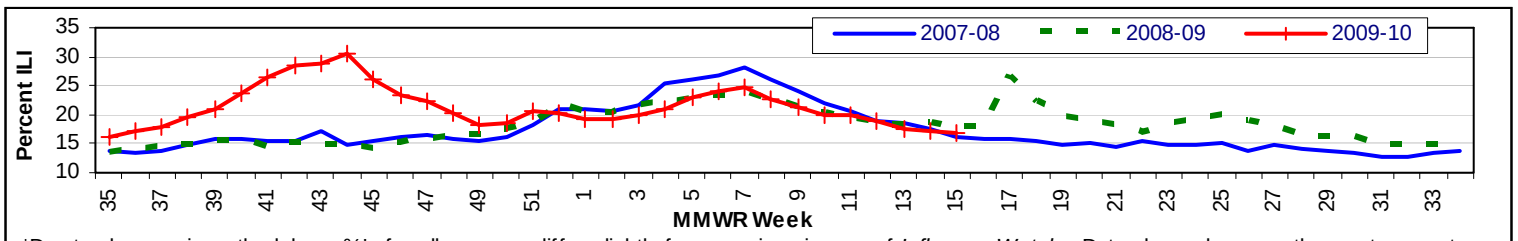


Figure 3: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness by Week, All Ages*



*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 A study published in *The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* on April 19, 2010 examines the relationship between pH1N1 and secondary bacterial infections in children hospitalized for the treatment of pneumonia complicated by empyema in a hospital in Utah. Compared to data from previous seasons, there was an increase in the number of hospitalizations of children with parapneumonic empyema (PE) from May to July, 2009 when pH1N1 was circulating. Of the cases of PE hospitalized between May and July, 2009 that were tested for flu by PCR (n=15), 33% were positive (4 pH1N1 and 1 seasonal flu A). Of hospitalized PE cases that were tested for a bacterial pathogen by PCR (n=15), 86% tested positive. *S. pneumoniae* and *S. pyogenes* were the most prominent bacterial pathogens detected. This study underscores the importance of providing pneumococcal vaccine especially during times of increased influenza incidence.