



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Los Angeles County

Overall, respiratory activity remained relatively low during week 1. To date, there have been no confirmed severe pediatric influenza cases. Emergency Department ILI (influenza-like illness) activity is currently slightly lower than rates experienced during 2007-08 but other indicators show an increase in influenza activity. One outbreak of unknown etiology was reported.

**Table 1: Surveillance System Overview**

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 1	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	2.4	1.2
Percent Positive RSV Tests‡	27.4	12.4
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	1	2
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	56,437

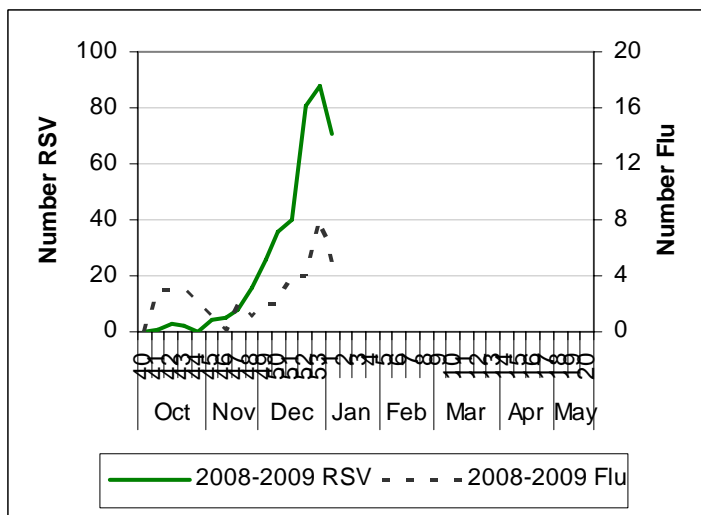
\*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods.

±Sentinel sites (9 participating facilities).

‡ Sentinel sites (4participating facilities).

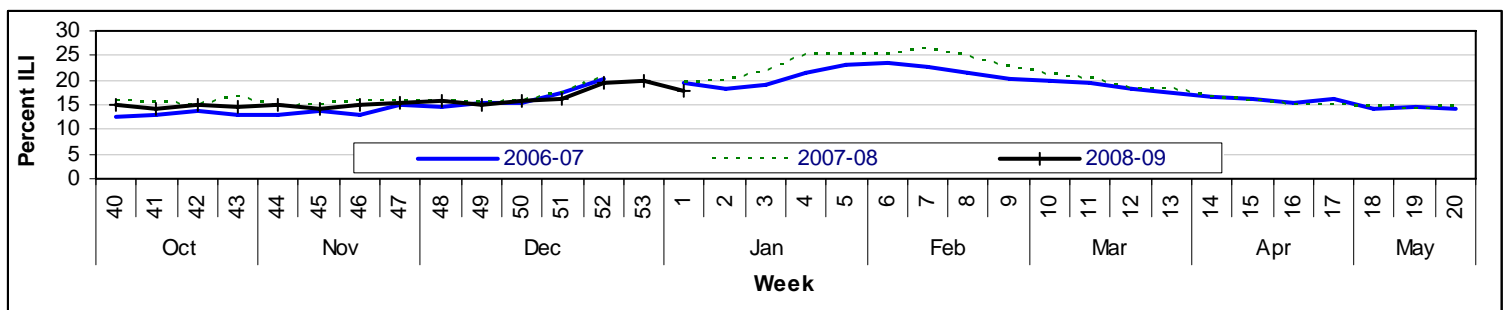
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

**Figure 1: Positive Influenza and RSV Tests by Week**



RSV data in Figure 1 represent testing completed in four reporting facilities for the 2008-2009 season. Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities.

**Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week**



## California

During week 53 (December 28-January 3), influenza activity in California remained **sporadic**, with activity in Northern California higher than Southern California. Outpatient activity and hospitalizations for ILI remained low as did laboratory detections.

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

## United States

Influenza activity increased during week 53 (December 28-January 3) but remains low. During this week, four states reported **regional** activity, 11 reported **low** activity, 30 reported **sporadic** activity and 5 states reported no activity. Influenza activity is lower compared to the same week last year.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

## In the News

### Burden of ILI and Vaccine Effectiveness: Adults Aged 50-64 Yrs

This study, conducted at the Univ. of Minnesota, assessed burden of ILI among working adults aged 50-64 years and vaccine effectiveness in reducing rate of ILI and increasing productivity. A total of 17.1% of participants had an ILI. Among the unvaccinated, ILI accounted for 45% of all days of illness, 39% of sick days and 49% of illness-related loss in productivity. Vaccination was associated with a significant reduction in the rate of ILI as well as decreased absenteeism and impaired on-the-job performance. The authors conclude that vaccine delivery should be improved for this high priority group.

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/595842>

## Influenza Watch Changes

We have changed the way that we present data in Table 1. Starting with week one and continuing throughout the remainder of the season we will report **PERCENT** positive RSV tests instead of number positive. The number of positive tests can still be found in Figure 1. Note that four facilities are reporting RSV and nine facilities are reporting influenza.