



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Los Angeles County

Overall, respiratory activity remained relatively low during week 53. 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 the rates are climbing and other indicators show an increase in influenza activity.

### Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 53	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	3.0	1.3
Positive RSV Tests‡	88	310
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	54,102

\*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.

### 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.

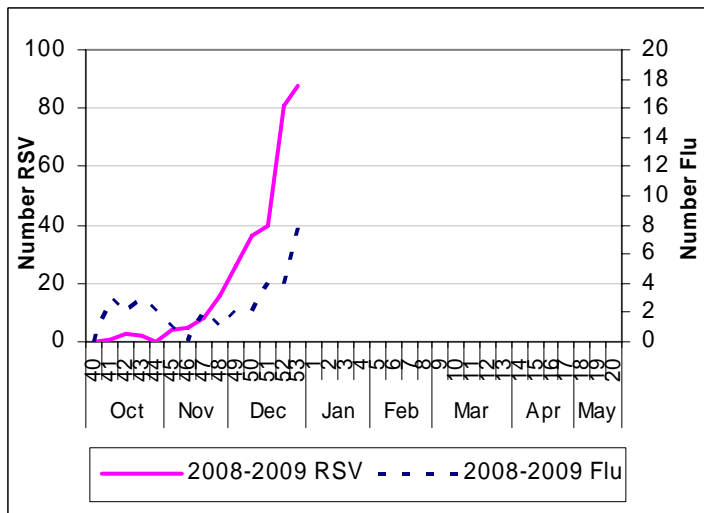
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

### United States

Influenza activity increased during week 52 (December 21-27) but remains low. During this week, three states reported **regional** activity, 10 reported **low** activity, 30 reported **sporadic** activity and 6 states reported no activity. Influenza activity is lower compared to the same week last year.

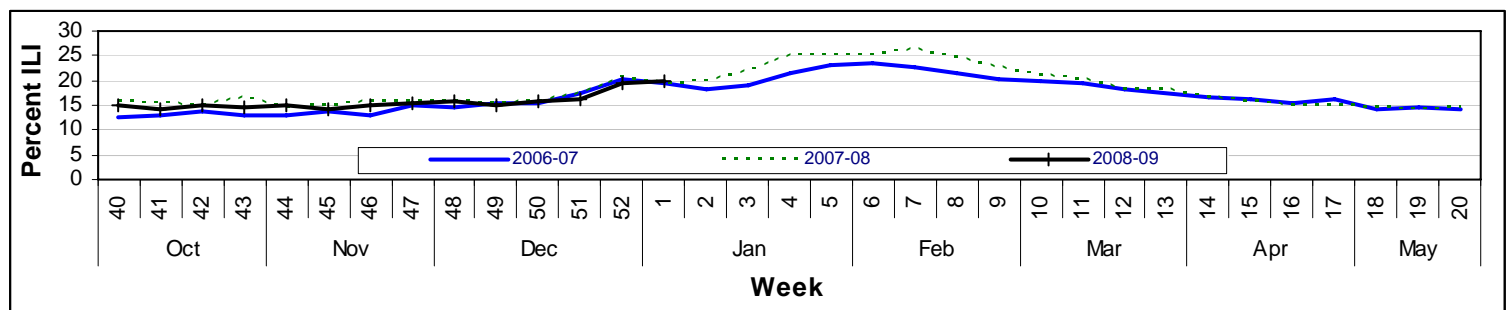
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

**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 Emergency Department Visits for**



### In the News

#### Law on Flu Vaccinations May Be Tested

A new law in New Jersey, requiring children ages 6 months to 5 years to be vaccinated for flu when attending licensed daycare and preschool programs, is being tested this week as children return to school from the long holiday break. It is unclear at this time how many children have met the new requirements. New Jersey is the first state in the country to require flu shots for young children. The new requirement is in accordance with the new CDC recommendations that all children ages 6 months to 18 years receive an annual flu shot.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/04/nyregion/new-jersey/04flunj.html?ref=education>

#### Influenza Watch Changes

We have changed the way that we present data in Figure 1 and will only be using RSV data for the current season as the number of facilities regularly reporting data has increased. Additionally, the influenza data presented in this graph includes data from each of the nine reporting hospitals. We hope these changes make the data easier to understand.