

Flu Activity Remains Low

Influenza activity in Los Angeles County (LAC) remains at low levels. Flu appears to be off to a slow start with slight but consistent increases in surveillance indicators each week (Figure 1). Sentinel sites in LAC reported a total of 729 respiratory isolates were tested for influenza resulting in 12 positives; 11 A, 1 B (Table 1). Subtyping of these positive isolates was not performed, however nationally the CDC reports influenza A H3N2 is currently the dominant strain. Additional national data show most states across the country are experiencing similar sporadic activity (Figure 2).

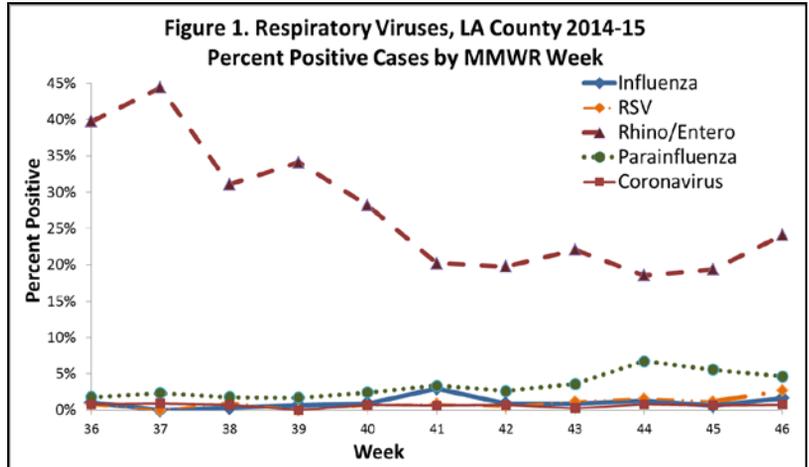


Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary 2014-2015

	Week 46 11/9/14-11/15/14	2014-15 YTD (9/1/14-Present)
Positive Flu Tests/Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	12/729 (1.6%)	76/6380 (1.2%)
Percent Flu A/B	92/8	66/34
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	0
Flu Deaths, Confirmed†	0	0

†Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, compatible symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death

Keep Kids Healthy During Flu Season

A pediatric influenza study¹ done by a professor at Georgetown University stated that as many as 1 in 3 children who present to an emergency department with flu are at risk of serious complications. Those with neurologic or neuromuscular conditions are at higher risk for severe outcomes. In addition to conventional upper respiratory symptoms usually associated with the flu, children are more likely to experience conjunctivitis, rhinitis, and gastrointestinal symptoms than adults. The best way to protect children from getting the flu is to vaccinate them as early in the season as possible since some children will need 2 doses and immunity can take up to 2 weeks to develop. Preliminary data from CDC shows that the 2014-2015 seasonal flu vaccine is a good match to current circulating strains².

¹ [Medscape: Pediatric Influenza](#)

² [Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report | Seasonal Influenza \(Flu\) | CDC](#)

Figure 2. Weekly US Map: Influenza Summary Update

