



Influenza Watch

Los Angeles County

<http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm>

Special Cases of Influenza are Reportable

• Influenza-related pediatric ICU cases and pediatric deaths

The case definition is as follows: age 0-17 years; a clinical syndrome consistent with influenza or complications of influenza; confirmation by laboratory testing; and hospitalization in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) or death (with no period of recovery between the illness and death).

• Outbreaks of suspected influenza or other respiratory illnesses

Acute febrile respiratory infection (AFRI) is defined as any illness with a fever equal to or greater than 100° F accompanied by a cough or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause. A cluster is three or more cases of AFRI occurring within 48 to 72 hours, in residents who are in close proximity to each other. An outbreak is a sudden increase of AFRI cases over the normal background rate or when any resident tests positive for influenza. One case of confirmed influenza by any testing method in a long-term care facility resident is an outbreak.

• Suspected cases of avian influenza

Suspected cases of avian influenza should have pneumonia confirmed with x-rays, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), or other severe respiratory illness for which an alternate diagnosis has not been established, AND history of travel within ten days of symptom onset to a country with documented H5N1 avian influenza in poultry and/or humans. Consult with ACDC for testing information (213-240-7941).

For more information: http://lapublichealth.org/acd/Flu_Sea_Reporting.htm

Important Information

• To date, confirmed cases of influenza have not been reported in LA County.

• ILI in children 5 years and younger remains above baseline.

In the News

National Influenza Vaccination Week: Nov 26 – Dec 2, 2007

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the week after Thanksgiving, November 27 to December 2, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. This event is designed to highlight the importance of continuing influenza (flu) vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond.

For additional information and free materials: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm>

Influenza Activity: CA & USA

California: During week 43 (October 21 – October 27, 2007), influenza activity in California was **sporadic**, with activity in Northern California higher than Southern California. Parainfluenza virus circulation has been reported by sentinel laboratories throughout the state.

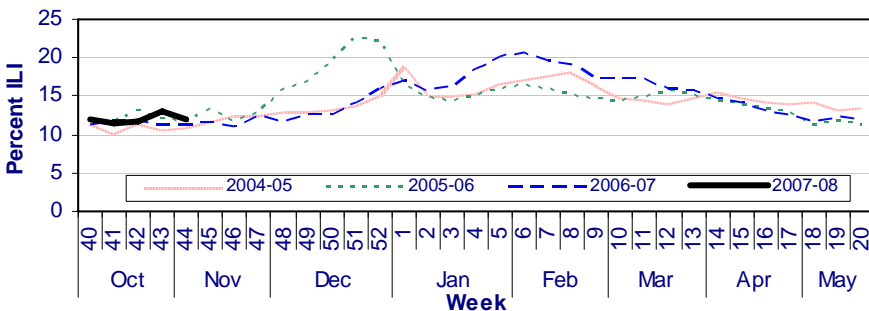
For more information see the CA influenza report: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm

Become a CA Influenza Sentinel Provider: Contact Melissa Dahlke at flu@dhs.ca.gov or visit: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flu-sentinel.htm

United States: A low level of influenza activity was measured in the United States during week 43. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI and acute respiratory illness (ARI) was below baseline levels.

For more information see the CA influenza report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), Los Angeles County 2004-2008



Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) in Children < 6 Years, Los Angeles County 2004-2008

