



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County

Influenza activity remained low during week 46. To date, there have been no confirmed severe pediatric influenza cases and a total of 13 positive RSV tests in LAC. Emergency Department ILI (influenza-like illness) surveillance is currently slightly lower than rates experienced during 2007-08.

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 46	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.0%	1.1%
Positive RSV Tests‡	8	13
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	28,344

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

±Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities).

‡Sentinel sites (2 participating facilities).

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California

During week 45 (November 2-November 8, 2008), 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 slightly during week 45 but remains low. During this week, one state reported moderate activity, fifteen reported **sporadic** activity and the remaining 34 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

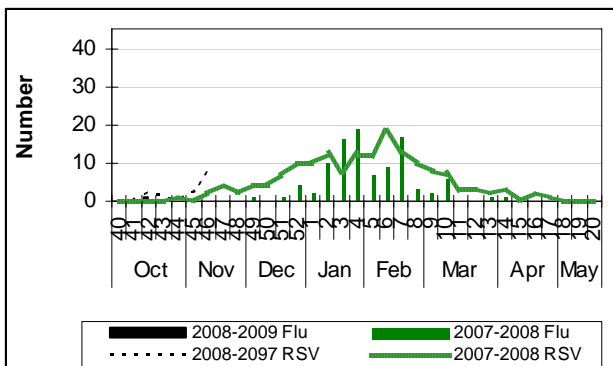
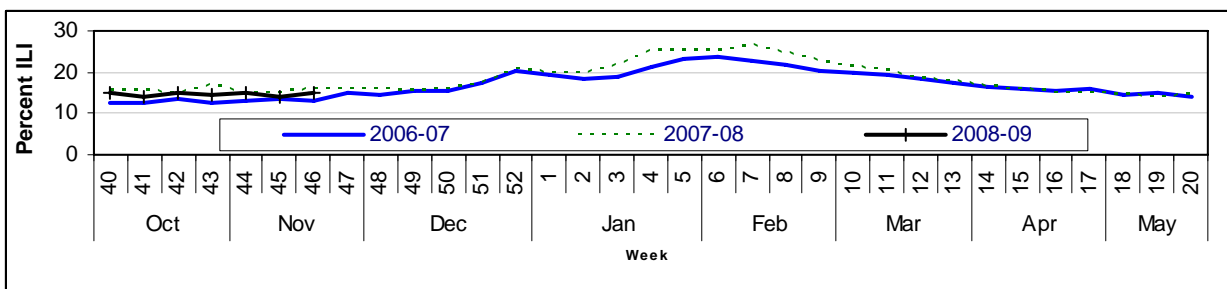


Figure 2: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI



In the News

Google Flu Trends to Track Influenza Outbreaks

Google has launched a new web-based influenza tracking system—flu trends. This system uses data on flu-related internet queries and data from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track influenza activity throughout the United States. Data from 2007-08 was collected and analyzed and found to be strongly correlated with CDC influenza data. Since the data from internet queries is analyzed daily, Google hopes to this data will provide a more “real-time” approach to influenza surveillance.

Article: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2334514,00.asp>

Flu Trends website: <http://www.google.org/fluTrends/>