



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County (LAC)** The total number of positive flu tests and the percent of flu tests that tested positive continued to decrease in week 2 (January 10-January 16). Two new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (one in an elementary school and one in a preschool) were reported during week 2 (Table 1). No new severe pediatric cases and no influenza deaths occurred during week 2 (Table 1). However, many case reports are outstanding and these numbers may increase as more reports are processed. The percent of emergency department visits that were due to ILI remains at levels normally expected during this time of year (Figure 2 and Figure 3). The percent of RSV tests that are positive increased significantly in week 2 (Figure 1) and we still anticipate another increase in pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1).

**Table 1: Surveillance System Overview**

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 2	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests <sup>‡</sup>	2.4	15.4
Percent Positive RSV Tests <sup>‡</sup>	20.0	2.7
Percent Flu A / Flu B <sup>‡</sup>	94.1 / 5.9	99.6 / 0.4
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases <sup>†</sup>	0 (0)	98 (9)
Respiratory Outbreaks	2	357
Influenza Deaths	0	78

\*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods. 2009-2010 surveillance started on 8/30/09 (week 35) and ends May 22, 2010 (week 20)

± Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities in week 2)

‡ Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities in week 2)

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

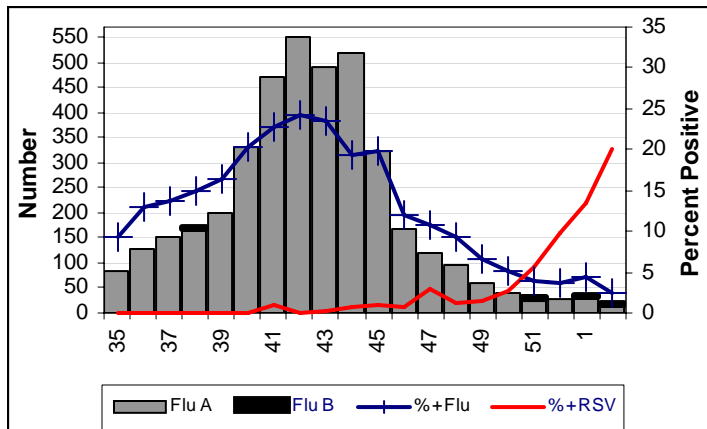
**California** During week 2 (January 10-January 16) influenza activity in California was down-graded to **sporadic**.

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

**United States** Influenza activity decreased slightly in the US during week 2 (January 10-January 16) in which no states reported widespread activity, 7 states reported regional activity, 10 states reported local activity, 32 states reported sporadic activity, and 1 state reported no activity. Of the subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC in week 2, 98% were pH1N1 viruses.

[www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly)

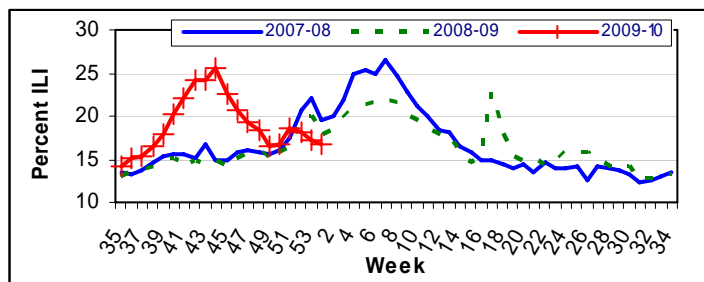
**Figure 1: Total Positive Flu and % Positive Flu by Week**



\*Influenza data represent testing completed in 9 facilities except in week 39 and week 2 in which data represent testing in 8 facilities for influenza and 3 facilities for RSV.

**In the News** According to an article published in *Rapid City Journal* on January 13, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives have been disproportionately affected by pH1N1. The death rate from pH1N1 is four times higher among Native Americans and Alaskan Natives compared to the rest of the U.S. population. The higher rate of death due to pH1N1 among Native Americans and Alaskan Natives can be explained by the higher rate of underlying medical conditions in this population as well as by lack of access to healthcare. The risk of death due to complications from flu can be lessened with immunizations. Pandemic H1N1 vaccine is now available to everyone and can be found at all Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities and at public clinics in most states. As a third wave of pH1N1 is expected, the IHS and the CDC are urging everyone to get vaccinated. [http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article\\_cf773eac-ffca-11de-80b0-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_cf773eac-ffca-11de-80b0-001cc4c03286.html)

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



**Figure 3: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, 5-14 Years**

