



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County (LAC)** The total number of positive flu tests as well as the percent of flu tests that tested positive continued to increase during week 42 (Figure 1). One severe pediatric flu case occurred during week 42. Sixty new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (55 in schools, 3 in juvenile detention centers, 1 in a hospital, and 1 in a nursing home) were reported during week 42. The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI increased from previous weeks and remained higher compared to the same time in previous years (Figure 2), especially in those 5-14 years old (Figure 3).

## Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 42	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests <sup>±</sup>	25.9	19.1
Percent Positive RSV Tests <sup>‡</sup>	0.0	0.3
Percent Flu A / Flu B <sup>±</sup>	99.6 / 0.4	99.6 / 0.4
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases <sup>†</sup>	1 (0)	31 (3)
Respiratory Outbreaks	60	177

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

± Sentinel sites (7 participating facilities in week 42)

‡ Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities in week 42)

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

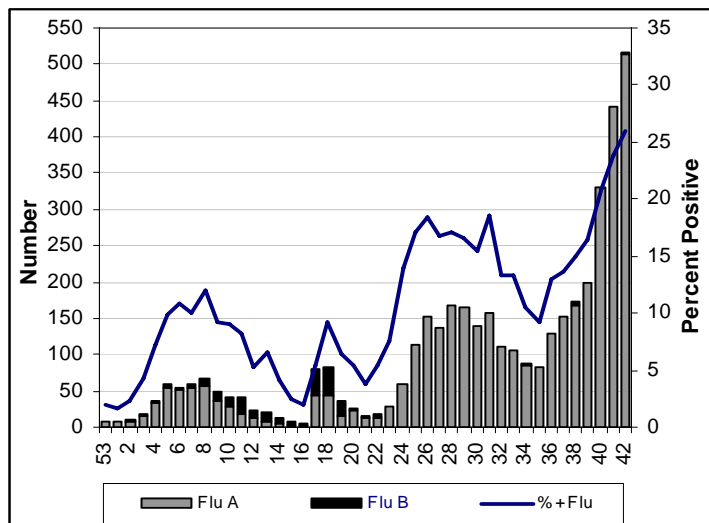
**California** During week 42 (October 18-October 24), influenza activity in California remained **widespread**.

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

**United States** Influenza activity increased across the United States during week 41 (October 11-October 17). In week 41, 46 states reported widespread activity, 3 states reported regional activity, and 1 state reported local activity. All subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC in week 41 were novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

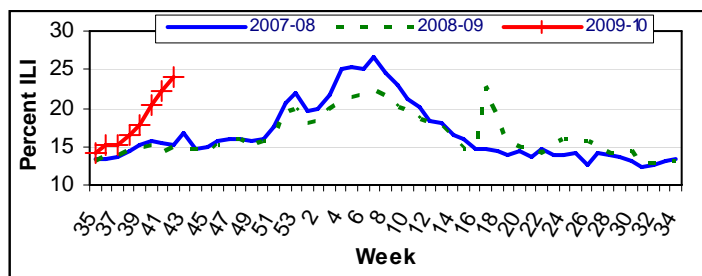
**In the News** Results of studies presented at a meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America suggest that seasonal flu vaccination may prevent more than just the flu in pregnant women. In one study, beginning in 2000, 350 women were randomly assigned to receive flu vaccine or a placebo. Newborns of women who received the flu vaccine were 63% less likely to contract flu compared to newborns of women who didn't receive the flu vaccine. In addition, the babies of vaccinated women weighed on average 1/2 a pound more than the babies of unvaccinated women. A second study that looked at 6, 410 births from 2004-2006 found that, when flu was most widespread, vaccinated mothers had an 80% lower risk relative to unvaccinated mothers of having a premature baby. In addition, the vaccinated women had a 70% lower risk than the unvaccinated women of giving birth to a baby that was small for gestational age. These results underscore the importance of flu vaccination for pregnant women as maternal illness from the flu can adversely affect the health of unborn babies. <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/711576>

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



\*Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities except for weeks 39 (8 facilities)

**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**

