COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Public Health

INFLUENZA WATCH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) The total number of positive flu tests remained low during week 7 (February 14 - February 20 (Figure 1). The % of flu tests that tested positive also is low and remains well below 2007-08 and 2008-09 levels (Figure 1). No respiratory outbreaks, severe pediatric flu cases, or flu deaths were reported during week 7 (Table 1). Due to incomplete reporting, RSV data is unreliable and, thus, is not reported for week 7 (Figure 2). The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI decreased slightly in week 7 and remains lower than previous years (Figure 3).

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 7	2009-10 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.5	13.7
Percent Positive RSV Tests‡	——**	7.7**
Percent Flu A / Flu B±	66.7 / 33.3	99.4 /0.6
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0 (0)	104 (9)
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	345
Influenza Deaths	0	99

*See http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm for a description of surveillance methods. 2009-2010 surveillance began 8/30/09 (week 35) and ends 10/22/2010 (week 20)

± Sentinel sites (7 participating facilities in week 7)

‡ Sentinel sites (4 participating facilities)

**RSV data is incomplete for week 7. YTD is through week 6.

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During week 7 (Feb 14-Feb 20), influenza activity in California remained **sporadic.**

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

United States Flu activity remained the same in the US during week 7 (Feb 14-Feb 20) in which no states reported widespread activity, 3 states reported regional activity, 8 states reported local activity, 35 states reported sporadic activity, and 4 states reported no activity. All subtyped flu A viruses reported to CDC in week 7 were pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) viruses. www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

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

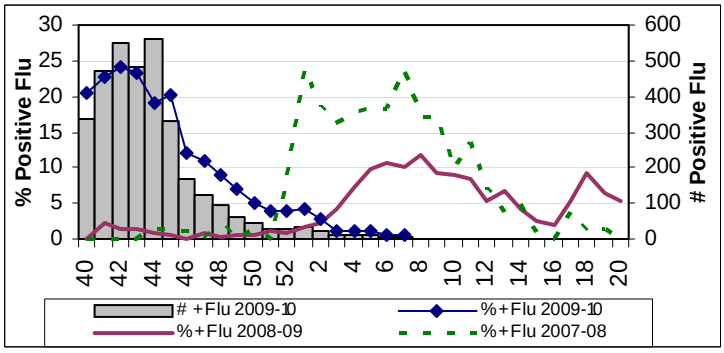


Figure 2: Total Positive RSV and % Positive RSV by Week

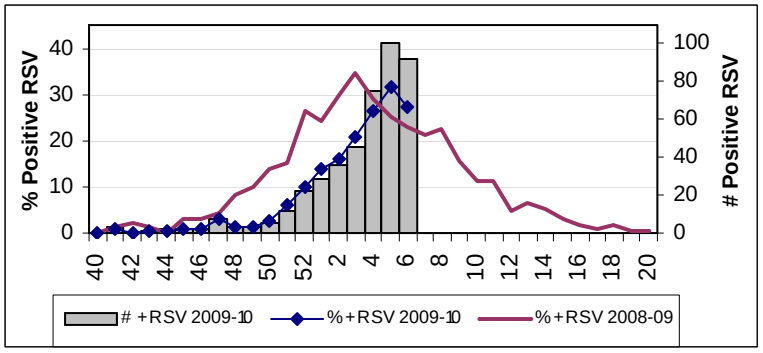
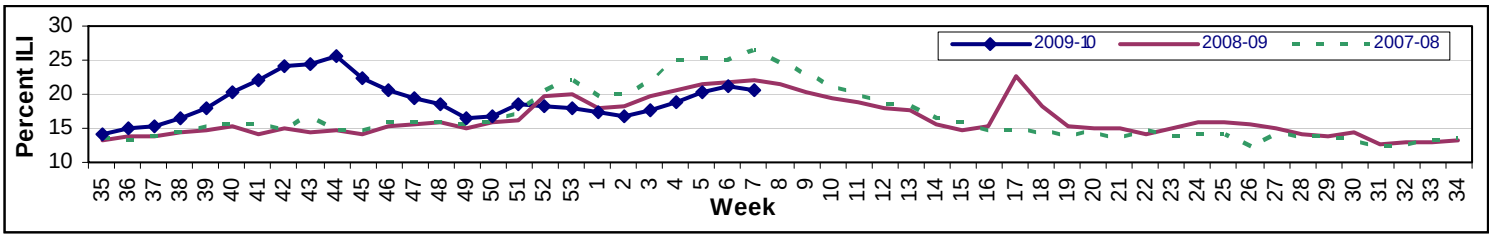


Figure 3: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness by Week, All Ages



In the News An article published on 02/11/2010 in *Eurosurveillance* compares the circulation of influenza A and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in France during the 2009-10 season to the circulation of these viruses in previous winter seasons. During the previous 4 seasons, RSV epidemics began in weeks 44-45 (11/01-11/14) and peaked during weeks 48-49 (11/29-12/12) whereas the seasonal influenza epidemics started later. During the 2009-10 season, however, flu peaked early around week 46 (11/15-11/21) due to pandemic H1N1, and RSV peaked later than expected during week 52 (12/27-01/02) as flu began to decrease. Additionally, the RSV epidemic began gradually in 2009-10 in contrast to previous seasons in which RSV epidemics started more abruptly. The data from France seems to suggest that the pandemic influenza wave of 2009 delayed the advent and duration of the 2009-10 RSV epidemic. The exact nature of this relationship is unknown and could be a result of weather conditions, increased hygiene following the pandemic, and viral competition.

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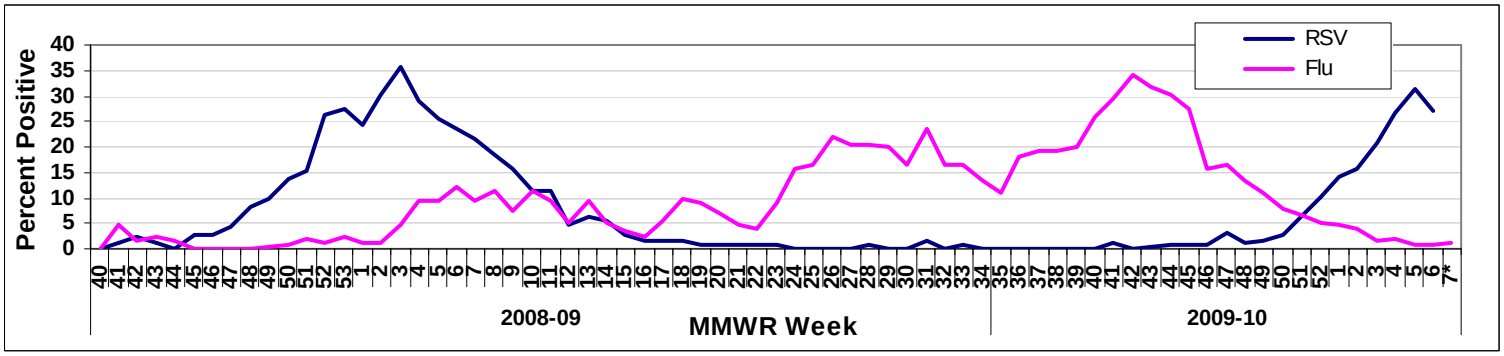
Analysis of Influenza Cases in Los Angeles County (LAC)

Figure 4 shows flu and RSV activity during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 winter seasons in 4 hospital laboratories within Los Angeles County. During the 2008-09 season RSV peaked in week 3 (1/17-1/23) while flu activity peaked shortly thereafter in week 6 (2/7-2/13). During the 2009-10 season, flu peaked much earlier than expected in week 42 (10/18-10/24) due to pH1N1. While it may be too soon to tell, the peak of RSV activity in 2009-10 seems to have occurred during week 5 (1/31-2/6), 2 weeks later than the peak of the 2008-09 season. While this may be a result of natural variation, it is also possible that the wave of pH1N1 early in the season inhibited RSV activity and delayed the start of the epidemic as suggested by the article featured in *In the News* on page 1. However, unlike the data from France described in the article, data from LAC does not show a more gradual increase in RSV during the 2009-10 season compared to the 2008-09 season.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in April, 2009 there have been 372 ICU admissions and 140 deaths due to confirmed pH1N1 in Los Angeles County according to individual case reporting. Of the 140 deaths, 129 had been admitted to the ICU. The number of pH1N1 ICU admissions and deaths remains low during this time of year (Figure 5).

Consistent with other data featured in *Influenza Watch*, the number of hospitalizations due to *any* influenza as well as the rate (per 1,000 hospital beds) of laboratory-confirmed influenza remained low in week 7 (Figure 6).

Figure 4: Percent positive RSV and Flu detected in three hospital laboratories in Los Angeles County, 10/04/2008 - 02/20/2010



*Due to incomplete reporting, RSV data for week 7 is unreliable and is, therefore, excluded from the graph.

Figure 5: Number of Pandemic H1N1 Cases by Week of Onset as of February 25, 2010, Individual Case Reporting

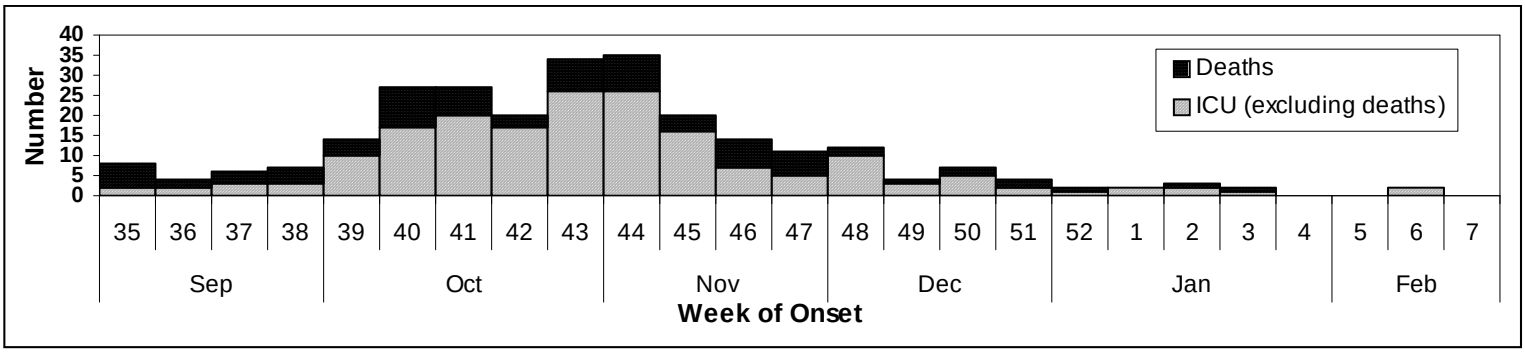


Figure 6: Number and Rate of Hospitalized Influenza (*Any* Influenza) Cases, Aggregate Reporting, 08/30/2009 - 02/20/2010