

## Tail End of Influenza Season

Although local surveillance indicators-such as visits to emergency departments for respiratory illness and percent positive respiratory viral tests from sentinel sites-show influenza is slowing down, influenza continues to cause illness in Los Angeles County (LAC). To date, 36 influenza-associated deaths (1 pediatric) have been confirmed in LAC, which is substantially lower compared to the same reporting week last year (Table 1). Influenza A H3 continues to be the dominant strain both locally and nationwide, with lower levels of B and even less A H1N1. CDC reports declining activity nationwide as well, with most states downgraded from widespread to regional activity, however flu may continue to circulate well into spring (Figure 2).

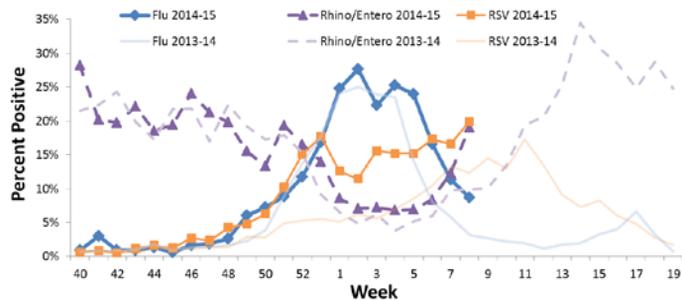
**Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary**

	2014-2015		2013-2014	
	Week 8	YTD <sup>†</sup>	Week 8	YTD
Percent Positive Flu Tests	8.7%	14.8%	3.2%	12.1%
Percent Flu A/B	81/19	92/8	71/29	97/3
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	5	1	9
Influenza Confirmed Outbreaks	0	5	0	2
Pediatric Flu Deaths <sup>††</sup>	0	1	1	3
Adult Flu Deaths	1	35	3	94

<sup>†</sup>The influenza surveillance year started September 1, 2014

<sup>††</sup>Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, ILI symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death

**Figure 1. Influenza, Rhino/Enteroviruses, and RSV Percent Positive of Respiratory Viral Tests from Sentinel Sites by MMWR Week, LAC, 2013-2015**



## 2015-2016 Vaccine Update

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) endorsed the recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the composition of the 2015-2016 seasonal influenza vaccine in the northern hemisphere.

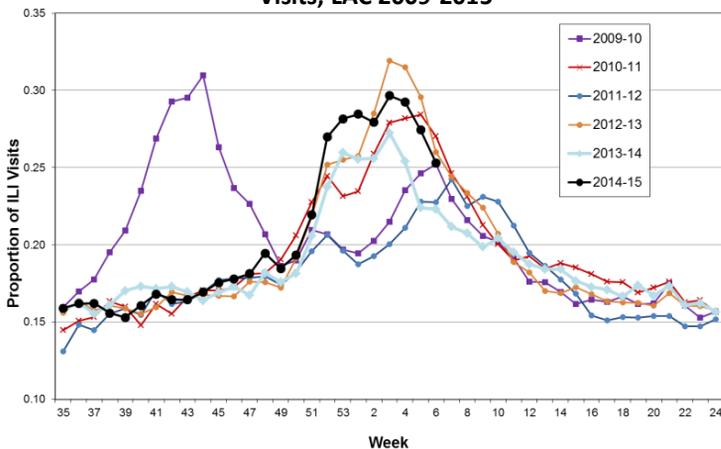
- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.

The quadrivalent formulation will contain the above three viruses and an additional B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus. The H1N1-like and B/Brisbane (quadrivalent only) components are the same as the 2014-2015 seasonal vaccine, however the A/Switzerland H3N2-like and B/Phuket-like viruses are new for next season.

In addition, for the upcoming 2015-2016 season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will recommend influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older with either the nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) or inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) with no preference for one over the other. This is a change from the current 2014-2015 season when the LAIV nasal spray was recommended over the IIV shot for children 2-8 years old. More information is available here:

[Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) reaffirms recommendation for annual influenza vaccination](#) | [CDC Online Newsroom](#) | [CDC](#)

**Figure 2. Respiratory Illness Emergency Department Visits, LAC 2009-2015**



**Figure 3. CDC Weekly US Map: Influenza Summary Update**

