



# Influenza Watch

## Los Angeles County

<http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm>

### 2007 ACIP Recommendations for the Control and Prevention of Influenza

#### Principal updates and changes include:

- Children aged 6 months to 8 years should receive 2 doses if not previously vaccinated
- If children aged 6 months to 8 years received only one dose in their first year of vaccination, they should receive 2 doses the following year
- **ALL** persons, including school aged children, who want to reduce risk of becoming ill or transmitting influenza to others should be vaccinated
- Providers should offer vaccination and hold immunization clinics **THROUGHOUT** the influenza season
- Healthcare facilities should consider vaccination coverage among workers a measure of patient safety and should implement policies to encourage vaccination.

### 2006-2007 Influenza Summary

Los Angeles County experienced a mild influenza season again. Of reported cases, the majority had influenza type A (91%), consistent with state and national reports. However, influenza activity peaked later in the season than usual, at the end of January and beginning of February.

Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases from sentinel sites peaked in week 4, followed by severe cases of pediatric influenza in week 5 (see graph). In total, 24 cases of severe pediatric influenza were reported, including one death.

Influenza-like activity (ILI) in Los Angeles County peaked during week 6 (February) and remained above baseline for several weeks, especially in children aged five years and younger. In past seasons, ILI typically peaked at the end of December.

\* The number of reported cases does **not** reflect the total number of influenza cases that occurred in LA County. Surveillance for influenza is not population based and the data presented here include reported cases from sentinel surveillance sites only. However, trends in influenza activity are likely to be reflected accurately.

### Important Vaccination Information

- **Hospitals are now required by law to offer free vaccine to employees. Employees must get vaccinated annually or sign a waiver of declination.**

[www.dhs.ca.gov/dcdc/izgroup/shared/hospital\\_influenza\\_law.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/dcdc/izgroup/shared/hospital_influenza_law.htm)

- **Record Number of Influenza Vaccine Doses Expected**  
The CDC says the United States should have a record 127 million or more flu vaccine doses for the upcoming influenza season.

- **2007-2008 influenza vaccine is similar to last season**

- an A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1)-like virus (new)
- an A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like virus (same as last season)
- a B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like virus (same as last season)

### In the News

- **FDA Approves Roche's Low Dose Tamiflu for Children**

The U.S. FDA approved Tamiflu at two lower doses for children aged one year and older (30 and 45 mg doses). The capsules have a longer shelf life than the standard liquid suspension (5 vs. 2 years) and may be useful in stockpiling against a flu pandemic.

- **Decision to Approve FluMist in Children <5 Years Delayed**

The ACIP postponed a decision on whether to recommend MedImmune's FluMist vaccine for children less than five years following a FDA warning that MedImmune had contamination issues in its manufacturing process.

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	2006-2007
Positive Influenza Tests	21
Positive RSV Tests	289
Hospitalized Influenza Cases	11
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases**	24 (1)
Influenza Vaccines Administered by the Department of Public Health	115,665

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

