



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Los Angeles County

Respiratory activity increased during week 4 with increased laboratory detection of influenza and other respiratory viruses (parainfluenza and human metapneumovirus). Emergency Department ILI (influenza-like illness) activity is slightly lower than rates experienced during the 2007-08 season. There is still both plenty of vaccine available and time to immunize for the 2008-09 season.

**Table 1: Surveillance System Overview**

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 4	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	9.3	2.3
Percent Positive RSV Tests‡	29.0	17.8
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	3
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	58,858

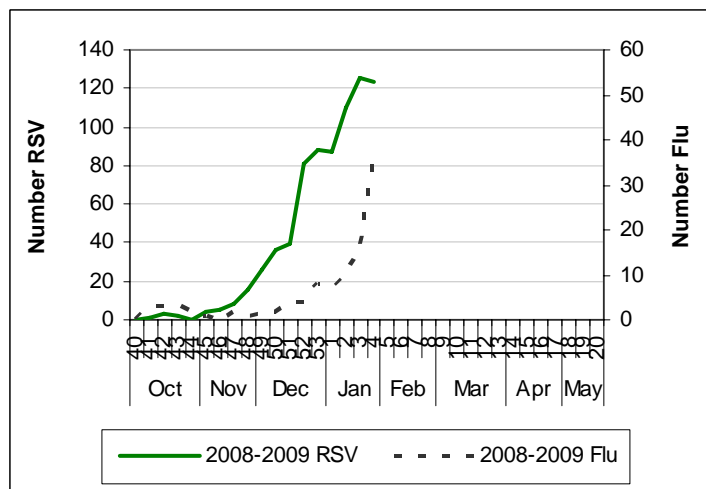
\*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods.

±Sentinel sites (9 participating facilities).

‡Sentinel sites (4participating facilities).

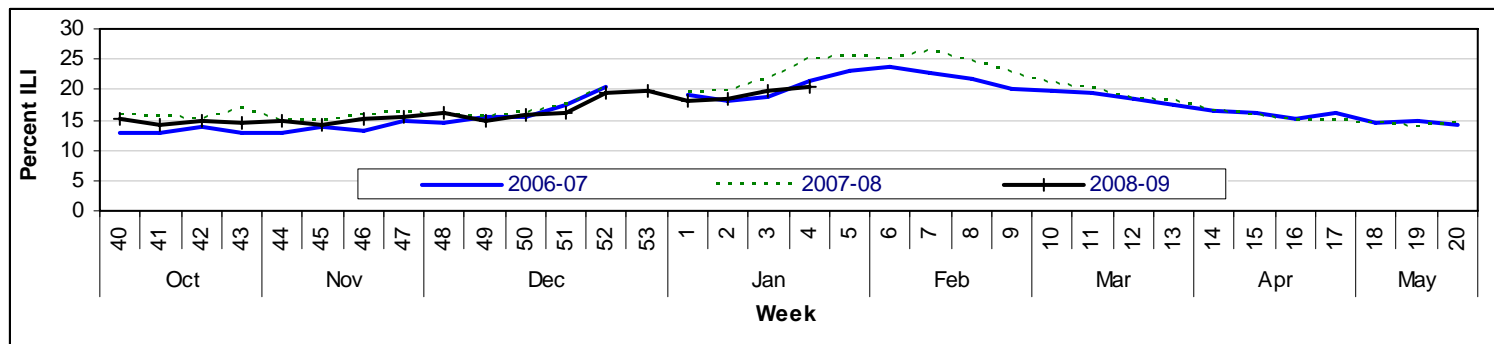
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

**Figure 1: Positive Influenza and RSV Tests by Week**



RSV data in Figure 1 represent testing completed in four reporting facilities for the 2008-2009 season. Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities.

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



## California

During week 3 (January 19-January 24), influenza activity in California increased to **local**, with activity in Northern California higher than Southern California. Outpatient activity and hospitalizations for ILI remained low as did laboratory detections.

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

## United States

Influenza activity increased during week 3 (January 19-January 24) but remains low. During this week, 2 states reported **widespread** activity, 14 states reported **regional** activity, 12 reported **local** activity, and 22 reported **sporadic** activity. Influenza activity is lower compared to the same week last year.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

## In the News

### Decade's Worst Hits Europe

While influenza activity remains relatively low in the United States, European countries are experiencing the worst influenza season in the past decade. Many countries have detected sizeable increases in influenza activity with some countries reporting 10 fold increases in the past month. Much of the activity in Europe is being driven by a variant of the H3N2 strain which affected the US in 2007-2008; comparatively, the predominant strain in the US this season is H1N1. While the circulating strains in both Europe and the US are covered by this year's influenza vaccine, typically low immunization rates in Europe, especially amongst the elderly, will increase the number of cases there. The take home message: **immunize, immunize, immunize!**

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=a8cTy7tbUjhQ&refer=europe>