



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## Los Angeles County

Influenza activity remained low during week 50. To date, there have been no confirmed severe pediatric influenza cases and a total of 79 positive RSV tests in LAC. Emergency Department ILI (influenza-like illness) surveillance is currently slightly lower than rates experienced during 2007-08.

### Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 50	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.4	0.9
Positive RSV Tests‡	33	92
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	50,890

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

±Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities).

‡Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities).

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

### California

During week 49 (November 30-December 6), influenza activity in California remained **sporadic**, with activity in Northern California higher than Southern California. Outpatient activity and hospitalizations for ILI remained low as did laboratory detections.

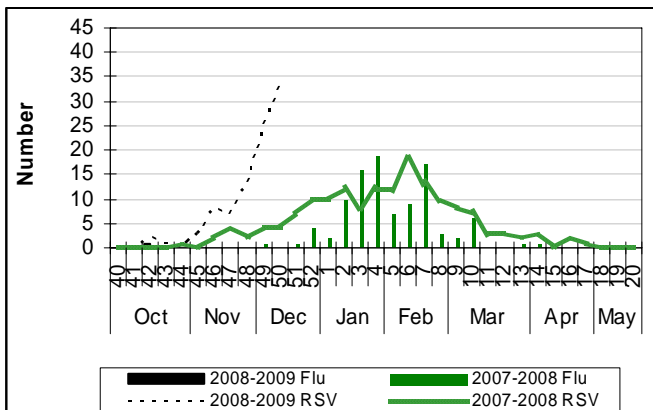
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

### United States

Influenza activity increased slightly during week 49 but remains low. During this week, three states reported **low** activity, 24 reported **sporadic** activity and 23 states reported no activity. Influenza activity is lower compared to the same week last year.

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

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



Data in Figure 1 represent three health systems for the 2008-2009 season. Previous season's data represented only one health system.

### In the News

#### Important Updates About Antiviral Resistance in the US

Two recent updates by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that influenza activity remains low throughout the country and is, thus far, antigenically related to the strains included in the 2008-2009 influenza vaccine. Data are currently insufficient to provide realistic estimates on national prevalence of circulating strains or antiviral resistance for the entire 2008-2009 season; however, preliminary data indicate that H1N1 is the predominant strain. Additionally, antiviral resistance testing was completed on available viruses; to date, 24 out of 25 H1N1 viruses were resistant to oseltamivir; all H1N1 viruses were sensitive to adamantanes. In light of these findings, CDC recommends treatment with zanamivir or a combination of oseltamivir and rimantadine when H1N1 infection or exposure is suspected.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5749a3.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/>

**Figure 2: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI**

