



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC)

Respiratory activity, including both influenza and RSV, decreased during week 9. Influenza A remains predominant (90%) throughout Los Angeles County. However, other respiratory viruses including parainfluenza and adenovirus have been detected in recent weeks. One new severe pediatric influenza case was confirmed this week; the onset of illness for this case was during week 8.

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 9	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [‡]	8.2	4.5
Percent Positive RSV Tests [‡]	15.7	19.0
Percent Flu A / Flu B [‡]	--	90 / 10
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	0	2
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	6
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	60,371

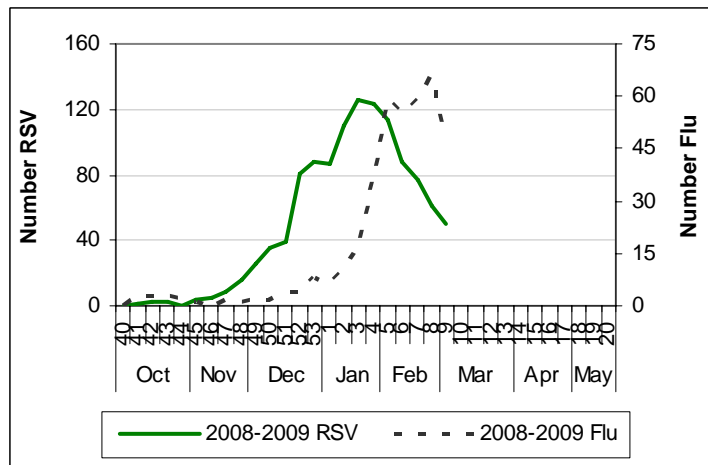
*See <http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm> for a description of surveillance methods.

± Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities).

‡ Sentinel sites (4 participating facilities).

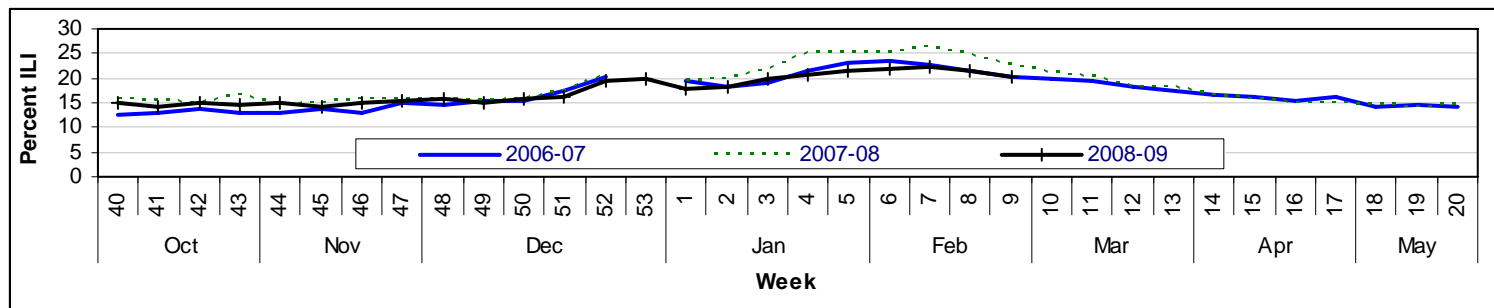
†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

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 eight facilities.

Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week



California

During week 8 (February 22-February 28), influenza activity in California remained **regional** based on data from Northern and Southern California. Antiviral prescriptions decreased slightly throughout California. <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CalforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

United States

Influenza activity increased during week 8. During this week, 31 states reported **widespread** activity, 16 states reported **regional** activity, 2 reported **local** activity, and one 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

Influenza Vaccine and Respiratory Illness in Military Personnel

In 2003, a live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), with the same antigenic characteristics as trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV), was formulated for intranasal administration and approved for use in healthy adults. Researchers conducted a study to assess the effectiveness of the LAIV compared to TIV in US Military personnel. The study took place over the span of 3 influenza seasons, starting in 2004-05 and ending in 2006-07. Data suggest that during all 3 seasons TIV was associated with lower rates of health encounters for pneumonia and influenza when compared to no immunization or LAIV. For vaccine-naïve service members LAIV effect was comparable to TIV. These findings suggest that in a highly vaccinated population, TIV may be more effective than LAIV for the prevention of pneumonia and influenza. However, because the study population was highly immunized these results may not be generalizable to the entire US population.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/2009.265v1>