

Sustained Increases in Local Flu Activity

Influenza activity (15.2%) continues to increase during Week 11 in Los Angeles County (Table 1), reflecting a pattern of small, steady increases generally seen since the beginning of the year. Yet overall respiratory illnesses may be leveling out (Figure 1). For the first time this season, influenza in Week 11 was the most prevalent respiratory virus with greater activity than RSV (14.8%), rhinovirus (12.5%), and human metapneumovirus (hMPV) (6.3%), which has decreased to nearly half the prevalence as in Week 1 (Figure 2).

Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary (2011-2012) Surveillance Week 11

LA County Surveillance Summary	Week 11	2011-2012 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	131 / 868 (15.2%)	726 / 14,080 (5.2%)
Percent Flu A / B	95 / 5	90 / 10
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	81 / 546 (14.8%)	835 / 9,963 (8.4%)
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	1	19
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Deaths, Confirmed)	-----*	5 (1)

* Due to the lag time in reporting and confirmation of cause, weekly flu death data is delayed.

Figure 1. Influenza-like Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2012) Surveillance Week 11

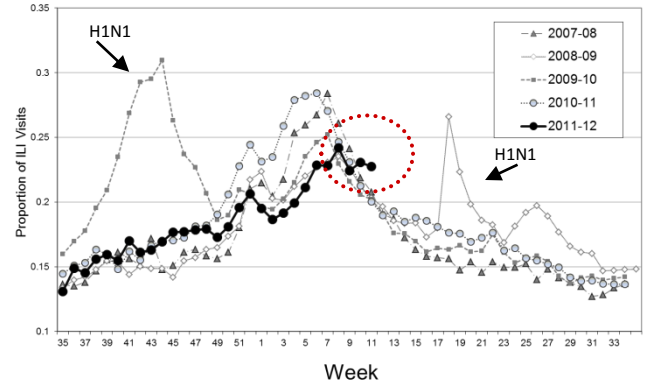
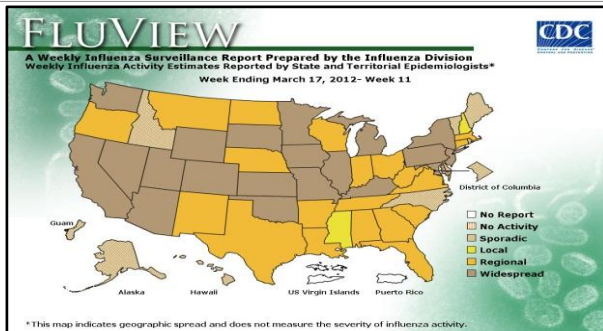
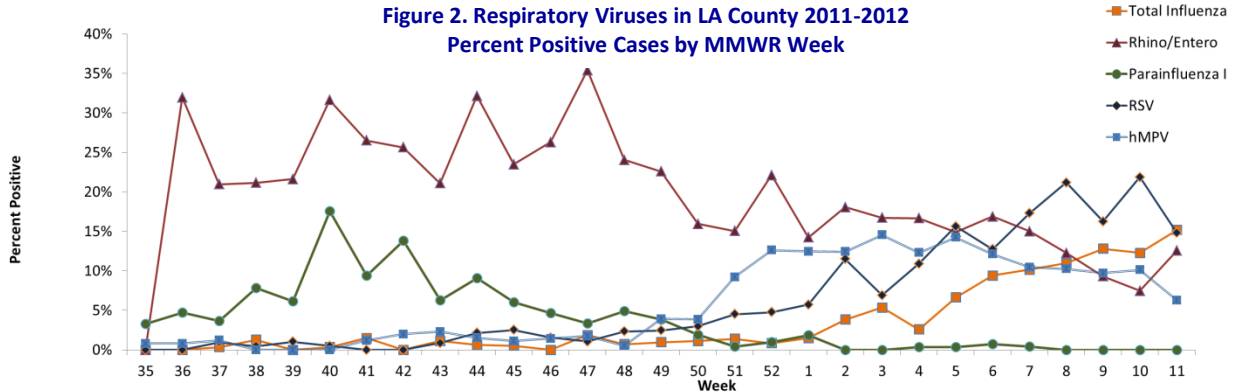


Figure 2. Respiratory Viruses in LA County 2011-2012 Percent Positive Cases by MMWR Week



During Week 11, national tracking of flu showed widespread activity reported by 20 states, including California; regional activity also in 20 states, and local activity in 2 states.

Two new vaccine strains selected for 2012-13 season

The WHO has recommended that the composition of the 2012-13 influenza virus vaccine for the northern hemisphere contain:

- A/California/7/2009(H1N1)pdm09-like virus
- A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus
- B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus

For a summary report see: <http://tinyurl.com/87kxgup>