

INFLUENZA WATCH

Flu Surveillance and Related Disease Updates for Los Angeles County

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 Surveillance Week 49
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Influenza increasing in US; Los Angeles to follow?

National reports indicate increases in flu activity over the last three weeks suggesting an early influenza season is underway (see FluView below). Locally, respiratory disease activity in Los Angeles County (LAC) is still low for the 2012-13 season (Figure 1). The prior two week increase in influenza-like illness (ILI) ED visits was not sustained over the current period. Influenza continues to be detected in LAC (Table 1) at levels less than 2%, with other respiratory viruses such as rhinovirus, RSV (at >10%) and parainfluenza continuing to be more prevalent (Figure 2). Vaccination now is important for protection this flu season.

Figure 1
 Influenza-like Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2013)
 Surveillance Week 49 (week ending December 14)

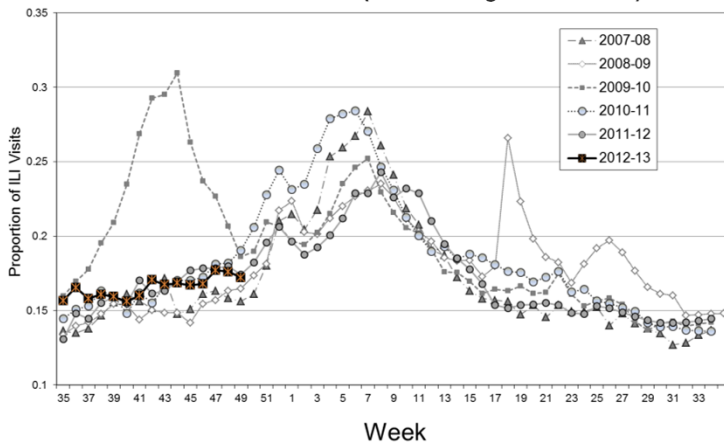


Figure 2: Respiratory Viruses in LA County
 Percent Positive Cases by MMWR Week

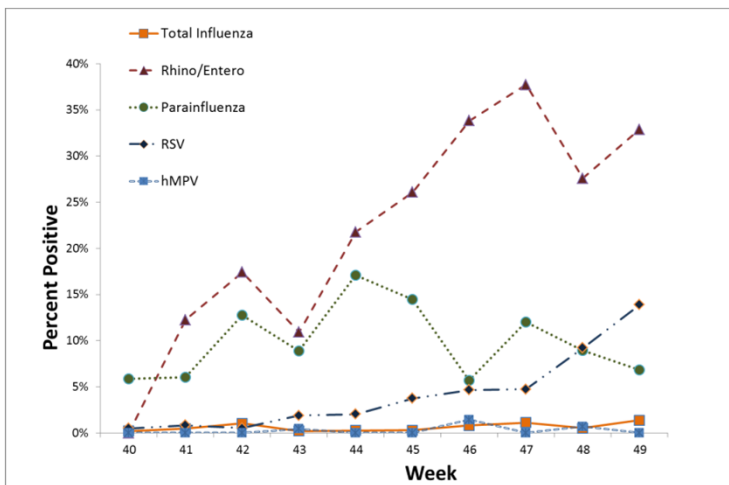
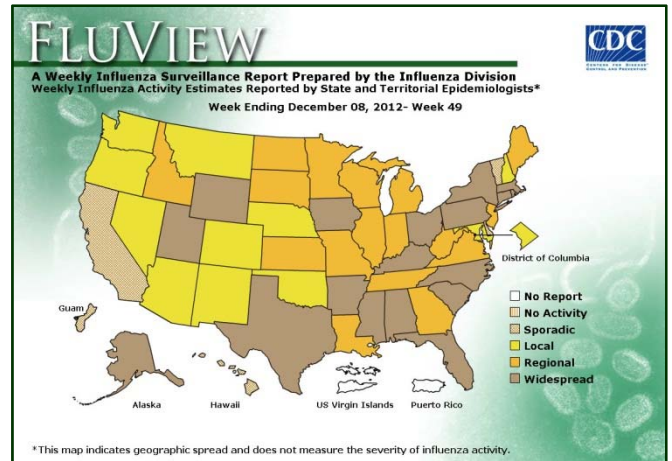


Table 1
 LA County Surveillance Summary (2012-2013)
 Surveillance Week 49

LA County Surveillance Summary	Wk 49	2012-2013 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	4 / 291 (1.4%)	15 / 4,026 (0.6%)
Percent Flu A / B	100 / 0	75 / 25
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	34 / 245 (13.9%)	117 / 3,165 (3.7%)
Community Respiratory Outbreaks, Reported	0	2
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Deaths, Confirmed)	----- *	1 (0)

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



* This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

Stay tuned for ACDC's new and improved flu website soon to be launched at:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Flu.htm>

As shown above, nationally flu activity continues to increase. As of week 49 (ending December 14), 18 states reported widespread activity; 17 states reported regional levels of activity; 11 states reported local activity. California and 4 other states reported sporadic influenza activity.

