



# Influenza Watch

Los Angeles County

<http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm>

## NOW IS THE TIME TO VACCINATE YOUR PATIENTS

### Recommended Groups for Influenza Vaccination:

- **HEALTHCARE WORKERS**
- ALL persons who want to reduce risk of illness or transmitting influenza
- Adults 50 years and older
- All children 6 to 59 months of age
- Women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- Adults and children >6 mo. with chronic conditions or weakened immunity
- Household contacts (adults/children) and out-of-home caregivers of infants under 6 months of age or persons in any of the high-risk groups listed above

For more information visit: <http://lapublichealth.org/ip/flu/2007-2008/index.htm>

While giving your patients the influenza vaccine, evaluate to see if they should also receive the pneumococcal vaccine.

For recommended groups see: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pneumo/default.htm>

## Important Information

- To date, confirmed cases of influenza have not been reported in LA County
- ILI in children 5 years and younger is higher than in past seasons

## Resources for Providers

### **2007-2008 Influenza Vaccine Chart**

A one page summary of available vaccines and dosage information by age group

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/pdf/osagechart.pdf>

## In the News

### **Prior Pneumococcal Vaccine May Improve Outcomes in CAP**

Pneumonia is a major complication of influenza and can be very serious, especially in older adults. Patients with community acquired pneumonia who received a previous pneumococcal vaccine had about a 40% lower rate of mortality or intensive care unit admission vs. those who were not vaccinated.

For additional information, visit:

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/eBaFT0FSBFk0D1R0I2vu0Ef>

## Influenza Activity: CA & USA

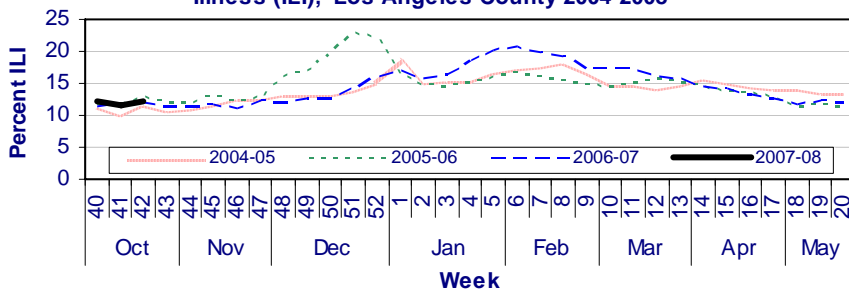
**California:** During week 41 (October 7 – October 13, 2007), influenza activity in California was **sporadic**. All surveillance parameters were at low levels.

For more information see the CA influenza report: [www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm)

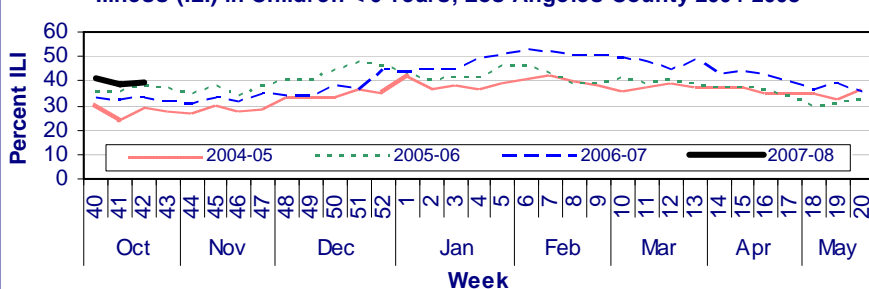
**United States:** A low level of influenza activity was measured in the United States during week 41. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI and acute respiratory illness (ARI) was baseline levels.

For more information see the CA influenza report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

**Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), Los Angeles County 2004-2008**



**Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) in Children < 6 Years, Los Angeles County 2004-2008**



## Become a California Influenza Sentinel Provider

Sentinel providers report the total number of patient visits each week and number of patient visits for influenza-like illness by age group. Most report that it takes them less than 30 minutes a week to compile and report their data. In addition, sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients for virus isolation for free.

For more information visit: [www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flu-sentinel.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flu-sentinel.htm)

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