

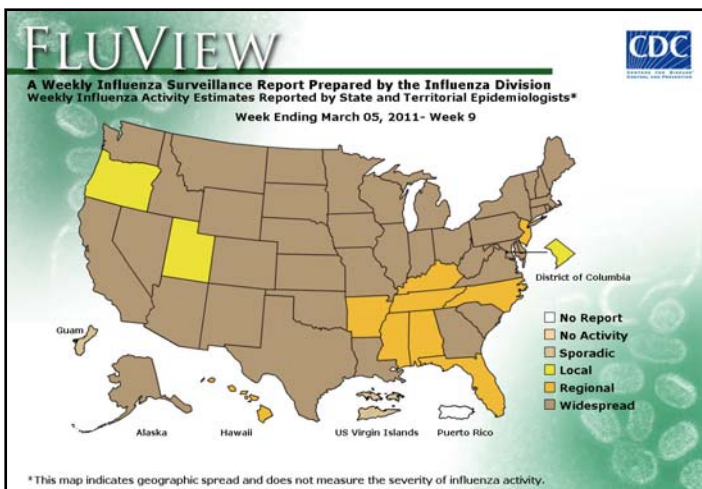
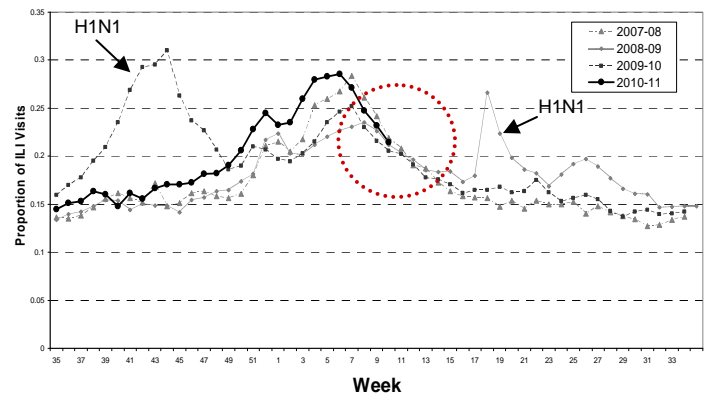
HIGH LEVELS OF FLU ACTIVITY CONTINUE

Influenza continues to circulate at high levels in Los Angeles County. Even though our emergency department surveillance shows declining influenza-like illness activity (Figure 1) and overall testing for flu among our sentinel sites has decreased, the percentage of positive flu tests remains high (Table below). At the beginning of Los Angeles County's season, type B influenza infections outnumbered type A, but as of week 2, type A infections surpassed B and continue to be identified at higher levels (Figure 2). Among known flu-related deaths to date, all but one (94%) have been due to influenza type A, and of those that have been further strain typed, all (100%) have been typed as H1N1 influenza. The majority (59%) of local flu deaths have obesity as a risk factor.

LA County Surveillance Summary (2010-2011)
Surveillance Weeks 8 to 9

LA County Surveillance Summary	Week 8	Week 9	10-11 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	197 / 1,265 (15.6%)	144 / 751 (19.2%)	1,787 / 15,358 (11.6%)
Percent Flu A / B	61 / 39	69 / 31	55 / 45
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	75 / 294 (25.5%)	44 / 258 (17.1%)	1,343 / 6,034 (22.3%)
Respiratory Outbreaks	9	5	53
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Deaths, Confirmed)	0 (0)	2 (0)	17 (0)

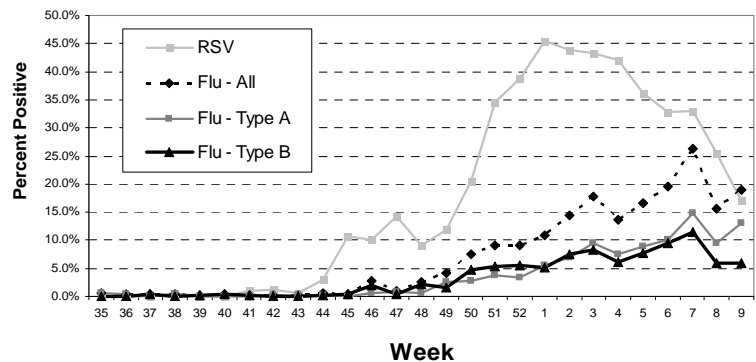
Figure 1
Influenza-like Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2011)
Surveillance Week 9



During week 9, the highest level of influenza activity ("widespread" activity) was reported by 39 states including California. Lesser "regional" activity was reported by 9 mostly southern states, "local" activity reported by the District of Columbia, Oregon, and Utah.

Need help convincing your patients, family and friends about the seriousness of flu and the benefits of vaccination? Send them to **Families Fighting Flu** (www.familiesfightingflu.org). The site contains many valuable resources including testimonials from families affected by flu.

Figure 2
Percent Positive Influenza and RSV, Los Angeles County (2010-2011)
Surveillance Week 9



INFLUENZA TESTING VIDEO TUTORIAL

Medical professionals can learn the latest on conducting rapid influenza diagnostic tests and the CDC's recommendations for their use during the 2010-2011 influenza season by viewing the CDC sponsored video tutorial.

CDC Expert Video Commentary: Get Up to Date on Rapid Influenza Testing
Daniel B. Jernigan, MD, MPH

www.medscape.com/viewarticle/734610?src=mp&spon=3 *

* Viewing requires free registration with Medscape.