

INFLUENZA WATCH

December 23, 2011
Surveillance Week 50
Volume 6, Issue 5

Flu Surveillance and Related Disease Updates for Los Angeles County

2011 Ends with Minimal Flu Activity

Local respiratory illness surveillance continues to show only minimal activity (Figure 1). Influenza, parainfluenza and RSV levels remain low in Los Angeles County, with rhino- and enterovirus levels continuing to be more prevalent. Low activity is consistent with previous years; if patterns continue, an initial peak of activity prior to the New Year, followed by a more substantial peak in February can be expected. Despite low overall respiratory virus activity, two flu deaths have been confirmed: one pediatric case (flu B) and one case in an elderly man (flu A). Both cases were considered high risk. Flu vaccinations are still available; it is not too late to vaccinate.

Table 1
LA County Surveillance Summary (2011-2012)
Surveillance Week 50

LA County Surveillance Summary	Wk 50	2011-2012 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	4 / 305 (1.3%)	32 / 5,384 (0.6%)
Percent Flu A / B	75 / 25	60 / 40
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	6 / 258 (2.3%)	42 / 3,965 (1.1%)
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	2
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Deaths, Confirmed)	----- *	2 (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 50

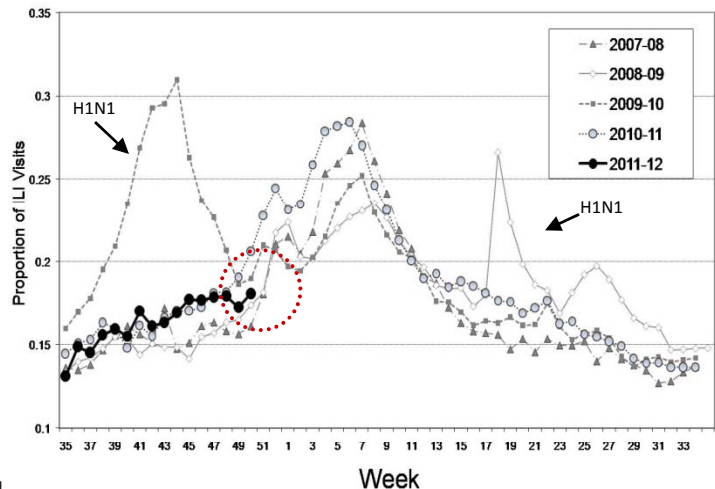
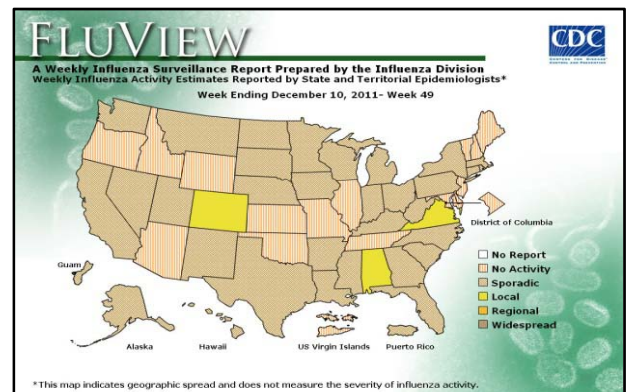
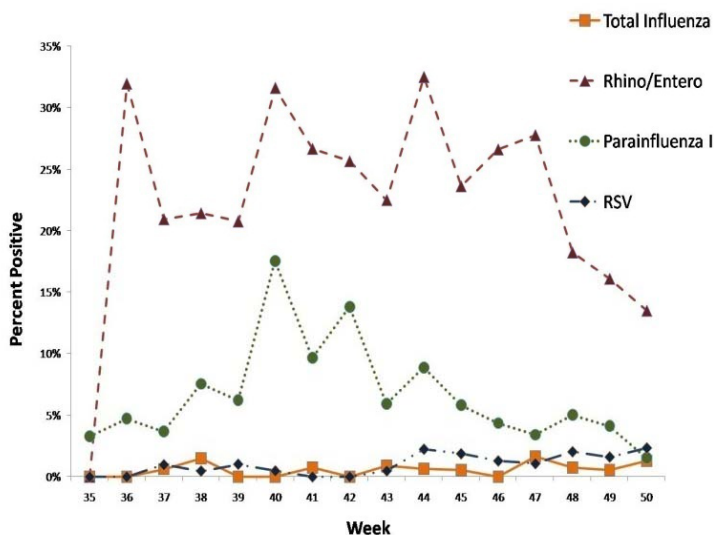


Figure 2
Respiratory Viruses in LA County
Percent Positive Cases by MMWR Week



Nationally, flu activity is also minimal. As of week 49 (ending December 10) only three states have reported moderate levels of activity: Alabama, Colorado, and Virginia. No influenza activity was reported by 15 states as well as the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands.

Do you have questions about novel swine-origin triple reassortant H3N2 influenza (S-OtrH3N2) virus?
Visit: www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm
For questions about testing and reporting possible cases, call Acute Communicable Disease Control 213-240-7941

Contact Information: fluwatch@listserv.ph.lacounty.gov
Acute Communicable Disease Control (213) 240-7941
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd

