

Local Flu Activity Shows Continued Increased Activity

During Week 5, Los Angeles County influenza surveillance showed a noticeable increase in flu activity, with 6.4% of samples positive for flu A or B, up from 2.6% in Week 4 (Table 1). These levels, however, are still lower than those reported at this time last year (22%), suggesting that the 2011-12 flu season may prove to be a mild one. Ongoing surveillance will determine whether this week's increase reflects a February peak seen in previous seasons. Other respiratory viruses continue to be more prevalent including rhino/enterovirus (13.3%), RSV (17.7%) and human metapneumovirus (hMPV) (16.2%) (Figure 3).

Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary (2011-2012) Surveillance Week 5

LA County Surveillance Summary	Week 5	2011-2012 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	30 / 467 (6.4%)	148 / 9,179 (1.6%)
Percent Flu A / B	100 / 0	80 / 20
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	73 / 412 (17.7%)	297 / 6,785 (4.4%)
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	7
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Deaths, Confirmed)	-----*	3 (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 5

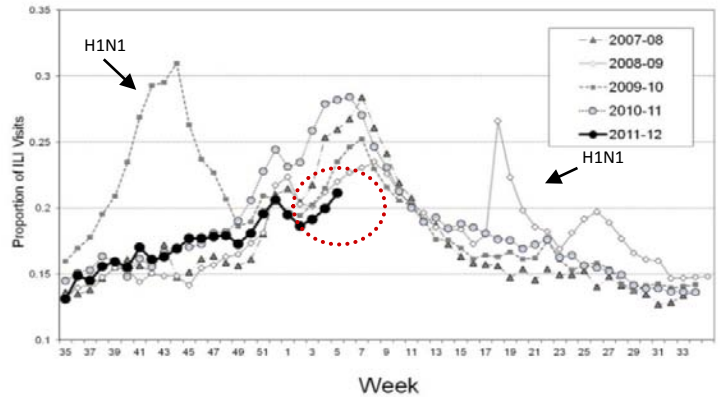
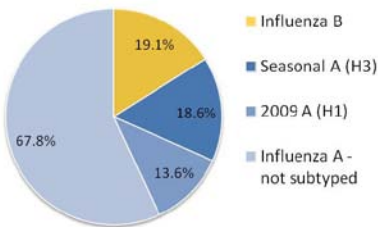
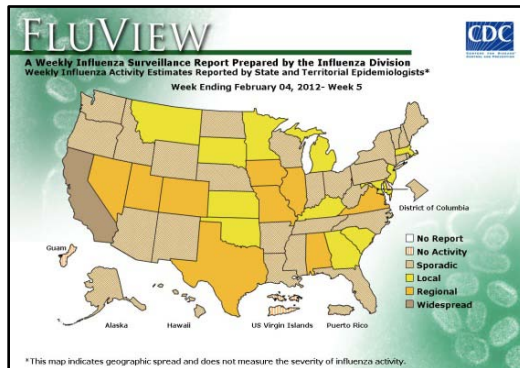


Figure 2. Flu Type or Subtype, Week 4, CDPH



Last week, the majority of the 23 (85.2%) flu specimens strain typed from California residents matched the current 2011-2012 influenza vaccine.



Week

The CDC's tracking of national influenza activity shows continued increases in the geographic spread of flu. During week 5, widespread activity was reported for California, up from regional activity reported last week. Regional activity was reported by nine states (Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nevada, Texas, Utah, and Virginia), 50% more than last week.

Figure 3. Respiratory Viruses in LA County 2011-2012 Percent Positive Cases by MMWR Week

