

California Influenza and Other Respiratory Disease Surveillance for Weeks 40–41 (October 2–15, 2011)

Note: This report includes data from many different sources of influenza surveillance, including syndromic surveillance, laboratory surveillance, and mandatory reporting of influenza deaths for cases ages 0-64 years. The information contained in this report should be viewed as a “snapshot” of influenza activity for each surveillance week, and should not be considered as population-based data or representative of all California jurisdictions.

Based on low levels of influenza-like illness and laboratory detections, overall influenza activity in California during Weeks 40 and 41 was “sporadic.”*

Influenza Report Highlights

- In the first two weeks of the influenza season, outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) activity was low.
- Influenza A (2009 H1), A (H3), and B have all been identified in the first two weeks of this influenza season. Of 810 specimens tested by the RLN and sentinel labs during Weeks 40 and 41, 8 (1.0%) were positive for influenza A and 1 (0.1%) was influenza B. Most of the positive results have been reported from Southern California.
- The California Department of Public Health Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (CDPH-VRDL) has not tested any specimens for antiviral resistance to date.
- No California specimens have been strain typed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to date.
- CDPH has received no reports of laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated deaths among patients under 65 years of age.

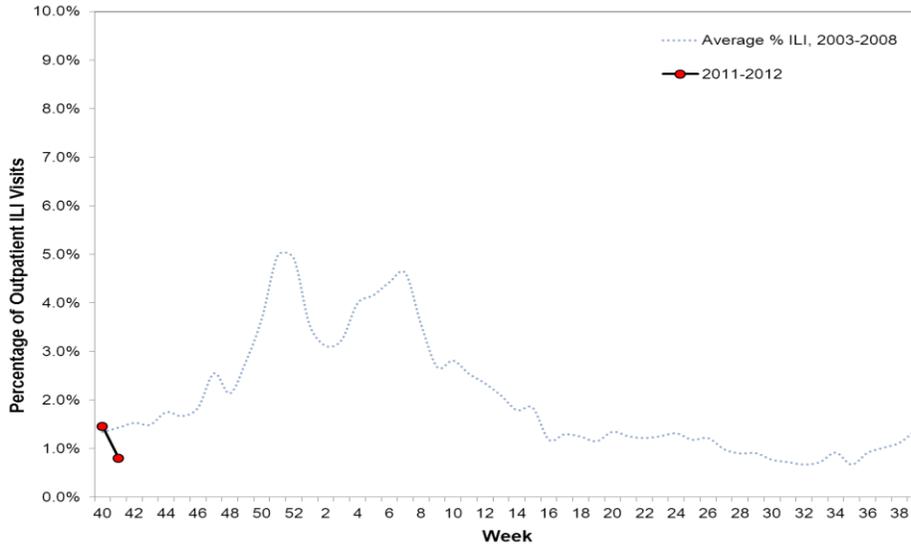
*Sporadic activity is defined by the CDC as defined as “Small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI.”

A. CDC Influenza Sentinel Providers

Sentinel providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) situated throughout California report the number of outpatient visits for ILI and the total number of visits per week. ILI is defined as any illness with fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza. This data is reported weekly as a percentage of total visits. At present, over 200 sentinel providers have indicated their willingness to report ILI data and submit specimens to CDPH-VRDL for further testing this season, allowing CDPH to attain the CDC goal of 1 sentinel provider per 250,000 population.

To date, a total of 73 and 69 sentinel providers have reported Week 40 and Week 41 data, respectively. Based on the limited data available, the percentage of ILI visits remained low during Week 40 (1.5%) and Week 41 (0.8%).

Figure 1. California Sentinel Providers – Influenza-Like Illness Visits, 2003–2012



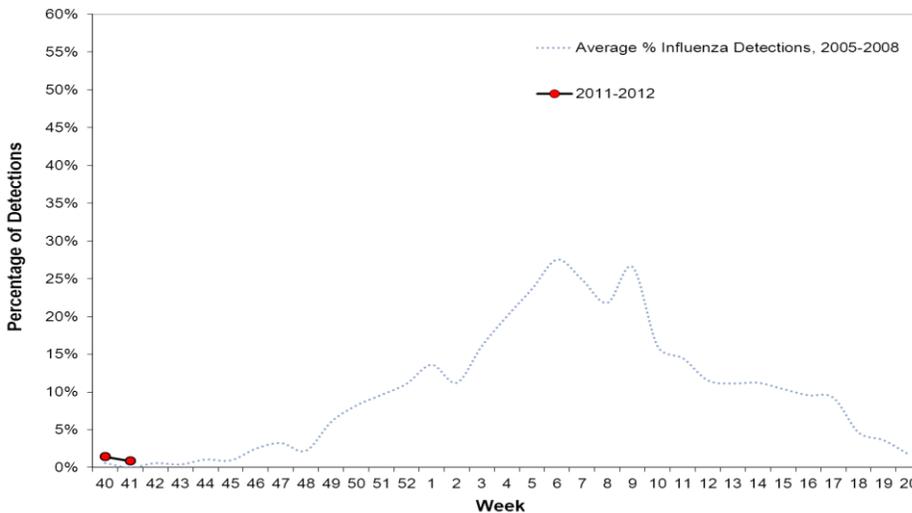
B. Laboratory Update

1. Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN) and Sentinel Laboratory Surveillance Results

The RLN is composed of 29 local public health laboratories that offer PCR testing for influenza A and B and testing. Sentinel laboratories are a network of clinical, commercial, academic, and hospital laboratories located throughout California that provide weekly data on the number of laboratory-confirmed influenza and other respiratory virus detections and isolations. These labs use various testing methods, including rapid test, direct fluorescent assay, viral culture, and PCR.

Figure 2 shows that the percentage of influenza detections in the RLN and sentinel labs remained low during Week 40 (1.4%) and Week 41 (0.9%). The influenza-positive specimens were reported in Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Sonoma counties. The RLN and sentinel labs subtyped 5 influenza A samples during Weeks 40 and 41, including 3 (60.0%) influenza A (H3) and 2 (40.0%) influenza A (2009 H1N1); 3 influenza A samples were not subtyped.

Figure 2. Influenza detections in Respiratory Laboratory Network and Sentinel Laboratories, 2005–2012



2. Antiviral Resistance Testing (AVR)

CDPH-VRDL has not tested any influenza specimens to date during the 2011-2012 influenza season.

3. Influenza Virus Strain Characterization

No California specimens have been strain-typed by CDC to date during the 2011–2012 influenza season.

C. Laboratory-confirmed case reports

Currently, as mandated under Section 2500 of the California Code of Regulations, deaths among cases age 0-64 years with laboratory-confirmed influenza are reportable to CDPH.

CDPH has received no reports of laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated deaths among patients under 65 years of age during the 2011–2012 influenza season.

For questions regarding this report or influenza surveillance and reporting in California, please email InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov. This account is monitored daily by several epidemiologists.

To obtain additional information regarding influenza, please visit the CDPH influenza website at [http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza\(Flu\).aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza(Flu).aspx).

A copy of the case report form for reporting any laboratory-confirmed influenza case that was either admitted to the ICU or died can be downloaded from [http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza\(Flu\).aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Influenza(Flu).aspx).