

California Influenza and Other Respiratory Disease Surveillance for Weeks 40–42 (September 30–October 20, 2012)

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 public health jurisdictions.

Based on low levels of influenza-like illness and laboratory detections, overall influenza activity in California during Weeks 40–42 was “sporadic*.”

Influenza Report Highlights

- In the first three weeks of the influenza season, outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) activity was low.
- Of 1,271 specimens tested during Weeks 40-42,
 - 11 (0.9%) were positive for influenza; of these
 - 4 (36.4%) were influenza B and
 - 7 (63.6%) were influenza A.
 - 4 (57.1%) were subtyped as seasonal A (H3) and
 - 3 (42.9%) were not subtyped.
- 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 persons less than 65 years of age.
- No cases of novel influenza have been detected in California.

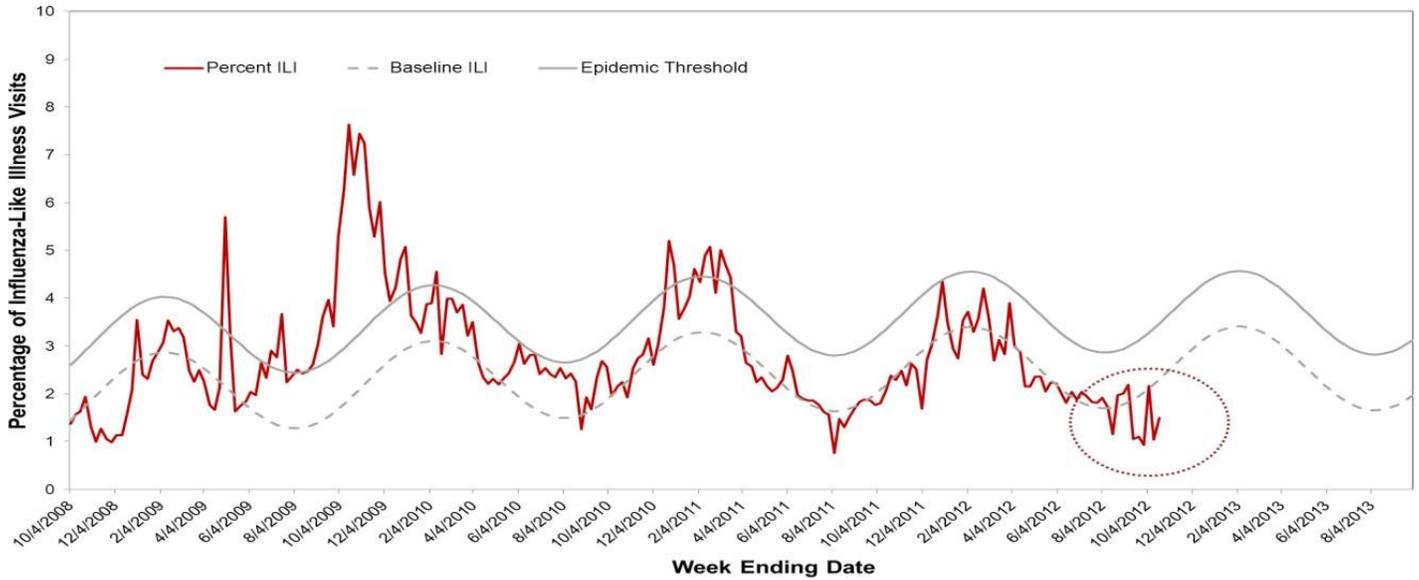
*For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definitions of influenza geographic distribution, please go to the [CDC Influenza page](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>).

A. Syndromic Surveillance Update

1. CDC Influenza Sentinel Providers

A total of 99, 91, and 70 sentinel providers have reported data for Weeks 40, 41, and 42, respectively. Based on available data, the percentages of ILI visits during Weeks 40 (2.2%), 41 (1.0%), and 42 (1.5%) were at or below baseline (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of Influenza-like Illness Visits Among Patients Seen by California Sentinel Providers, 2008– 2012

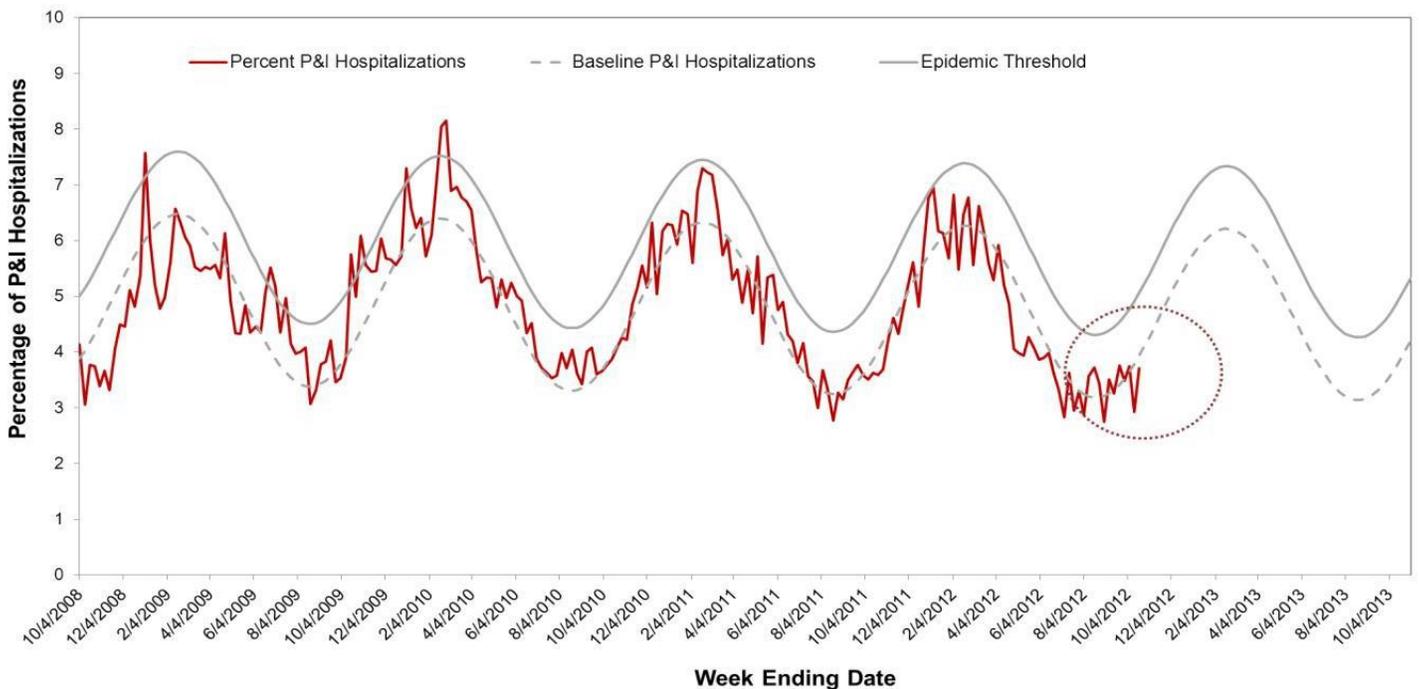


The seasonal baseline was calculated using a regression model applied to data from the previous seven years. The epidemic threshold is two standard deviations above the seasonal baseline and is the point at which the observed percentage of ILI is significantly higher than would be expected at that time of the year.

2. Kaiser Permanente Hospitalization Data

The percentage of hospitalizations for pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Kaiser Permanente facilities in northern California remained at or below baseline during Weeks 40–42 (Figure 2). During Week 40, 3.7% of KPNC hospitalizations were due to P&I. This percentage decreased to 2.9% in Week 41, and increased again to 3.7% in Week 42.

Figure 2. Percentage of P&I Hospitalizations in Kaiser Permanente Northern California Hospitals, 2008–2012



The seasonal baseline was calculated using a regression model applied to data from the previous five years. The epidemic threshold is two standard deviations above the seasonal baseline and is the point at which the observed percentage of pneumonia and influenza hospitalizations in Kaiser Permanente hospitals in northern California is significantly higher than would be expected at that time of the year.

B. Laboratory Update

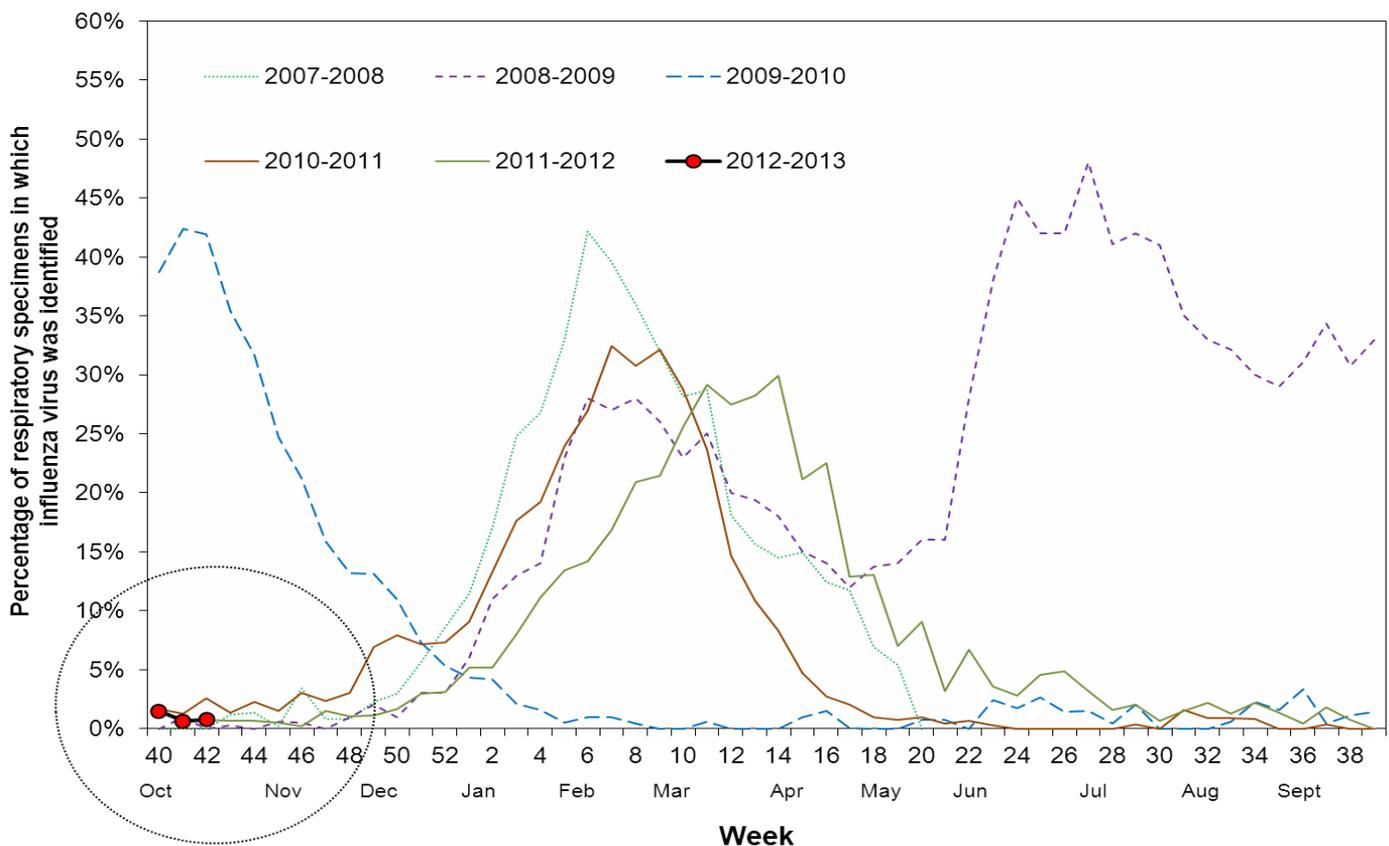
1. Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN) and Sentinel Laboratory Surveillance Results

The percentage of influenza detections in the RLN and sentinel laboratories remained low in Weeks 40 (1.5%), 41 (0.6%), and 42 (0.6%) (Figure 3). In Week 42, of 469 specimens tested by the RLN and sentinel laboratories, 2 (0.4%) were positive for influenza B and 1 (0.2%) was positive for influenza A (Figure 4). The specimen that tested positive for influenza A had no further subtyping performed. The influenza-positive specimens were reported from Los Angeles, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties.

To date for the 2012-2013 season, of 1,271 specimens tested, 11 (0.9%) were positive for influenza; of these, 4 (36.4%) were influenza B and 7 (63.6%) were influenza A. Of the 7 specimens that tested positive for influenza A, 4 (57.1%) were subtyped as seasonal A (H3) and 3 (42.9%) had no further subtyping performed.

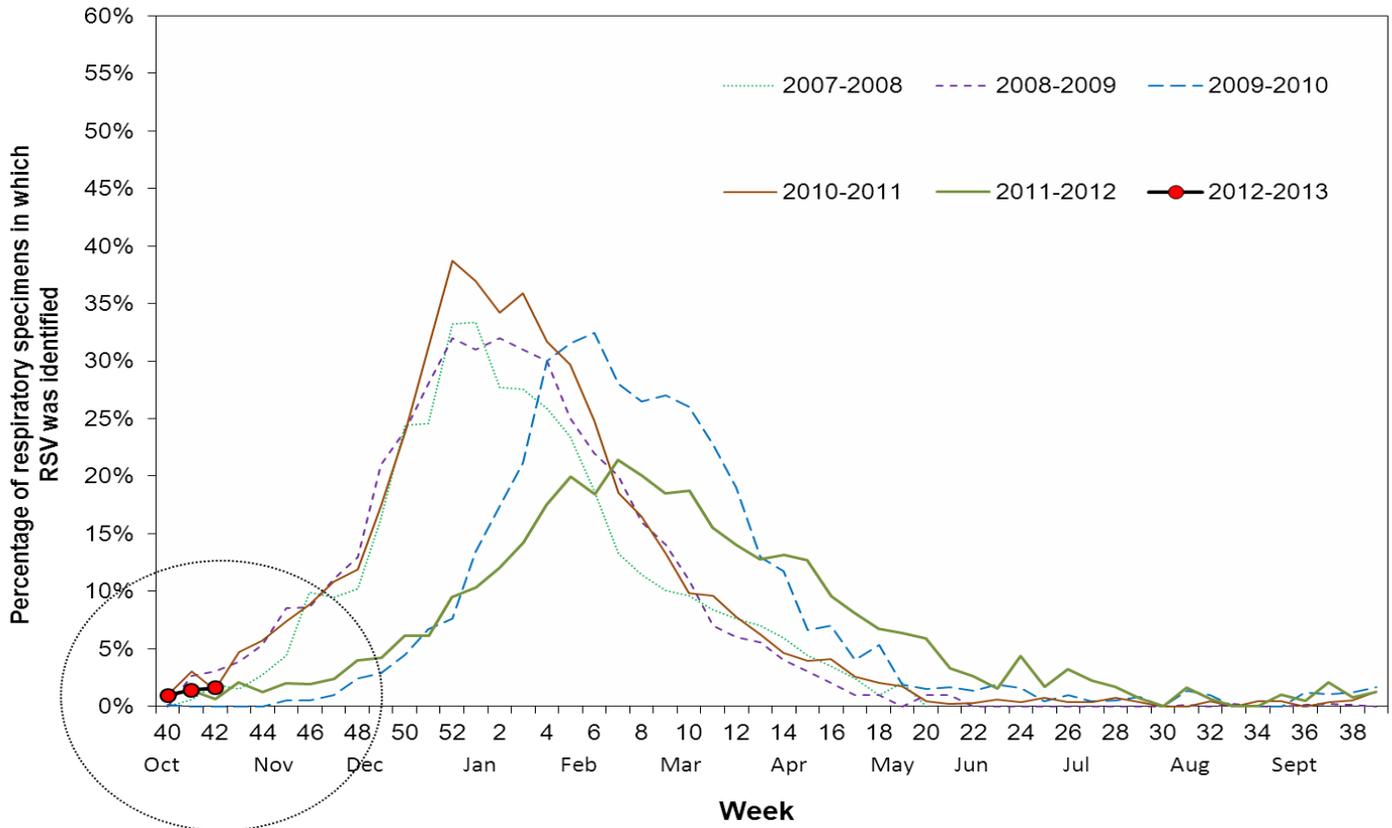
Neither the RLN nor the California Department of Public Health Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (CDPH- VRDL) have identified any influenza viruses by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) typing or subtyping that are suggestive of novel influenza virus.

Figure 3. Percentage of Influenza Detections in Respiratory Laboratory Network and Sentinel Laboratories, 2007– 2012



During Week 40, the proportion of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections was 0.9%. This percentage increased to 1.4% in Week 41 and 1.6% in Week 42 (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Other Respiratory Pathogen Detections in Respiratory Laboratory Network and Sentinel Laboratories, 2007–2012



2. Antiviral Resistance Testing

CDPH-VRDL has not tested any influenza specimens for antiviral resistance to date during the 2012-2013 influenza season.

3. Influenza Virus Strain Characterization

No California specimens have been strain-typed to date during the 2012-2013 influenza season.

C. Laboratory-confirmed Fatal 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 2012–2013 influenza season.

D. Influenza-associated Outbreaks

CDPH has received no reports of laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks during the 2012–2013 influenza season.

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

For more information regarding the different influenza surveillance data sources, please visit the [CDPH Influenza Surveillance Program](#) at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Flu-Reports.aspx>

To obtain additional information regarding influenza, please visit the [CDPH influenza website](#) at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.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 the [Severe Influenza Case History Form Link](#) at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ControlledForms/cdph9070.pdf>.