

Weekly Update



## California Department of Public Health Influenza Surveillance Program

### ***California Influenza and Other Respiratory Disease Surveillance for Week 43 (October 20, 2013 to October 26, 2013)***

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.

**Overall influenza activity in California during Week 43 was “sporadic\*.”**

#### **Influenza Report Highlights**

- Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased in Week 43 (0.8%) compared to Week 42 (1.6%).
- Of 616 specimens tested during Week 43,
  - 14 (2.3%) were positive for influenza virus; of these
    - 0 (0.0%) were influenza B and
    - 14 (100.0%) were influenza A
      - 2 (14.3%) were subtyped as seasonal A (H3)
      - 5 (35.7%) were subtyped as 2009 A (H1)
      - 7 (50.0%) were not subtyped
- The California Department of Public Health Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (CDPH-VRDL) has not tested influenza isolates for antiviral resistance to date.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not strain-typed any California specimens to date.
- One influenza-associated death in an adult less than 65 years of age was reported during Week 43.
- No cases of novel influenza have been detected in California to date.

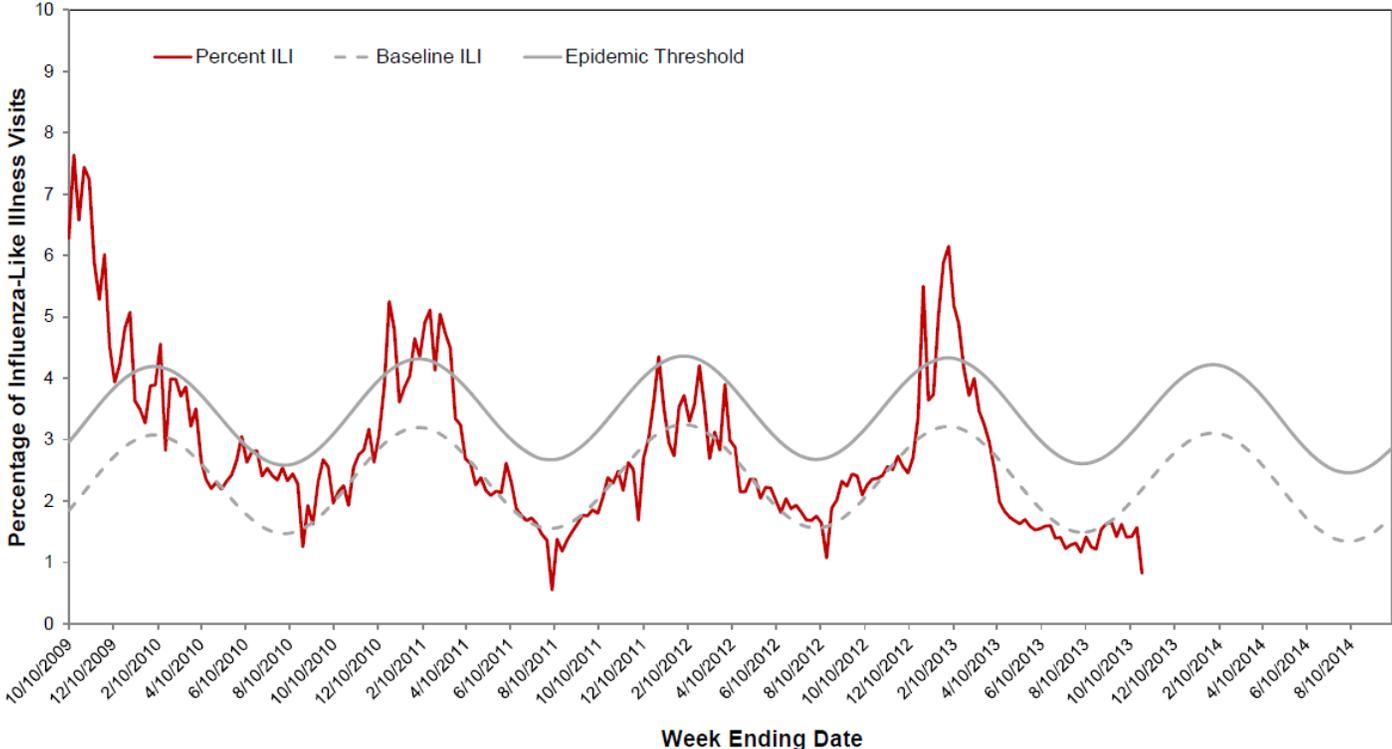
\*For the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definitions of influenza geographic distribution, please go to the [CDC Influenza page](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>).

#### **A. Syndromic Surveillance Update**

##### 1. CDC Influenza Sentinel Providers

A total of 81 enrolled sentinel providers have reported data for Week 43, compared to an average of 112 providers reporting for each of the previous weeks. Based on available data, the percentage of visits for ILI in Week 43 (0.8%) was below the epidemic threshold (3.2%) (Figure 1). Data from a sentinel provider with a large patient population has not been submitted at this time. However, inclusion of this data is not expected to change our assessment of influenza activity in California.

**Figure 1. Percentage of Influenza-like Illness Visits Among Patients Seen by California Sentinel Providers, 2009–2014**

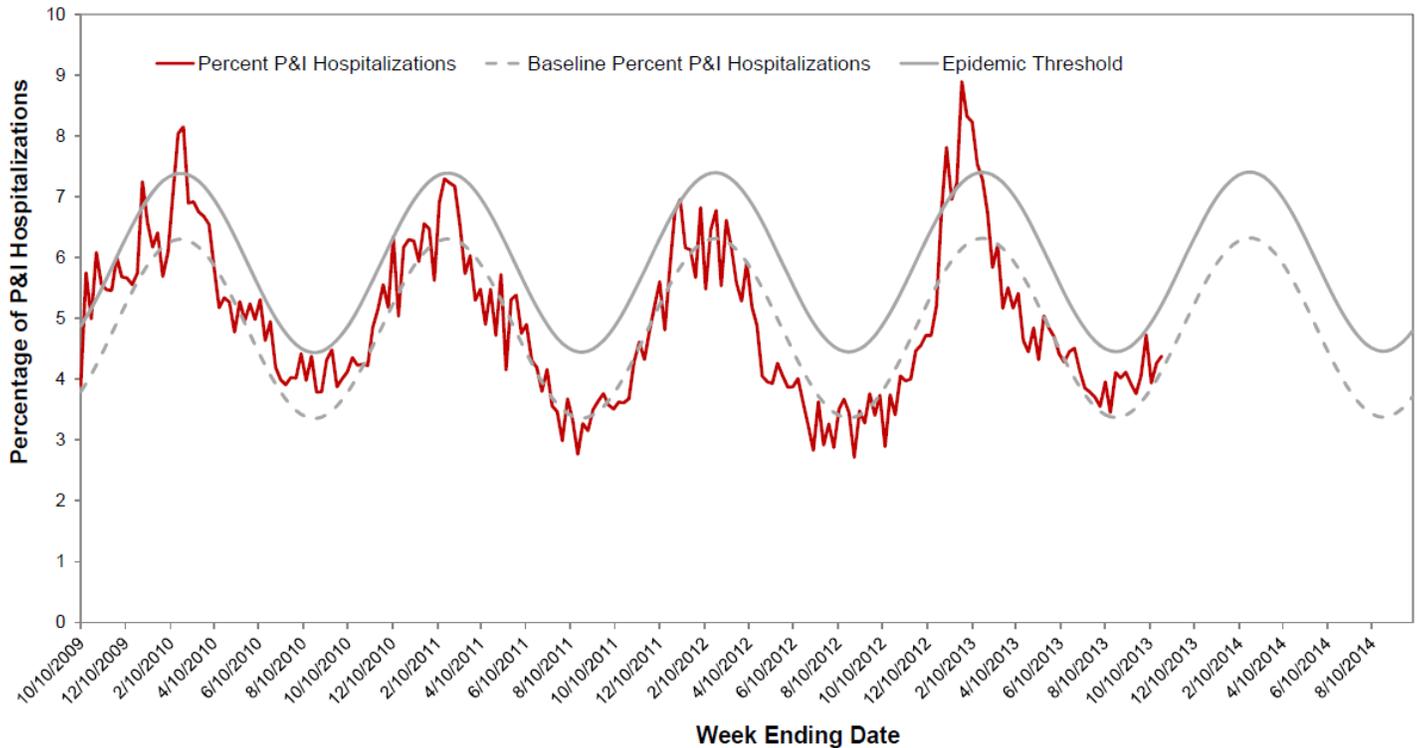


The seasonal baseline was calculated using a regression model applied to data from the previous eight years. The epidemic threshold is two standard deviations above the seasonal baseline and is the point at which the observed percentage of ILI is significantly higher than would be expected at that time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

## 2. Kaiser Permanente Hospitalization Data

The percentage of hospitalizations for pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Kaiser Permanente facilities in northern and southern California increased during Week 43 (4.4%), compared to Week 42 (4.3%) (Figure 2). The percentage was below the epidemic threshold (5.1%) during Week 42.

**Figure 2. Percentage of P&I Hospitalizations in Kaiser Permanente Northern and Southern California Hospitals, 2009–2014**



The seasonal baseline was calculated using a regression model applied to data from the previous six 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

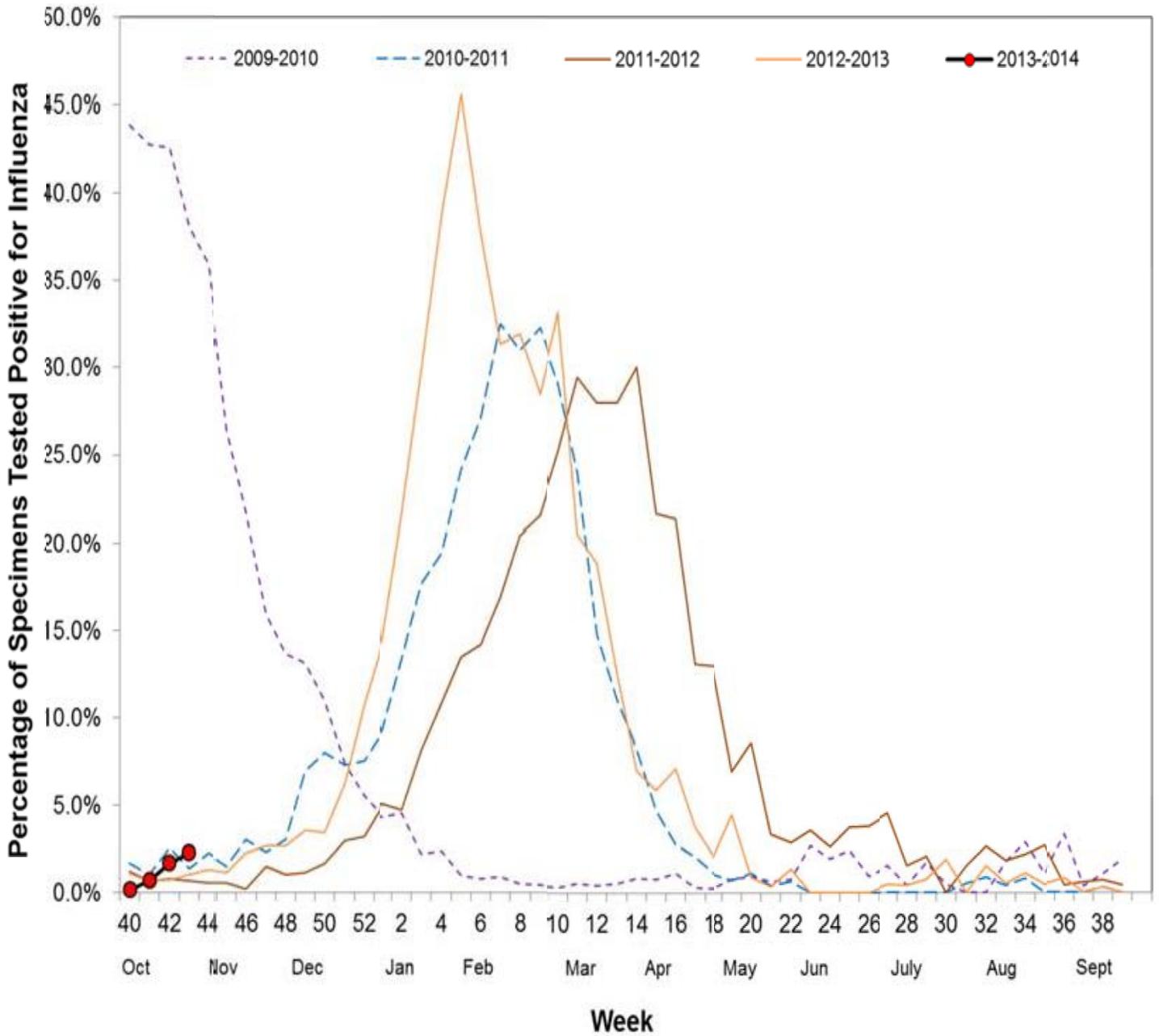
The percentage of influenza detections in the RLN and sentinel laboratories increased in Week 43 (2.3%, compared to 1.7% in Week 42) (Figure 3). In Week 43, of 616 specimens tested by the RLN and sentinel laboratories, 0 (0.0%) were positive for influenza B and 14 (2.3%) were positive for influenza A. Of the 14 specimens that tested positive for influenza A, 2 (14.3%) were subtyped as seasonal A (H3), 5 (35.7%) were subtyped as 2009 A (H1), and 7 (50.0%) had no further subtyping performed.

To date for the 2013–2014 season, of 2,678 specimens tested, 32 (1.2%) were positive for influenza; of these, 3 (9.4%) were influenza B and 29 (90.6%) were influenza A. Of the 29 specimens that tested positive for influenza A, 8 (27.6%) were subtyped as seasonal A (H3), 8 (27.6%) were subtyped as 2009 A (H1), and 13 (44.8%) had no further subtyping performed. Positive specimens have been detected throughout the state.

Neither the RLN nor CDPH-VRDL have identified any influenza viruses by polymerase chain

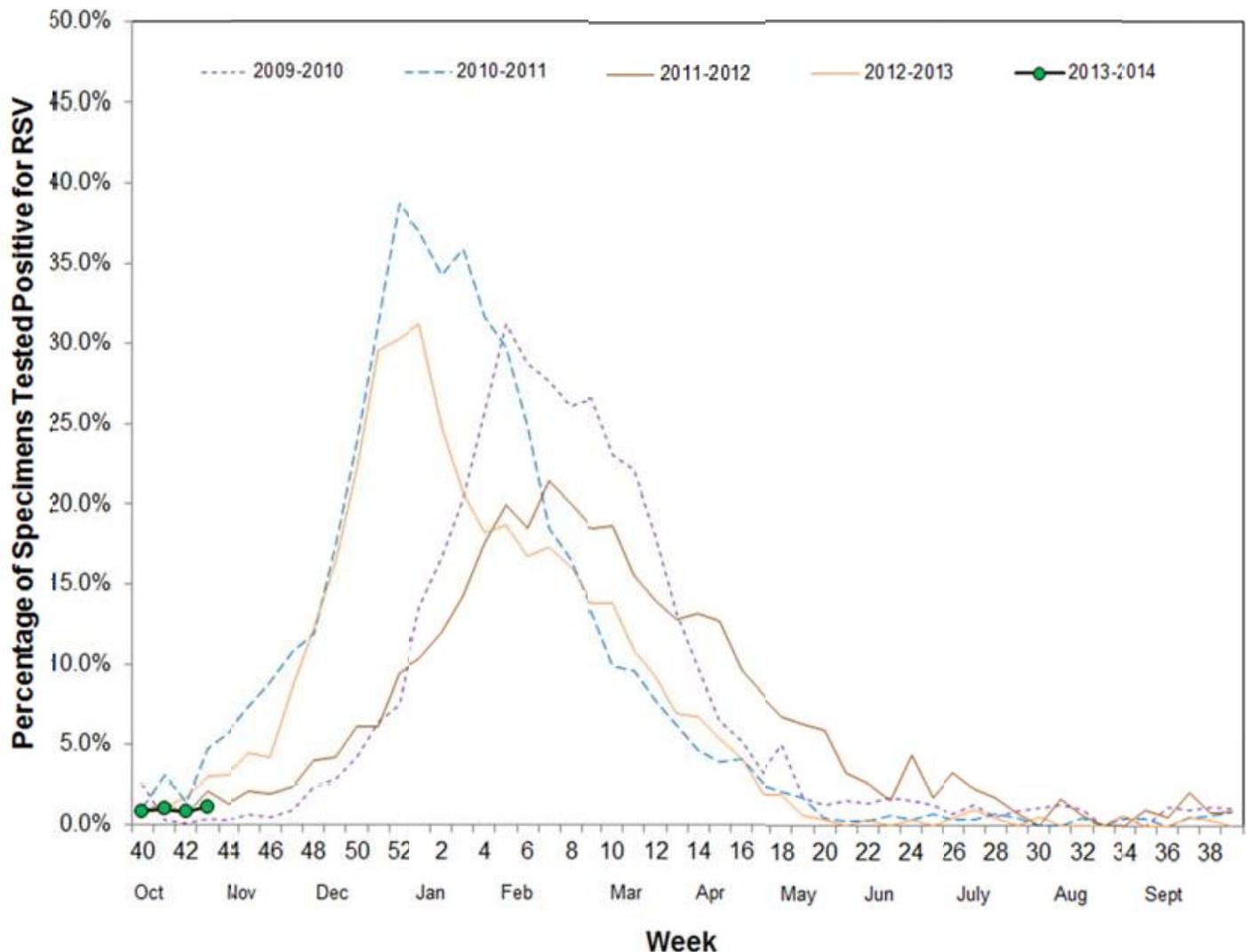
reaction (PCR) typing or subtyping that are suggestive of a novel influenza virus.

**Figure 3. Percentage of Influenza Detections in Respiratory Laboratory Network and Sentinel Laboratories, 2009–2014**



Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections increased in Week 43 (1.1% compared to 0.8% in Week 42) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Percentage of RSV Detections in Respiratory Laboratory Network and Sentinel Laboratories, 2009–2014**



## 2. Antiviral Resistance Testing

The CDPH-VRDL has not tested any influenza specimens for antiviral resistance to date during the 2013–2014 influenza season.

## 3. Influenza Virus Strain Characterization

No California specimens have been strain-typed to date during the 2013–2014 influenza season.

## **C. Laboratory-confirmed Fatal Case Reports**

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

In Week 43, CDPH received the first report of an influenza-associated death for the 2013-2014 season.

The case-patient was an adult between the ages of 50-59 years from southern California who had co-morbid conditions considered by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as risk factors for severe influenza. The patient tested positive for influenza B by PCR.

#### **D. Influenza-associated Outbreaks**

CDPH has received no reports of laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks to date during the 2013–2014 influenza season.

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For questions regarding influenza surveillance and reporting in California, please email [InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov](mailto: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](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Flu-Reports.aspx) 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](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx) 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](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ControlledForms/cdph9070.pdf) at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ControlledForms/cdph9070.pdf>.