

California Influenza and Respiratory Disease Surveillance for Week 17 (April 24–30, 2011)

Note: This report includes data from many different sources of influenza surveillance, including syndromic surveillance, laboratory surveillance, voluntary case-based reporting of severely ill cases and mandatory reporting of influenza deaths for cases ages 0-17 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 decreased positive influenza tests reported statewide, influenza activity in California for Week 17 was downgraded to “sporadic*.” Due to decreasing levels of influenza activity, the next report will be issued for Week 19 (May 8-14, 2011).

Influenza and Other Respiratory Disease Highlights (Week 17)

- Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Week 17 showed low levels statewide as reflected by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sentinel provider outpatient visits (2.7%).
- Of 78 specimens tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) statewide by the Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN) during Week 17, 5 (6.4%) were positive for influenza.
- Of 693 specimens tested by sentinel laboratories during Week 17, 13 (1.9%) were positive for influenza.

*Sporadic activity is defined by the CDC 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.”

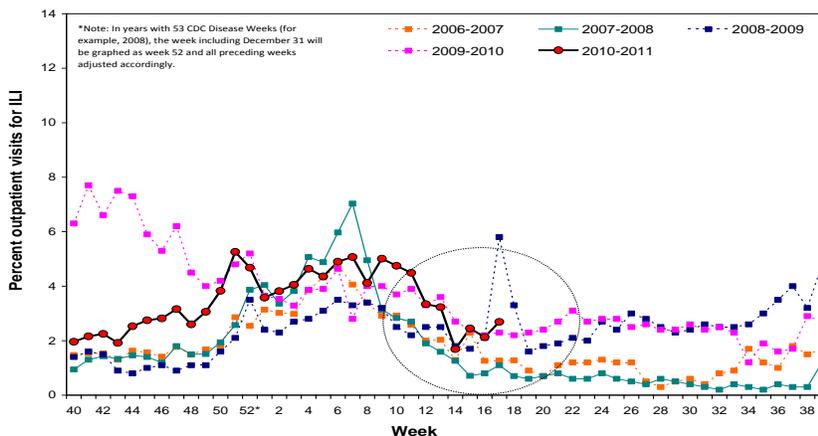
A. Syndromic Surveillance

CDC Influenza Sentinel Providers

Sentinel providers report the number of outpatient visits for ILI and the total number of visits per week. These data are reported weekly as a percentage of total visits due to ILI. The ILI case definition is 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.

The percentage of ILI visits increased during Week 17 (2.7%) compared to the previous week (2.1%). A total of 70 sentinel providers have reported Week 17 data so far.

Figure 1. California Sentinel Providers – Influenza-Like Illness Visits, 2006-2011



B. Laboratory Update

1. Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN) Surveillance Results

The RLN is composed of 28 local public health laboratories that offer PCR testing for influenza A and B and testing using the R-mix shell vial culture system to identify five other common respiratory viruses (RSV, adenovirus, and parainfluenza virus type 1-3).

The percentage of specimens that tested positive for influenza decreased in Week 17 (6.4%) compared to Week 16 (8.5%), [Table 1].

Table 1. Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN) Surveillance Results from Selected Laboratories*, April 24–30, 2011

	Total RLN*	Northern CA	Central CA	Southern CA
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Number of specimens tested by PCR	78	24	10	44
Influenza A	4 (5.1) [†]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (9.1) [†]
A (seasonal H1N1)	0 (0.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
A (H3)	2 (50.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (50.0) [‡]
A (2009 H1N1)	1 (25.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (25.0) [‡]
A (subtyping pending)	1 (25.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (25.0) [‡]
Influenza B	1 (1.3) [†]	1 (4.2) [†]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Number of specimens tested by R-mix	12	1	9	2
RSV	0 (0.0) [¶]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Other respiratory viruses	0 (0.0) [¶]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

* RLN labs reporting Week 17 data, by region:

Northern CA: Contra Costa, Humboldt, Placer, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sonoma

Central CA: Fresno, Monterey, San Joaquin, Tulare

Southern CA: Imperial, Kern, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara

[†] Percent of total specimens tested for influenza by PCR

[‡] Percent of influenza A positives

[¶] Percent of total specimens tested by R-mix

2. Sentinel Laboratory Surveillance Results

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.

Table 2 shows positive influenza and RSV results reported from sentinel laboratories during Week 17. The percentage of specimens that tested positive for influenza decreased in Week 17 (13 of 693; 1.9%) compared to the previous week (22 of 1,024; 2.1%).

Table 2. Influenza and other respiratory virus detections from Sentinel Laboratories, April 24–30, 2011

	No. (%)
Number of sites reporting	55
Total specimens tested for influenza	693
Influenza	13 (1.9) [*]
Influenza A	10 (76.9) ^{**†}
Influenza B	3 (23.1) ^{**‡}
Total specimens tested for RSV	655
RSV	16 (2.4) ^{*¶}

* Percent of total specimens tested

** Percent of specimens positive for influenza

Total number of positive lab results reported, by local health jurisdiction of patient's residence and/or site location:

[†] Alameda (1), Fresno (1), San Diego (5), Santa Clara (2), Solano (1)

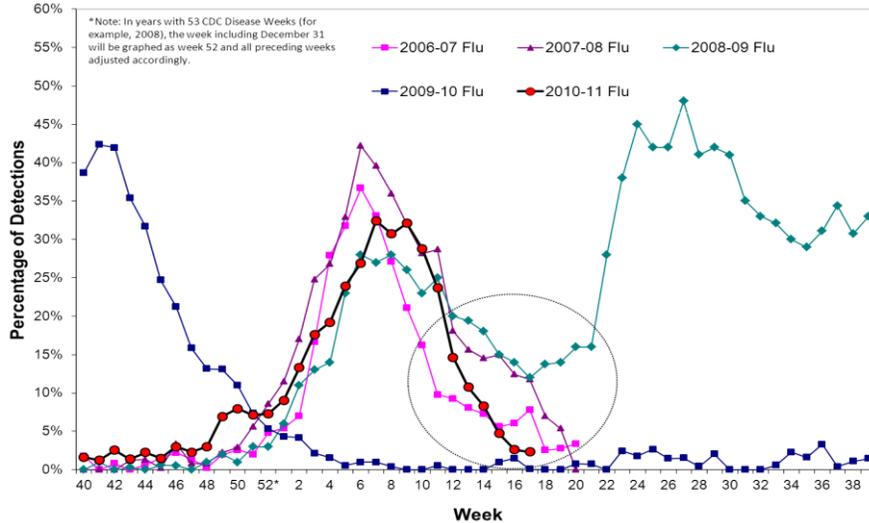
[‡] Sacramento (1), Santa Clara (2)

[¶] Fresno (2), Los Angeles (1), Monterey (1), Orange (1), Sacramento (1), San Diego (4), San Mateo (4), Santa Clara (1), Tulare (1)

3. Combined RLN and Sentinel Laboratory Surveillance Results

Figure 2 summarizes the combined laboratory data from both the RLN and the sentinel laboratories, and shows that influenza detections decreased in Week 17 (2.3%) compared to the previous week (2.6%).

Figure 2. Influenza detections in Respiratory Laboratory Network and Sentinel Laboratories, 2006-2011



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).