

California Influenza and Respiratory Disease Surveillance for Week 18 (May 1–7, 2011) and Week 19 (May 8–14, 2011)

Note: This report includes data from many different sources of influenza surveillance. 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.

Overall influenza activity in California remained “sporadic*” in Weeks 18 and 19.

Influenza and Other Respiratory Disease Highlights (Weeks 18–19)

- The percentage of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained low during Weeks 18 and 19.
- Of 74 specimens tested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) statewide by the Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN) during Weeks 18 and 19, 2 (2.7%) were positive for influenza A.
- Of 819 specimens tested by sentinel laboratories during Weeks 18 and 19, 5 (0.6%) were positive for influenza A or B.

*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.”

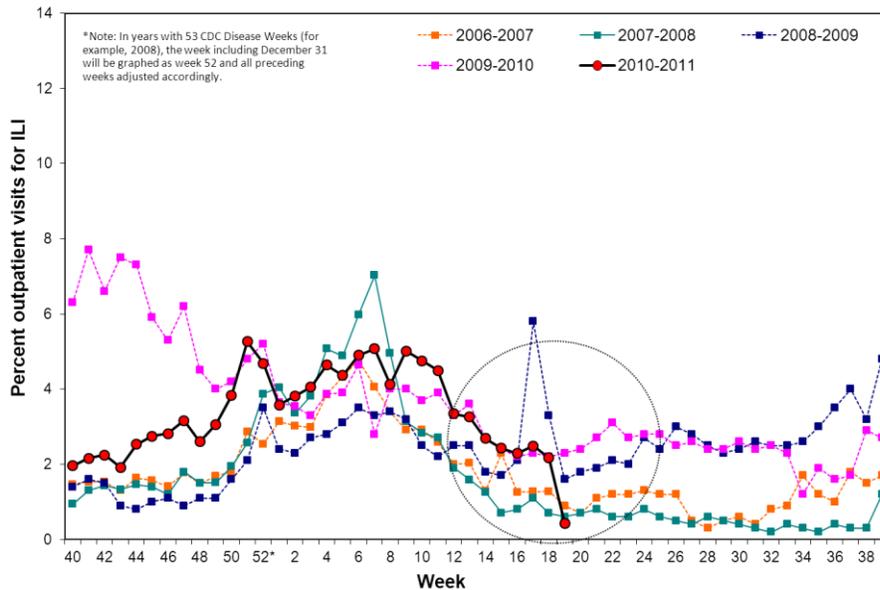
A. Syndromic Surveillance

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 decreased during Weeks 18 and 19 (2.2% and 0.4%, respectively) compared to Week 17 (2.5%). A total of 60 sentinel providers have reported Week 19 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 continued to decrease during the reporting period. A total of 74 specimens were tested by the RLN during Weeks 18 and 19; 2 (2.7%) were positive for influenza A [Table 1].

Table 1. Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN) Surveillance Results from Selected Laboratories*, May 1–14, 2011

	Total RLN*	Northern CA	Central CA	Southern CA
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
Number of specimens tested by PCR	74	39	8	27
Influenza A	2 (2.7) [†]	1 (2.6) [†]	1 (12.5) [†]	0 (0.0)
A (seasonal H1N1)	0 (0.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
A (H3)	1 (50.0) [‡]	1 (100.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
A (2009 H1N1)	1 (50.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)	1 (100.0) [‡]	0 (0.0)
Influenza B	0 (0.0) [†]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Number of specimens tested by R-mix	13	0	3	10
RSV	0 (0.0) [¶]	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Other respiratory viruses	1 (7.7) ^{¶,††}	0 (0.0)	1 (33.3) [¶]	0 (0.0)

* RLN labs reporting Week 18 and/or Week 19 data, by region:

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

Central CA: Fresno, Monterey, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare

Southern CA: Imperial, Kern, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Riverside, 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

^{††} Parainfluenza type 3 (1)

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 Weeks 18 and 19. The percentage of specimens that tested positive for influenza continued to decrease during the reporting period; 5 (0.6%) of 819 specimens tested positive for influenza during Weeks 18 and 19 combined, compared to 14 (1.6%) of 878 specimens tested in Week 17.

Table 2. Influenza and other respiratory virus detections from Sentinel Laboratories, May 1–14, 2011

	No. (%)
Number of sites reporting	42
Total specimens tested for influenza	819
Influenza	5 (0.6) [*]
Influenza A	3 (60.0) ^{**†}
Influenza B	2 (40.0) ^{**‡}
Total specimens tested for RSV	719
RSV	14 (1.9) ^{*¶}

* 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:

† San Diego (2), Santa Clara (1)

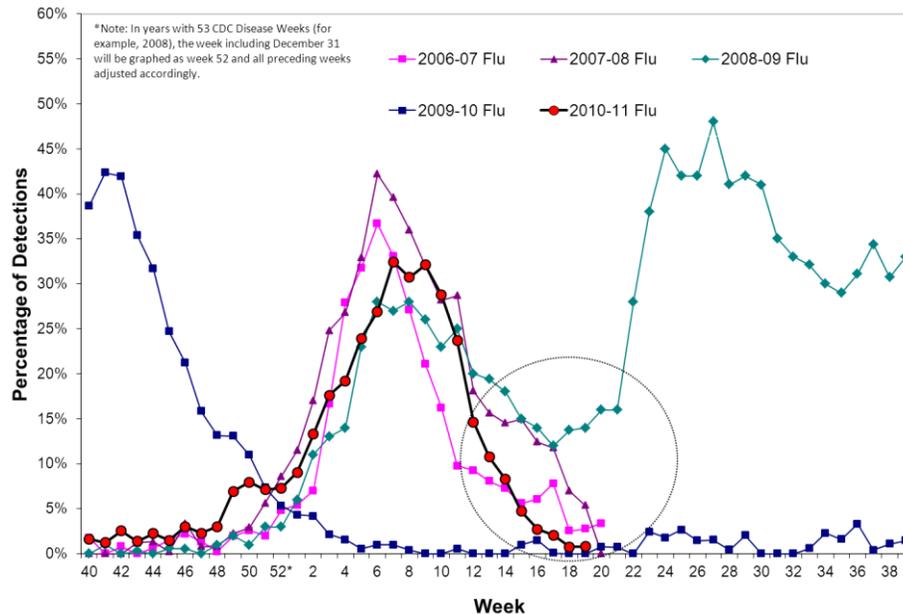
‡ Los Angeles (2)

¶ Alameda (1), Contra Costa (1), Long Beach (2), Los Angeles (5), San Diego (5)

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 remained low in Week 18 (0.8%) and Week 19 (0.8%) compared to Week 17 (2.1%).

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).