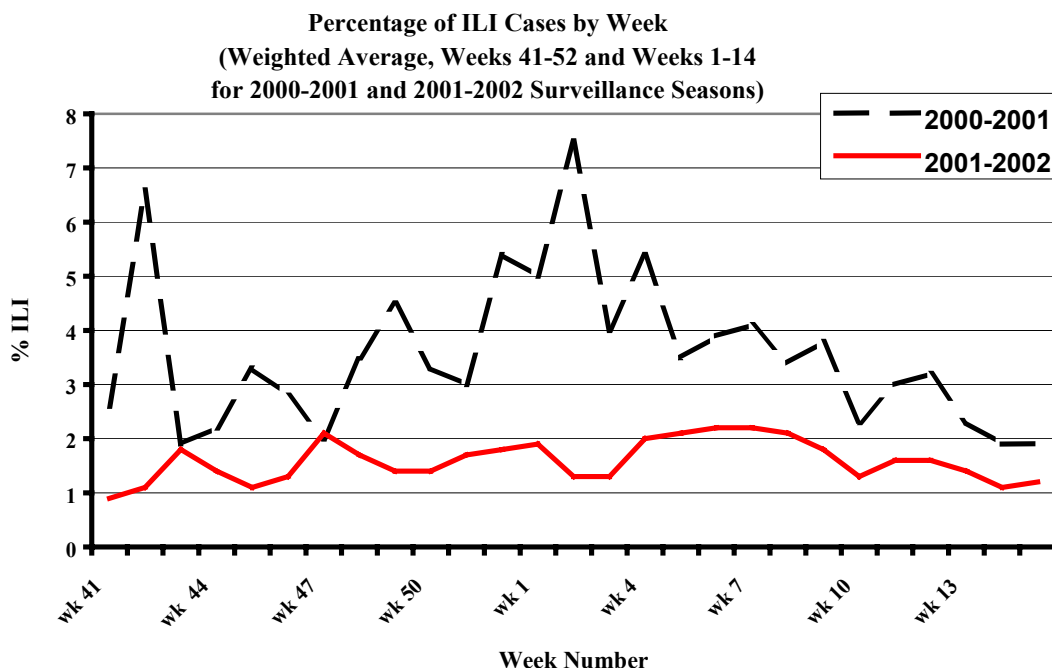


**Date:** April 19, 2002  
**To:** Health Care Provider  
**From:** Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist  
**Subject:** Influenza Report for Week 15 (April 7-13, 2002)

**Criteria for inclusion as a case of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) are fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and cough or sore throat.** Health care providers wishing to participate in the ongoing Clark County Health District (CCHD) Influenza Surveillance Program should contact Linh Nguyen, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 383-1378.

One hundred and twenty-five cases of ILI were reported during week 15. The weighted average over the twelve reporting sites was **1.2%**, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **8.8 %**. The P&I mortality for week 15 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 14 was 7.8%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-15 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



The effectiveness of influenza vaccine depends on the age and immunocompetence of the vaccine recipient. Elderly persons frequently develop lower antibody responses after immunization than healthy young adults and thus can remain susceptible to influenza infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC), influenza vaccine efficacy studies show the vaccine is only 30% to 70% effective in preventing hospitalization for pneumonia and influenza among persons aged  $\geq 65$  years. Due to the relatively low vaccine efficacy rate and to minimize the transmission of influenza to persons in this age group, the CDC recommends yearly influenza vaccination for health-care workers and individuals who have frequent contact with the elderly.

This newsletter is also posted on the Clark County Health District webpage for health care practitioners. See [http://www.cchd.org/physician/physician\\_only.htm](http://www.cchd.org/physician/physician_only.htm) for this and other health and bioterrorism related information. Each year from October through May, the Centers for Disease Control provide weekly updates on U.S. influenza activity. The information is online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>