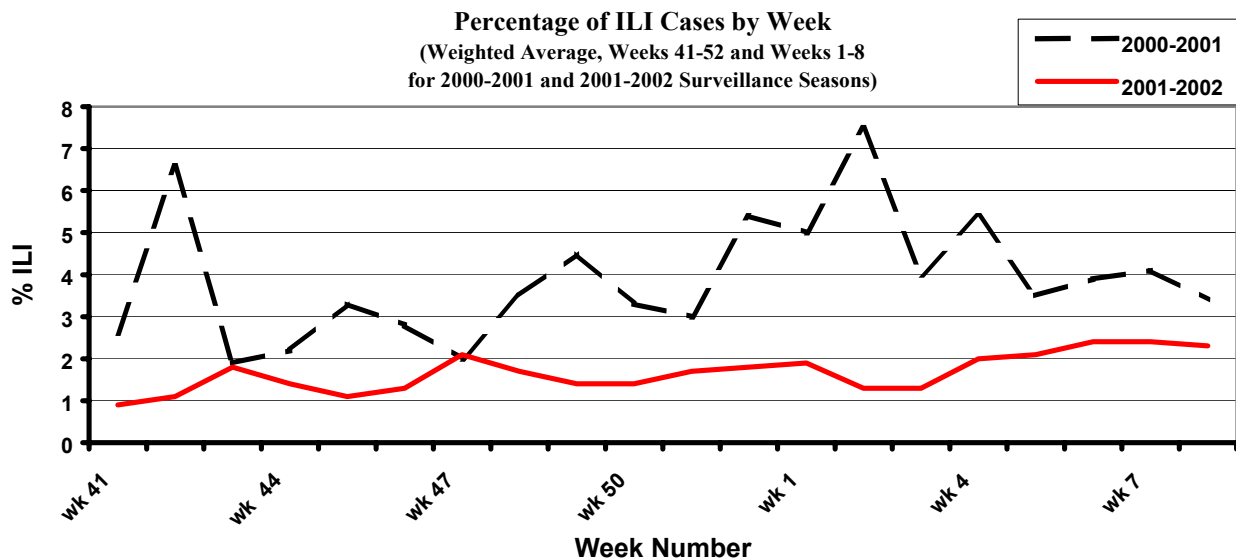


Date: March 1, 2002
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 8 (February 17-23, 2002)

Criteria for inclusion as a case of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) are fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°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.

Two hundred and thirty-four cases of ILI were reported during week 8. The weighted average over the thirteen reporting sites was 2.3%. Nationwide, the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 3.5%, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was 9.0%. The national P&I mortality for week 8 was 8.1%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 8.3%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-8 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



All thirty-nine confirmed cases of influenza identified thus far this season in Clark County were influenza A. Five isolates from these confirmed cases were subtyped as A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2) at the Nevada State Health Laboratory. Since October 1, 2001 the CDC has antigenically characterized 239 influenza viruses collected from U.S. laboratories. Of these, 92% (220) were influenza A(H3N2) viruses, 1.7% (4) were influenza A H1 viruses, and 6.3% (15) were influenza B viruses. Typically, the yearly trivalent influenza vaccine confers protection against two widely circulating influenza A strains and one influenza B strain. The vaccine for the 2002-03 season will contain the same influenza A(H3N2) and A(H1N1) strains as the 2001-02 vaccine. The influenza B strain will be selected at an FDA advisory committee meeting on March 6, 2002. Vaccine strains must be chosen for vaccine production about nine months before an influenza season to ensure plentiful vaccine supply.

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 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>