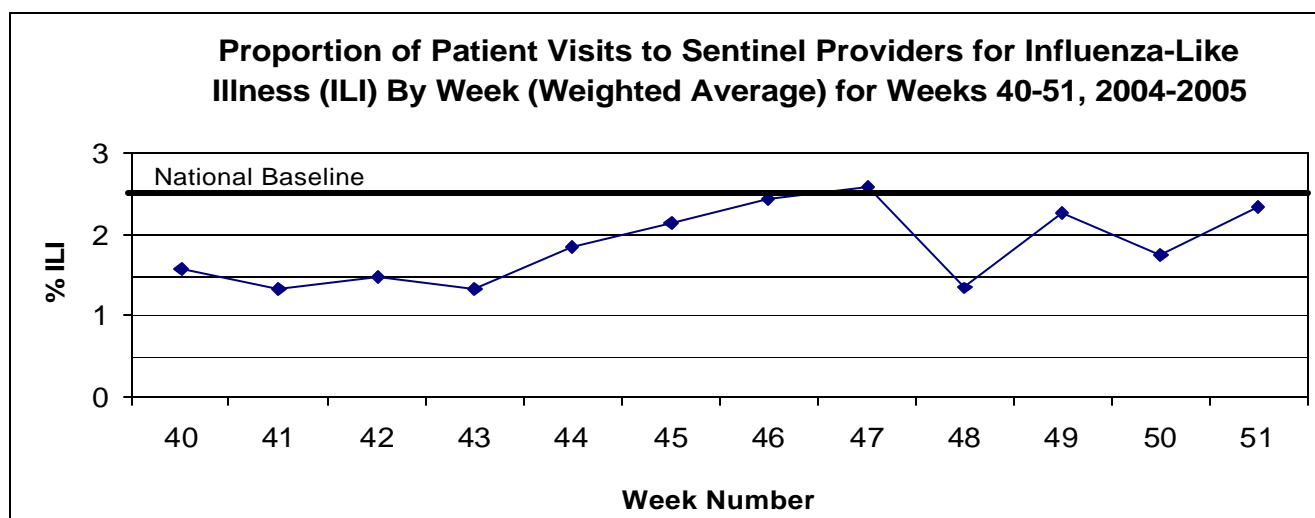


Date: December 30, 2004
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Epidemiologist II
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 51 (Dec. 19-25, 2004)

Ninety-six cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported during week 51. **Criteria for inclusion as a case of ILI are fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) and cough or sore throat.** The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for ILI was 2.33% (weighted average); this remains below the national baseline of 2.5%. During week 51, the proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County was 9.29% and the national P&I mortality was 7.0%. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-51 of the 2004-2005 surveillance season reported by sentinel site surveillance is presented in the following figure:



An additional health district surveillance system monitors the number of patients visiting area medical facilities on a daily basis. Through syndromic surveillance an increase in ILI was identified in the community for the first time this season. Two new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) during week 52. A total of six confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the OOE this season in Clark County. Two of the six were culture-confirmed from throat swabs. Both isolates were subtyped as A (H3N2) by the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory. Three cases were confirmed by a type of rapid test which differentiates between influenza type A and B and each resulted in influenza B. The most recent case was confirmed by a type of rapid test which does not differentiate between influenza type A and B. **The Nevada law (NAC 441A) requires that healthcare providers report all positive influenza tests (including rapid tests) to the local health authority.** Physicians and healthcare workers are reminded that any unusual occurrence or suspected outbreak should be reported to the Office of Epidemiology. The 24-hour number for reporting is 759-1300.

Influenza vaccine remains available for pediatrics and high-risk adults at the Ravenholt Public Center at 625 Shadow Lane. The immunization clinics are open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Please note: the health district will be closed Friday, December 31 in observance of New Year's Day.** For more information on health district flu vaccine availability, the general public may call the district's flu information line at (702) 385-INFO (4636).

- Reference:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>
December 30, 2004

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

Health care providers wishing to participate in the ongoing Clark County Health District Influenza Surveillance Program should contact Salena Savarda, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 759-1300.