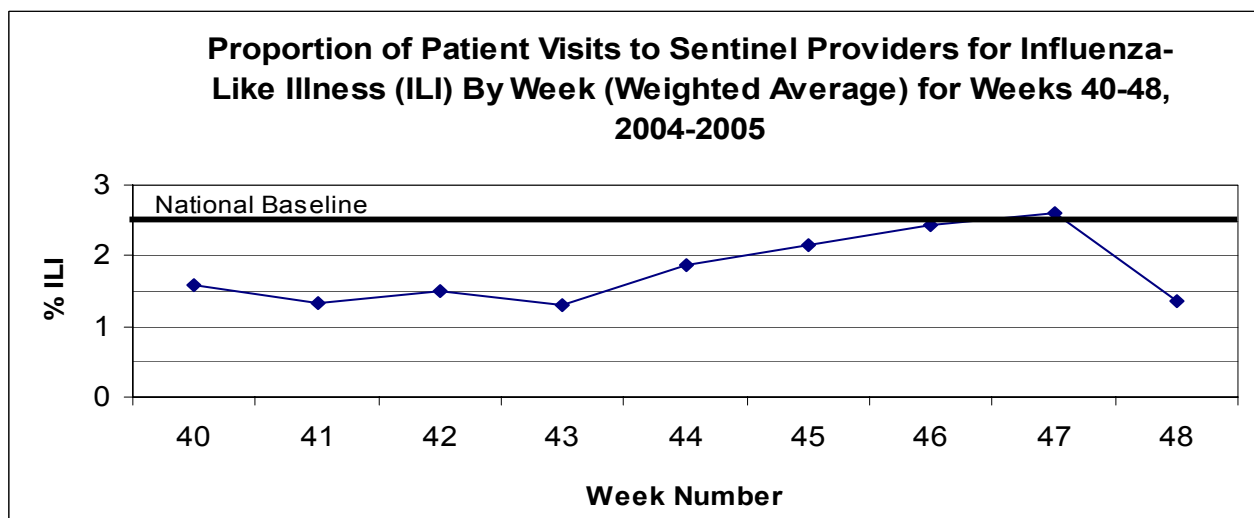


Date: December 10, 2004
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Epidemiologist II
Subject: Influenza Report for Weeks 44-48 (Oct. 31-Dec. 4, 2004)

During the five week period (Oct. 31-Dec.4) the proportion (weighted average) of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) overall averaged **2.08%** (range 1.35%-2.59%). This is below the national baseline of 2.5%. During week 47 the % ILI was slightly above baseline, however this occurred during the shorter Thanksgiving holiday week which may have affected the data. **Criteria for inclusion as a case of Influenza-Like Illness are fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) and cough or sore throat.** The proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County during weeks 44-48 averaged **5.65%**. The national P&I average for weeks 44-47 was 6.5%. The national P&I mortality for week 48 is not yet available. Syndromic surveillance has identified no increase in influenza-like illness in the community this season. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-48 of the 2004-2005 surveillance season is presented in the following figure.



Three confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) this season in Clark County. Two of the three were confirmed by throat culture isolates. Both isolates were subtyped as A (H3N2) by the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory. The other case was confirmed by a type of rapid test which differentiates between influenza type A and B and resulted in influenza 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.

- Reference:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>
November 27, 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.