

Date: April 22, 2005
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Epidemiologist II
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 15 (April 10-16, 2005)

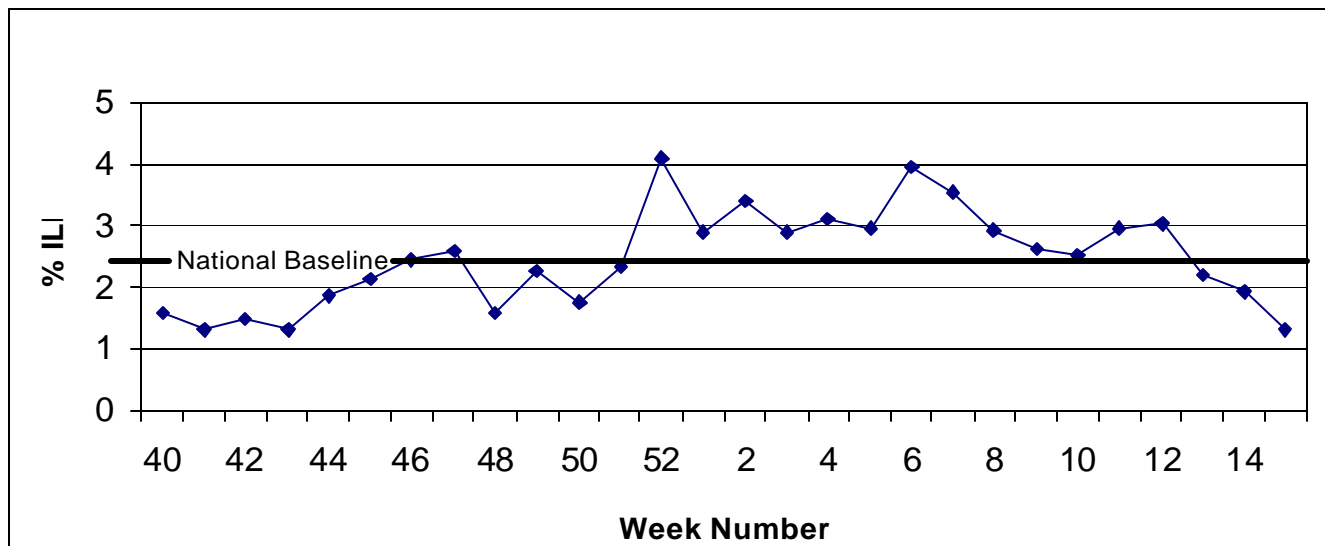
Influenza-like Illness Update

During week 15, the proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) was **1.32%** (weighted average) which is below the national baseline of 2.5%. This is the third consecutive week that Clark County ILI sentinel site surveillance has been below the national baseline since our peak in mid February. **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.** For week 15 the proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County was **6.09%** and the national P&I mortality was 7.8%. The epidemic threshold for week 15 is 7.9%. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-15 of the 2004-2005 surveillance season is presented in figure 1.

Syndromic surveillance continues to detect slightly elevated ILI activity in the community. However, since the beginning of February it also has shown a steady decline.

Since Clark County ILI rates continue to stay below the CDC national baseline of 2.5%, we will begin sending a biweekly surveillance update through the end week 20. Weekly updates will be resumed at the start of the 2005-06 influenza surveillance season which will begin in October. However, if unusual influenza activity is detected, the medical community will be alerted as quickly as possible. Physicians and healthcare workers are reminded that any unusual occurrence of illness or suspected outbreak should be reported to the Office of Epidemiology. The 24-hour number for reporting is 759-1300.

Figure 1. Proportion of Patient Visits to Sentinel Providers for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) By Week (weighted average) for Weeks 40-15, 2004-2005



Clark County Health District Influenza Case Update

One new laboratory-confirmed case of influenza has been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) during week 16. This brings the total to one hundred and fifteen confirmed cases of influenza that have been reported to the OOE this season in Clark County. Twenty-five of the one hundred and fifteen cases were laboratory-confirmed as influenza B (20 cultures, 5 rapid antigen tests). Twenty-five of the one hundred and fifteen cases were laboratory-confirmed as influenza A (19 cultures, 6 rapid antigen tests). The remaining sixty-five cases were laboratory-confirmed by a type of rapid test which does not differentiate between influenza A and B. **Nevada law (NAC 441A) requires that healthcare providers report all positive influenza tests (including rapid tests) to the local health authority.**

The 2004–05 influenza vaccine includes A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like, A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like, and B/Shanghai/361/2002-like antigens. A breakdown of the isolates identified circulating in Clark County thus far in the 2004-05 influenza season by type, subtype and antigenic characterization is presented in Table 1. All subtyping and antigenic characterization was conducted by the Nevada State Health Laboratory.

Table 1. Number of Isolates by Type, Subtype and Antigenic Characterization

Number of Isolates	Type	Subtype	Antigenic Characterization
18	A	H3N2	Pending
1	A	Pending	
17	B		B/Shanghai/361/2002-like
2	B		B/Sichuan/379/99-like
1	B		B/HongKong/330/2001-like

Nationwide Influenza Activity Update

On April 8, 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) provided a summary of the influenza activity in the United States through March 25, 2005. According to the report, nationwide influenza activity steadily increased in January, peaked in mid- February, and has steadily declined. Additionally the report states that the overall influenza activity in the United States has been moderate this season although it varied by region. This CDC MMWR can be viewed in its entirety at the following web address:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5413a2.htm>

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/> April 15, 2005.

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