

Current Situation

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) during the week ending March 18th (week 10) was 2.9% (weighted average). Nationally, 3.0% of patient visits to sentinel providers were for ILI, which is above the national baseline. Criteria for inclusion as a case of ILI are fever of 100°F and cough or sore throat.

The proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County was 6.7% for the week ending March 18th (week 11). The national P&I mortality was 7.6% for week 10, with the national threshold for influenza outbreaks being 8.3%.

Nationally, 82% of all isolates tested were influenza A, with 95% of the influenza A isolates being subtyped as H3N2. Of the 325 A(H3N2) isolates characterized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 261 (80%) were characterized as A/California/07/2004-like, which is a component of this year's vaccine. Sixty-four of the A(H3N2) isolates characterized showed reduced titers with antisera produced against A/California/07/2004. Of the 64 low-reacting viruses, 38 were tested with antisera produced against A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (the H3N2 component selected for the 2006-07 vaccine), and 34 are A/Wisconsin-like. Of the 52 influenza B isolates characterized, four were characterized as being similar to B/Shanghai/361/2002, a component of this year's vaccine, and 20 were characterized as being similar to B/Florida/07/2004, which is a minor antigenic variant of the Shanghai strain. Twenty-eight

influenza B viruses were identified as belonging to the B/Victoria lineage, which is not a component of this year's vaccine, but are similar to B/Ohio/1/2005, the influenza B component selected for the 2006-2007 vaccine.

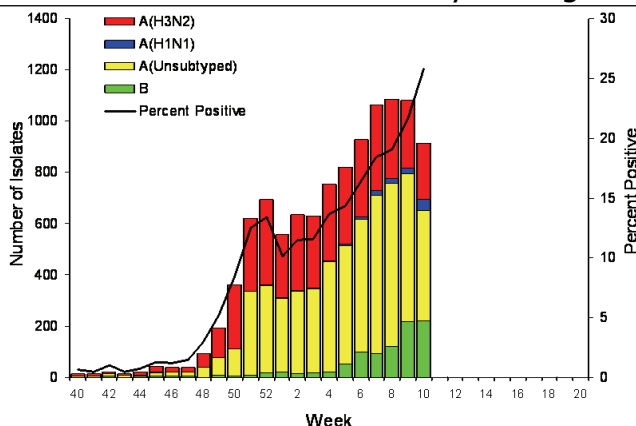
Analysis

Western states are reporting very little influenza activity at this time, with the states west of the Rocky Mountains reporting either sporadic or local distribution of influenza cases. States east of the Rocky Mountains are reporting widespread or regional distribution of cases, although flu activity in these areas is mild compared to previous seasons.

Over the past month, influenza B activity has been detected throughout the United States. The mountain reporting region, comprised of the states of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico has reported the highest proportion of influenza B isolates. Over half the influenza B viruses characterized did not match the strain selected for the 2005-2006 influenza vaccine. Influenza B typically causes a more mild form of influenza than influenza A viruses.

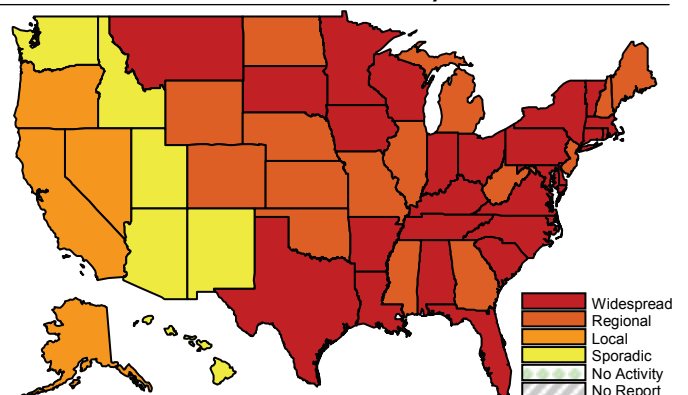
Note: You may have noticed the new logo on the top of this report. At its February meeting, the Clark County District Board of Health voted to officially change the name of the board to the Southern Nevada District Board of Health, and the name of the agency to the Southern Nevada Health District.

Chart 1. National Laboratory Testing



Source: World Health Organization And National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System Collaborating Laboratories

Chart 2. National Flu Activity—Week 10



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/flu