## **Epidemiology Newsletter**

May 2002



## Report for the 2001-2002 Influenza Surveillance Season

This report summarizes findings from the 2001-2002 Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance Program. Data collection will continue throughout the summer as a component of the Health District's bioterrorism surveillance.

One hundred cases of ILI (fever ≥100°F (37.8°C) and cough or sore throat) were reported during week 18. The weighted average over the thirteen reporting sites was **0.8%**, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of ILI cases during the 2001-2002 surveillance season is considerably lower than last season, as shown in the figure below.

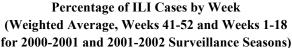
The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **7.8%**. The national P&I mortality for week 18 was 6.6%.

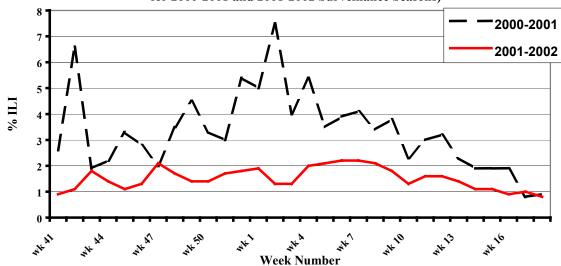
Since October 2001, sixty confirmed influenza cases were reported in Clark County. Of these, fifty-one (85%) were influenza type A, six (10%) were influenza type B, and three (5%) were not typed. All but one influenza A

isolates that were subtyped this surveillance season at the Nevada State Health Laboratory were A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2). All strains of influenza A seen in Clark County were antigenically similar to components of the 2001-02 influenza vaccine.

One case of influenza A(H1N2) was reported in Clark County in October 2001. During the current influenza surveillance season, a total of twelve cases of this infrequently seen influenza type was reported by four states: Nevada, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Of the six confirmed influenza B cases reported in Clark County, one was characterized as B/Sichuan/379/99 and five were B/Hong Kong/22/01-like. B/Sichuan belongs to the influenza B/Yamagata lineage virus and is included in the 2001-02 influenza vaccine. However, B/HongKong belongs to the influenza B/Victoria lineage. This season's vaccine does not contain a B/Victoria lineage component, but it will be included in the vaccine for the 2002-03 season.





Clark County influenza laboratory results were similar to data reported by the U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory And Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Collaborating Laboratory. Since October 2001, WHO and NREVSS laboratories have tested a total of 92,172 specimens for influenza viruses and 14,635 (15.9%) were positive. Of the positive isolates, 13,321 (91%) were influenza A viruses and 1,314 (9%) were influenza B viruses.

Thirteen (22%) of the sixty confirmed influenza cases reported in Clark County were vaccine failures. The Office of Epidemiology consulted with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Air Force Influenza Branch, who determined that the rate of vaccine failure among Clark County cases was within acceptable range. According to the CDC, when the influenza vaccine and circulating influenza viruses are antigenically similar, the vaccine prevents influenza illness in approximately 70% to 90% of healthy persons aged <65 years.

Cases of influenza should be reported to the Clark County Health District Office of Epidemiology at **Phone:** (702) 383-1378 or Fax: (702) 383-4936.

Prepared by: Linh Nguyen, MPH Reviewed by: Rose Lee Bell, PhD, MPH When You See Unusual
Think
Outbreak!

## CLARK COUNTY SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES- APRIL 2002

	Cases Reported		Year To Date	
Disease	April 2001	April 2002	April 2001	April 2002
Campylobacterosis	10	12	41	32
Coccidioidomycosis	3	4	10	10
E. coli O157:H7	0	3	0	4
Giardiasis	11	3	36	26
Hepatitis A	1	0	29	9
Hepatitis B	2	5	11	12
Legionellosis	1	0	2	0
Listeriosis	2	0	3	0
Measles	0	0	0	0
Meningitis, Aseptic/Viral	6	2	15	20
Meningitis, Bacterial	1	2	9	11
Meningococcal Disease	1	2	4	10
Mumps	1	1	1	1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	103	140	1170	1593
Rotavirus	17	66	263	256
Salmonellosis	8	11	42	52
Shigellosis	4	1	12	1