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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Clark County Health District Releases Flu Statistics**

(Las Vegas, Nev. – February 9, 2000) – The Clark County Health District (CCHD), Office of Epidemiology began participation in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Influenza Surveillance Program on October 18, 1999. During the first nine weeks of surveillance the percentage of influenza-like illness (ILI) seen by physicians at the participating sites was slightly less than four percent. The peak of ILI cases occurred during the holiday season when an increase to seven percent was recorded. Since the first week of January the percentage has decreased back to four percent, indicating a waning of the influenza season.

According to CCHD Epidemiologist, Rose Bell, Ph.D., “The data we have collected from our 19 sentinel sites demonstrates that local statistics for influenza-like illness (ILI) are comparable to what is being reported nationally.” Sentinel sites in Clark County include emergency rooms, hospitals, urgent care centers, physicians’ offices and schools.

Cases of ILI are reported to the Health District on a weekly basis, along with the total number of patients seen at each site so the percentage of patients with ILI can be calculated. The primary objective of this program is to monitor ILI, which is defined as a patient with a temperature greater the 100 degrees and cough or sore throat. This information is used as an indicator of the level of influenza illness in the community.

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