

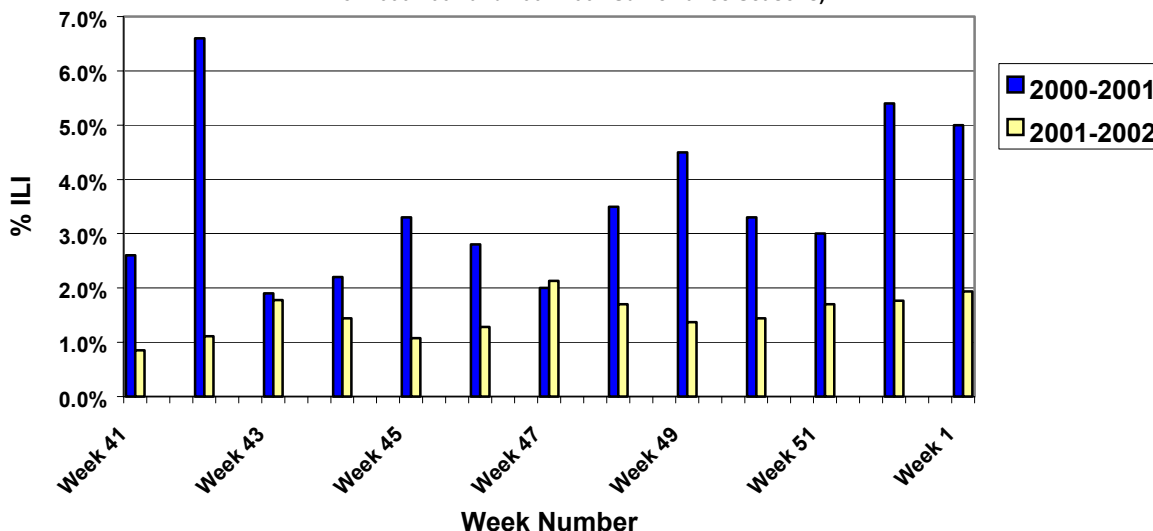
Date: January 11, 2001
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 1 (December 30, 2001 to January 5, 2002)

Criteria for inclusion as a case of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) are fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) and cough or sore throat. Health care providers wishing to participate in the ongoing Clark County Health District (CCHD) Influenza Surveillance Program should contact Linh Nguyen, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 383-1378.

One hundred sixty-two cases of ILI were reported during week 1. The weighted average over the eleven reporting sites was **1.9%**. The national baseline for the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **4.8%**, which was below the epidemic threshold of P&I mortality of 8.0% for week 1. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41 to 52 and week 1 for the 2000-2001, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.

Percentage of ILI Cases by Week

(Weighted Average, Weeks 41-52 and Week 1
for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 Surveillance Seasons)



The risk of exposure to influenza for international travelers depends on the time of year, destination and type of travel. In the tropics, influenza can occur throughout the year, while most activity occurs from April through September in the temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere. Travelers at high risk for complications of influenza should be advised to consider receiving influenza vaccine before travel if:

- Influenza vaccine was not received during the preceding fall or winter
- Travel is planned to the tropics
- Travel is planned with large groups of tourists at any time of year
- Travel is planned to the Southern Hemisphere from April through September.

Travelers at high risk who received the previous season’s vaccine before travel should be revaccinated in the fall or winter with the current vaccine.

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.