

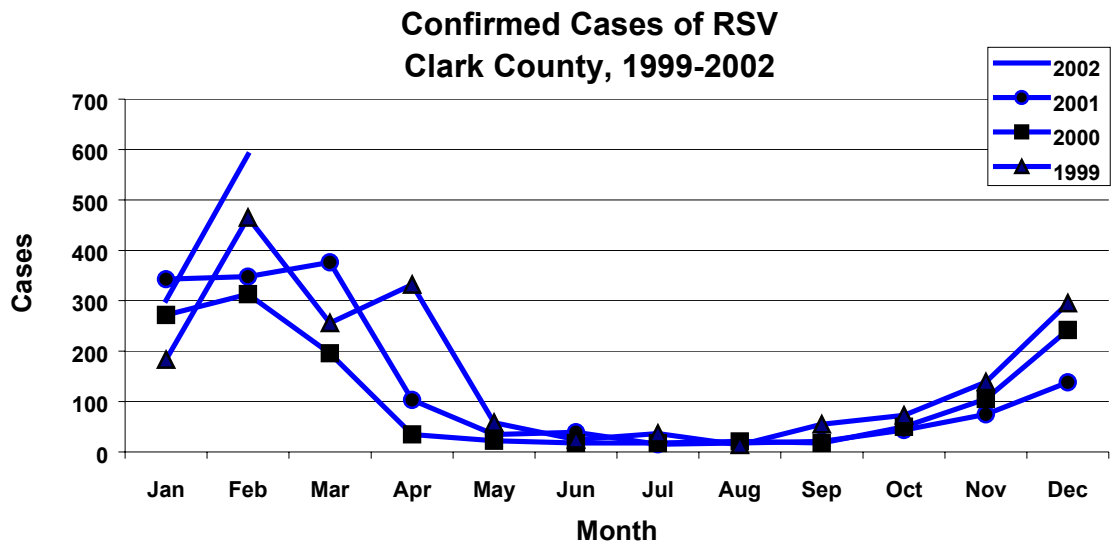
**Date:** March 15, 2002  
**To:** Health Care Provider  
**From:** Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist  
**Subject:** Influenza Report for Week 10 (March 3-9, 2002)

**Criteria for inclusion as a case of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) are fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 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 and ninety-eight cases of ILI were reported during week 10. The weighted average over the fifteen reporting sites was **1.3%**, which is below the national baseline of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **10.5 %**. The national P&I mortality for week 10 is not yet available. The P&I mortality for week 9 was 8.9%.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a major viral respiratory tract pathogen of early infancy and produces illness with greatest frequency during the first and second year of life. The clinical characteristics of RSV infection, especially in neonates, are often indistinguishable from those of other viral respiratory tract infections. RSV infection usually causes mild or moderately severe upper respiratory illness; however, life-threatening pneumonia or bronchiolitis has been reported in children with chronic cardiac and pulmonary disease, immunocompromised patients, and the elderly.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a recent survey of ten U.S. hospital laboratories performing cultures for RSV suggests that community outbreaks occur yearly between December and March, last from three to five months, and are associated with increased hospitalization and deaths among infants and young children. A similar pattern is seen in Clark County as shown in the figure below.



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](http://www.cchd.org/physician/physician_only.htm) for this and other health and bioterrorism related information. Each year from October through May, the Centers for Disease Control provide weekly updates on U.S. influenza activity. The information is online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>