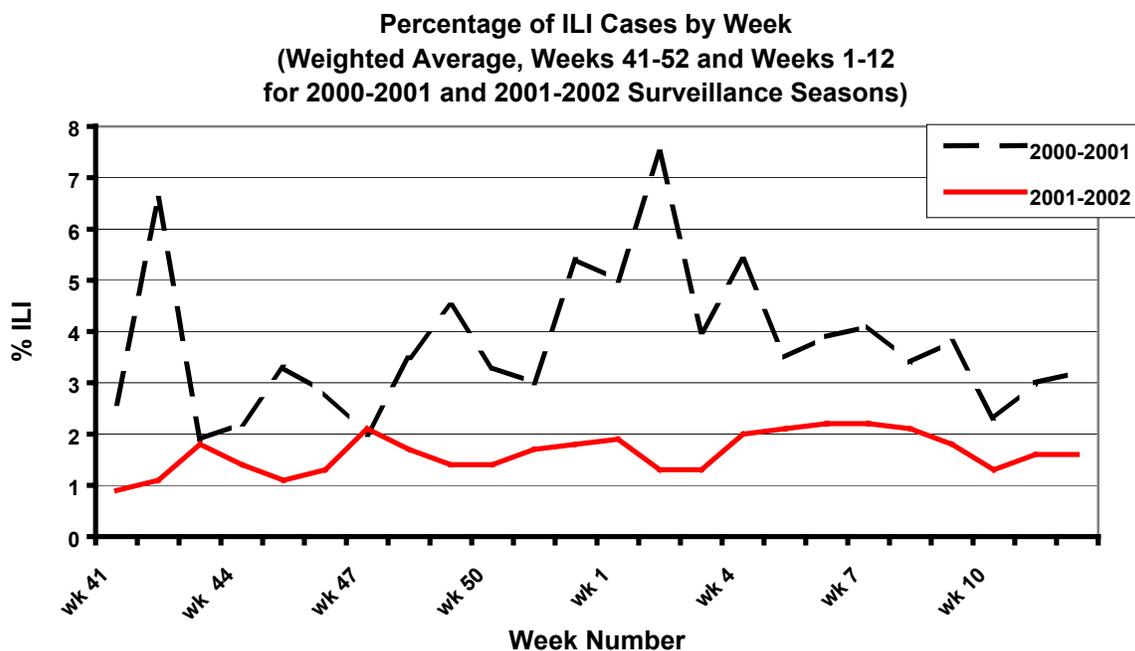


Date: March 30, 2002
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 12 (March 17-23, 2002)

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 and forty-nine cases of ILI were reported during week 12. The weighted average over the fourteen reporting sites was **1.6%**. The national proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI for week 12 was 1.7%, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **9.6%**. The national P&I mortality for week 12 was 8.8%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-12 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



The natural reservoirs for all strains of influenza A viruses are birds. In addition to concerns that avian influenza will cause illness in humans, major outbreaks of highly infectious avian influenza (HPAI) among birds can be costly to the poultry industry, consumers, and taxpayers. Eradication of an HPAI outbreak that occurred during 1983-84 in the Northeastern U.S. resulted in the destruction of more than 17 million birds at a cost of nearly \$65 million. Hong Kong has had several costly avian influenza outbreaks. One occurred about nine months ago, where live infected birds were brought to food markets where they spread the illness to other birds. This outbreak led to the culling of 1.2 million birds and cost the government the equivalent of 31 million U.S. dollars in compensation. Hong Kong health officials have been on high alert since 1997 when HPAI caused an outbreak, which resulted in the culling of 1.4 million birds.

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. 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>