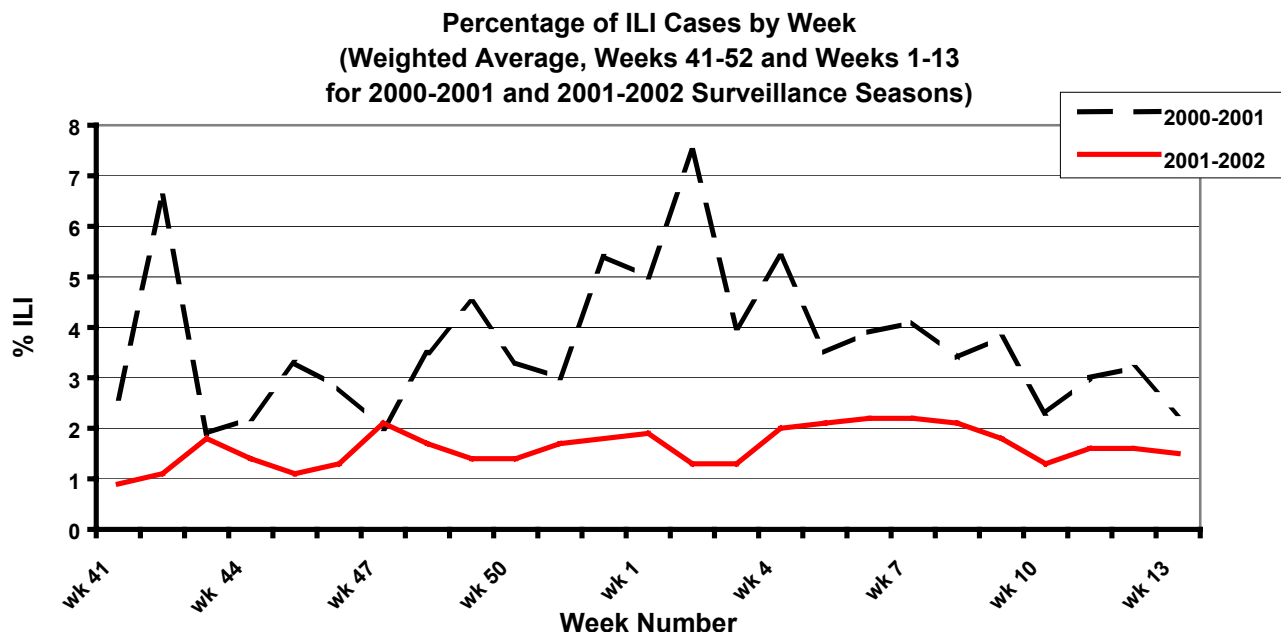


Date: April 5, 2002
 To: Health Care Provider
 From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
 Subject: Influenza Report for Week 13 (March 24-30, 2002)

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 cases of ILI were reported during week 13. The weighted average over the twelve reporting sites was 1.4%, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was 5.6%. The P&I mortality for week 13 is not yet available. 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 1-13 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



Of the fifty-five confirmed cases of influenza identified thus far this season in Clark County, five (9%) were influenza B. Unlike influenza A viruses, influenza B viruses are not divided into subtypes. Worldwide, the currently circulating influenza B viruses can be divided into two antigenically distinct lineages, B/Yamagata/16/88 and B/Victoria/2/87. Viruses of the B/Yamagata lineage have circulated widely since 1990 and are included in this season's trivalent influenza vaccine. Viruses of the B/Victoria lineage had not been identified outside of Asia between 1991 and March 2001. However, since March 2001, B/Victoria lineage viruses have been identified in many other countries including the U.S. and Canada. In the past century, there were three major influenza pandemics; none was caused by influenza B.

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>