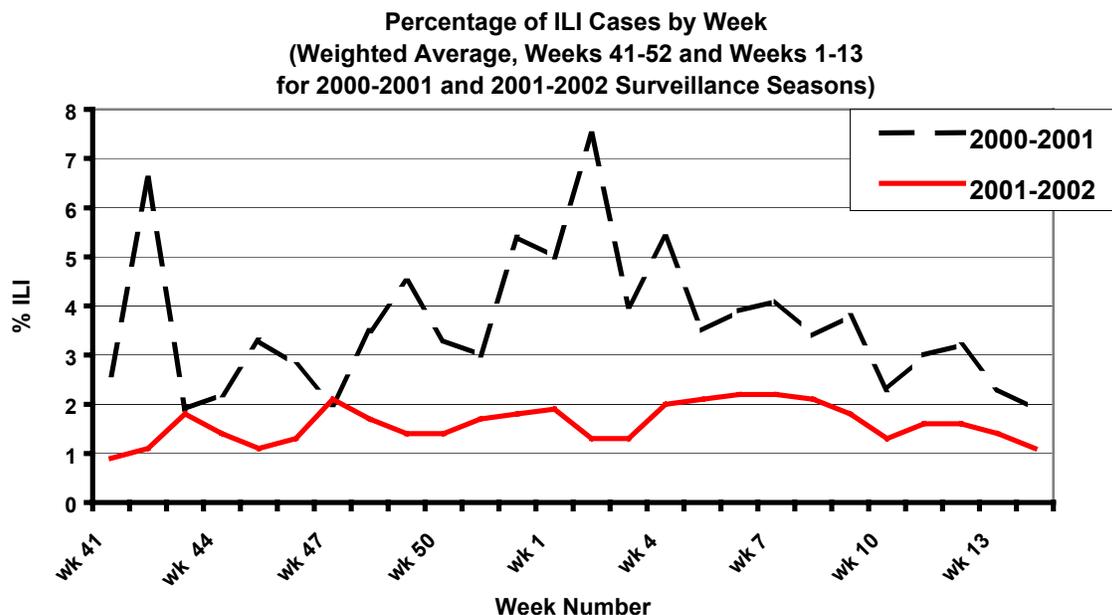


Date: April 11, 2002
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 14 (March 31 to April 6, 2002)

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 thirty-three cases of ILI were reported during week 14. The weighted average over the thirteen reporting sites was **1.0%**, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **8.8 %**. The P&I mortality for week 14 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 13 was 8.6%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-14 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



Among persons ≥ 65 years, influenza vaccines can be effective in preventing influenza-related upper respiratory tract infections and secondary complications. Immunization also decreases the risk for influenza-related hospitalization and death among persons in this age group. Influenza vaccination levels among persons aged ≥ 65 years surpassed the Healthy People 2000 goal of 60% in 1997, when vaccination level was 63%. Possible reasons for the increase in influenza vaccination levels include greater acceptance of preventive medical services by practitioners, increased delivery and administration of vaccine by health-care providers and sources other than physicians, new information regarding influenza vaccine effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and the initiation of Medicare reimbursement for influenza vaccination. Continued monitoring is needed to determine if vaccination coverage among persons in this age group has reached a peak or plateau. The Healthy People 2010 objective is to achieve vaccination coverage for 90% of persons aged ≥ 65 years.