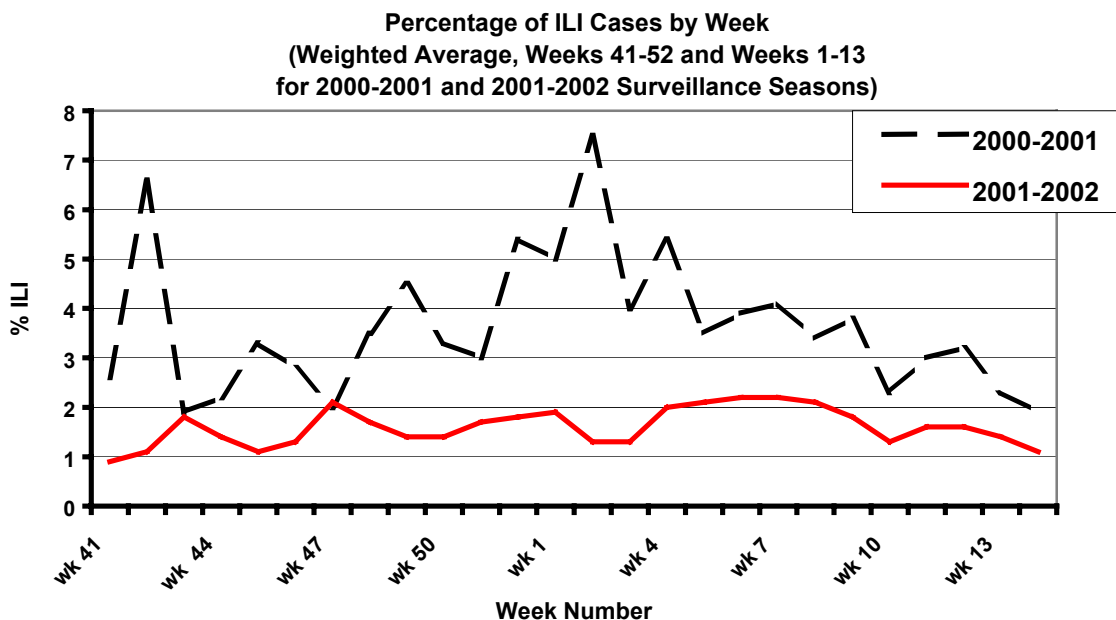


**Date:** April 11, 2002  
**To:** Health Care Provider  
**From:** Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist  
**Subject:** Influenza Report for Week 14 (March 31 to April 6, 2002)

**Criteria for inclusion as a case of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) are fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 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 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  $\geq 65$  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  $\geq 65$  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  $\geq 65$  years.