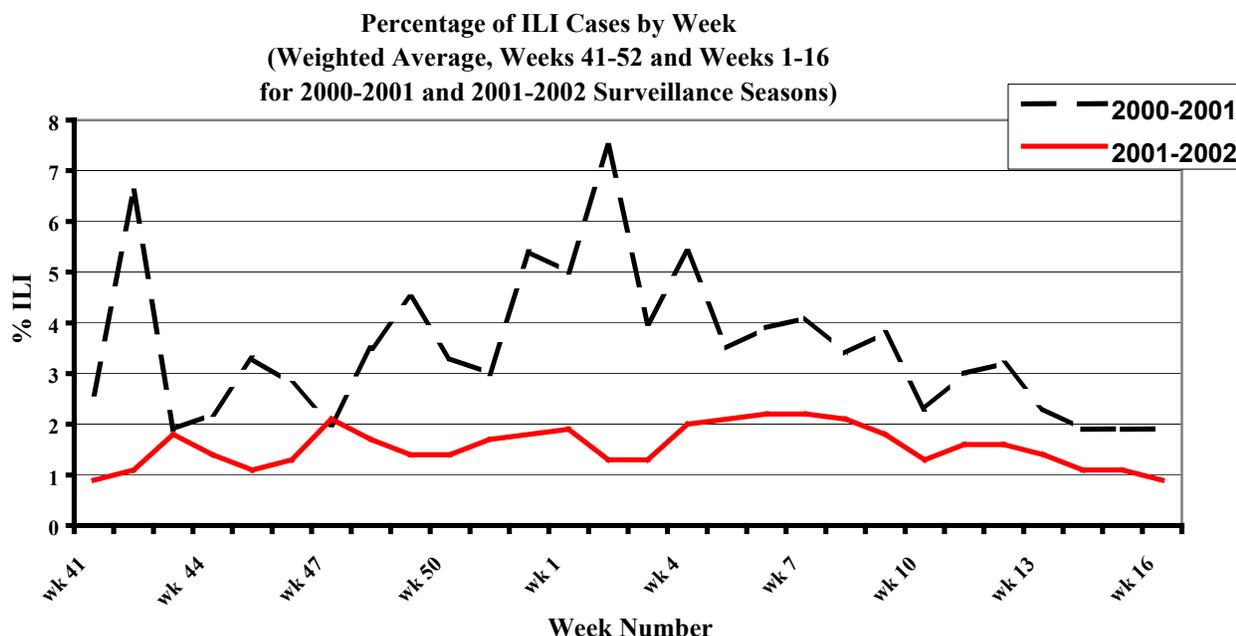


Date: April 26, 2002
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 16 (April 14-20, 2002)

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 sixteen cases of ILI were reported during week 16. The weighted average over the thirteen reporting sites was **0.9%**, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **9.2%**. The national P&I mortality for week 16 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 15 was 7.6%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-16 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



During the 2001-02 surveillance season, an uncommon type of influenza A virus, A(H1N2), was reported by four states: Nevada, Texas, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. This virus was first reported in the U.S. in July 2001; however, similar viruses have been identified in Asia in the past. Between December 1988 and March 1989, influenza A(H1N2) viruses were identified in six cities in China. Further spread of these viruses was not identified until 2001. This season's influenza vaccine should have provided protection against A(H1N2), because the vaccine contains components with both H1 and N2 proteins similar to A(H1N2) viruses. No unusual levels of disease have been associated with these influenza viruses, and it is uncertain if they will persist and circulate widely in the U.S. International influenza surveillance conducted through the World Health Organization and U.S. surveillance conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will continue to track the occurrence of A(H1N2) viruses.

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>