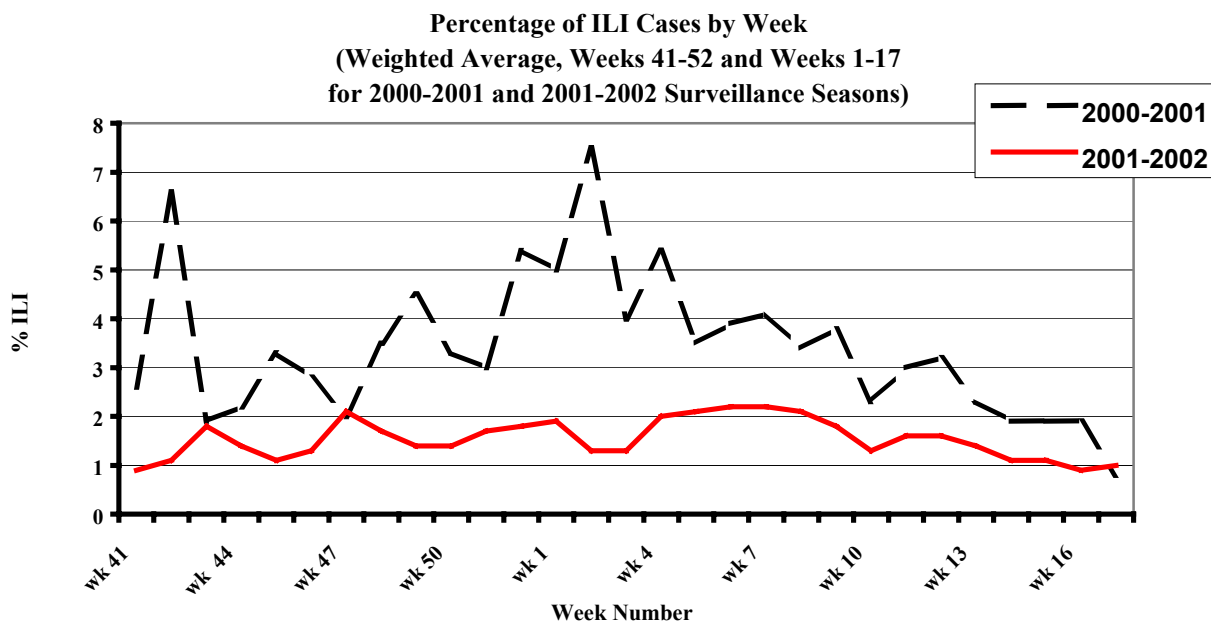


Date: May 3, 2002  
 To: Health Care Provider  
 From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist  
 Subject: Influenza Report for Week 17 (April 21-27, 2002)

**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 twenty cases of ILI were reported during week 17. The weighted average over the fourteen 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 **5.8%**. The national P&I mortality for week 17 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 16 was 7.6%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-17 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that thirty-five to fifty million Americans become ill with influenza each year. Influenza viruses cause disease among all age groups; however, children have the highest rates of infection and are two to three times more likely than adults to become ill with influenza. Vaccination is the primary method for preventing influenza and its severe complications in all age groups. The CDC estimates that about eight million children aged six months to seventeen years have at least one or more medical conditions that are associated with an increased risk of influenza-related complications. Influenza vaccination is currently recommended for this pediatric population because of the increased risk for complications from influenza. The vaccine can be administered to children six months in age or older.

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](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>