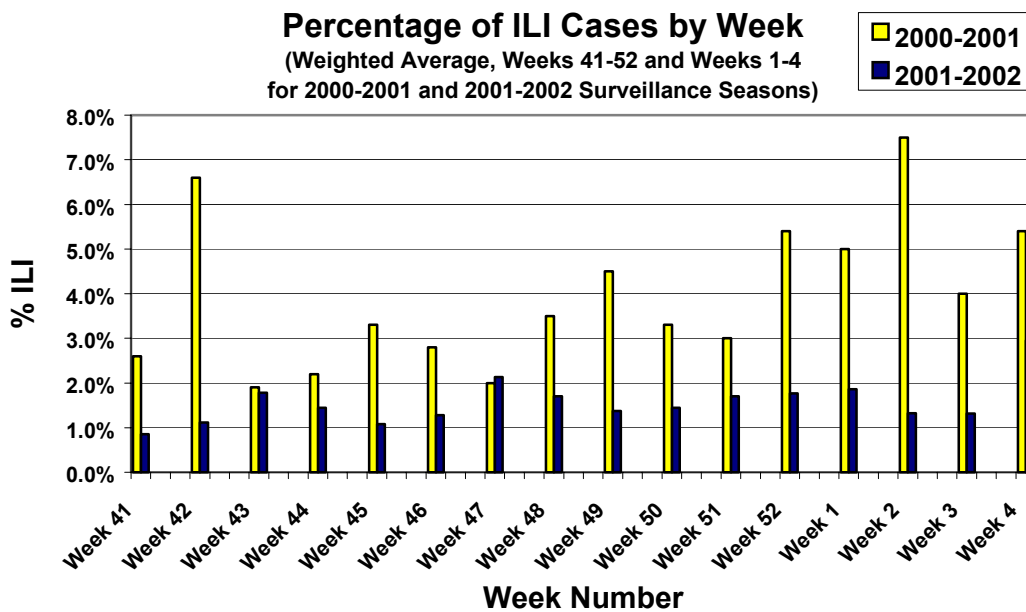


Date: February 1, 2002
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 4 (January 20-26, 2002)

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 seventy-five cases of ILI were reported during week 4. The weighted average over the ten reporting sites was **3.0%**. The national baseline for the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **7.2%**, which was slightly lower than the national P&I mortality for week 4 of 7.8%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-4 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



Pregnancy can increase the risk for serious medical complications of influenza. Pregnant women are more likely to be hospitalized from complications due to influenza infections than non-pregnant women of the same age. Due to the high rate of miscarriages in the first trimester of pregnancy, some experts prefer to administer influenza vaccine to pregnant women during the second trimester to avoid a coincidental association with spontaneous abortions. The CDC recommends that women who will be beyond the first three months of pregnancy during the influenza season be vaccinated. However, since all influenza vaccines licensed in the U.S. are made from inactivated viruses, many experts consider the vaccine safe for administration during any stage of pregnancy. For this reason, CDC also recommends pregnant women who have medical problems that increase their risk for complications from influenza should be immunized before the influenza season, regardless of their stage of pregnancy.

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.