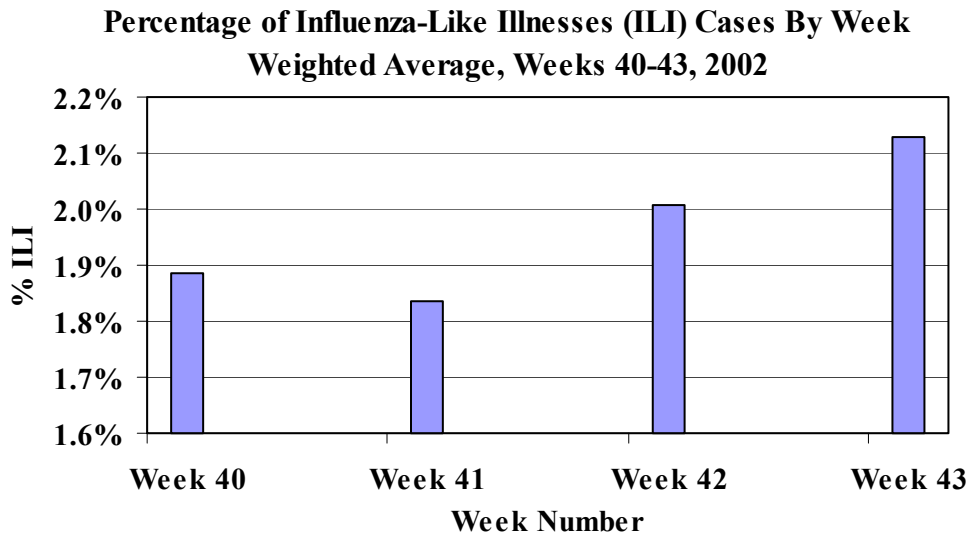


**Date:** November 1, 2002  
**To:** Health Care Provider  
**From:** Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist  
**Subject:** Influenza Report for Week 43 (October 20-26, 2002)

**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 fifty-four cases of ILI were reported during week 43. The weighted average over the ten reporting sites was **2.1%**, which is slightly above the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **4.9%**. The national P&I mortality for week 43 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 42 was 6.0%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for week 40 to week 43 for the 2002-2003 surveillance season are presented in the following figure.



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a new policy in April 2002, to “encourage when feasible” influenza vaccination for healthy children aged 6 months to 24 months, because children in this age group are at substantially increased risk for influenza-related hospitalization. This is different than past CDC policy, which only recommended influenza vaccination of children 6 months and older who have high risk medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes mellitus and heart disease. Children 6 months of age or older can receive influenza vaccine at the same time they receive other routine vaccinations. Since children under the age of nine receiving the influenza vaccine for the first time require two dosages, given a month apart, immunization should begin as soon as possible. Only one vaccine dose is needed for each subsequent influenza season.

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>