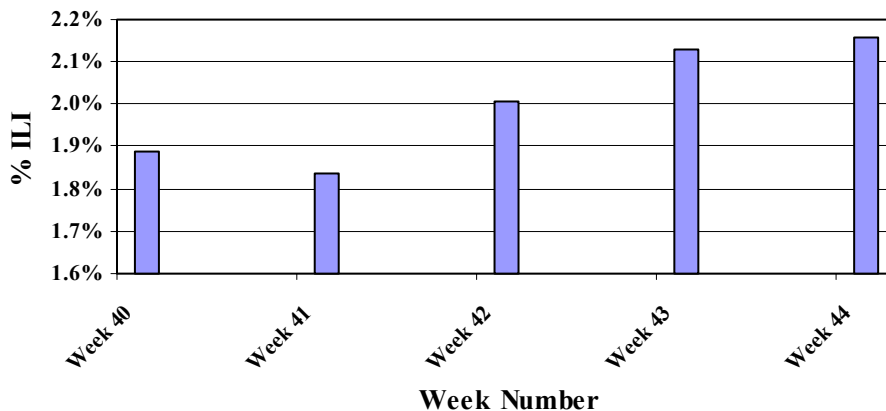


Date: November 8, 2002
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 44 (October 27 to November 2, 2002)

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 forty-four cases of ILI were reported during week 44. The weighted average over the ten reporting sites was **2.2%**, 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 **8.4%**. The national P&I mortality for week 44 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 43 was 6.1%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for week 40 to week 44 for the 2002-2003 surveillance season are presented in the following figure.

Percentage of Influenza-Like Illnesses (ILI) Cases By Week
Weighted Average, Weeks 40-44, 2002



Ample quantity of influenza vaccine and no delivery delays are projected for the 2002-03 influenza season. However, in local circumstances where vaccine distribution is uneven, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has indicated that providers may exchange influenza vaccine among themselves. When redistribution occurs, the hospital or health care entity that is redistributing influenza vaccine should document and maintain the following information: Vaccine brand name, manufacturer and distributor, lot number, number of doses transferred, recipient's name and address. In any such redistribution, the influenza vaccine and its transfer must comply with FDA's current manufacturing requirements on proper handling, storage, and shipping.

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>