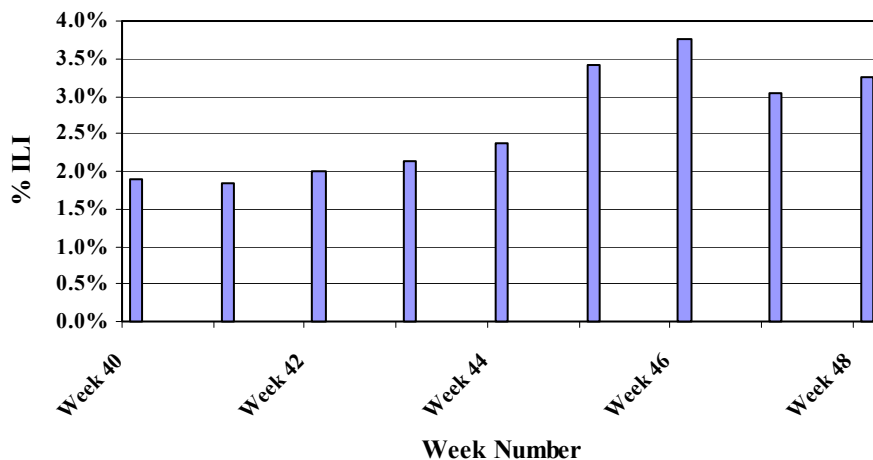


**Date:** December 6, 2002  
**To:** Health Care Provider  
**From:** Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist  
**Subject:** Influenza Report for Week 48 (November 24-30, 2002)

**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.

Two hundred and ten cases of ILI were reported during week 48. The weighted average over the ten reporting sites was **3.3%**, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **8.8%**. The national P&I mortality for week 48 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 47 was 7.1%. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for week 40 to week 48 for the 2002-2003 surveillance season are presented in the following figure.

**Percentage of Influenza-Like Illnesses (ILI) Cases By Week  
 Weighted Average, Weeks 40-48, 2002**



For patient convenience and earlier diagnosis, it is recommended that physicians use rapid tests or nasal pharyngeal cultures to diagnose influenza. Serologic testing for influenza detects antibodies against influenza, and can distinguish between influenza A and influenza B. However, serologic tests detect total antibody and cannot differentiate between IgG and IgM. A single positive titer is not sufficient to confirm acute influenza infection, since a patient can test positive for many years after having influenza. A laboratory confirmed case through serology requires that blood specimens be taken twice, with the first sample taken at the time of illness (acute sera) and the second sample taken 2-3 weeks later (convalescent sera). A four-fold rise in titer between the acute and convalescent samples indicates recent infection.

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>