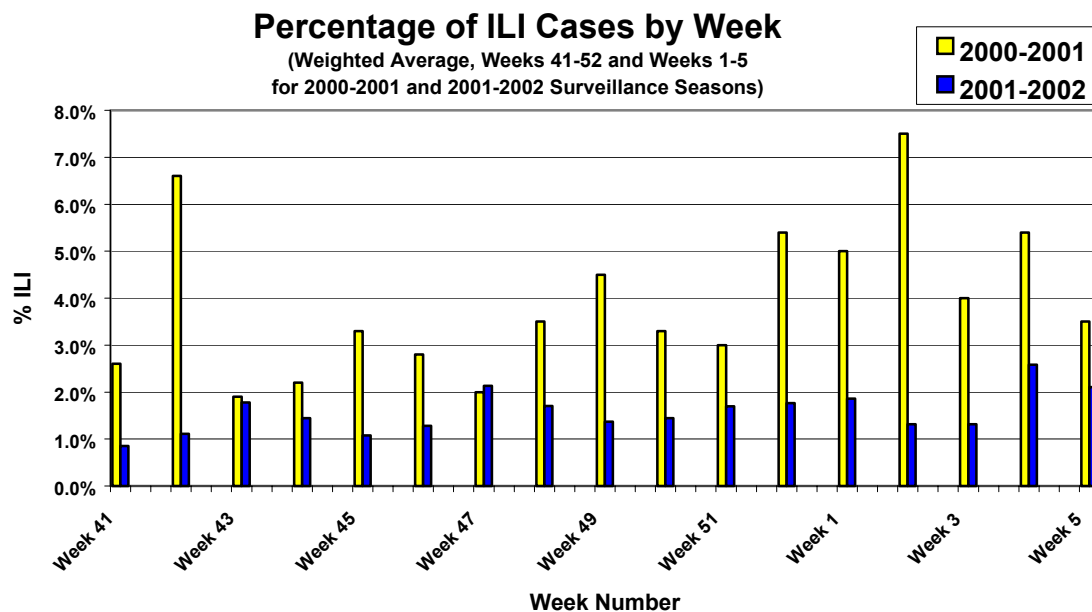


Date: February 8, 2002
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 5 (January 27 to February 2, 2002)

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.

Two hundred and twenty-three cases of ILI were reported during week 5. The weighted average over the twelve reporting sites was **2.1%**. 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 **6.1%**. The national P&I mortality for week 5 is not available at this time. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-5 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



Three of the nine confirmed cases of influenza identified thus far this season in Clark County had received the current influenza vaccine. The effectiveness of influenza vaccine depends primarily on the age and immunocompetence of the vaccine recipient, and the degree of similarity between the viruses in the vaccine and those in circulation. When the vaccine and circulating viruses are antigenically similar, influenza vaccine prevents influenza illness in approximately 70% to 90% of healthy persons aged <65 years. Elderly persons and persons with certain chronic diseases might develop lower post-vaccination antibody titers than healthy young adults and thus may remain susceptible to influenza-related upper respiratory tract infection. However, among such persons, the vaccine can be effective in preventing secondary complications and reducing the risk for influenza-related hospitalization and death.

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.