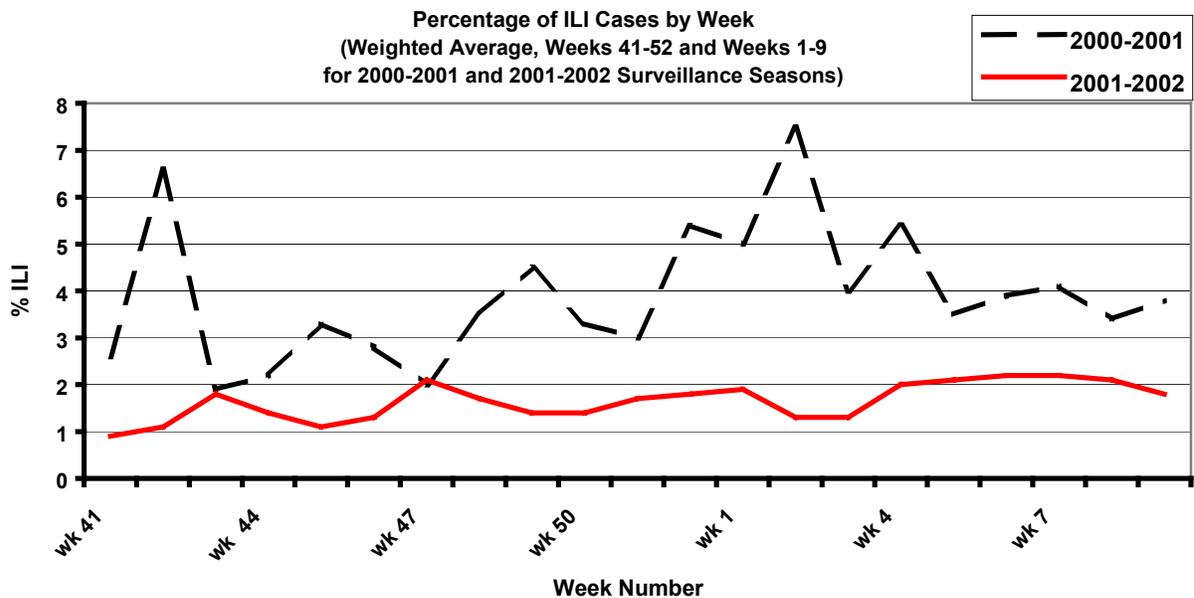


Date: March 8, 2002  
 To: Health Care Provider  
 From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist  
 Subject: Influenza Report for Week 9 (February 24 to March 2, 2002)

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 ninety cases of ILI were reported during week 9. The weighted average over the twelve reporting sites was 1.8%. The national overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI is not yet available. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was 9.9%. The national P&I mortality for week 9 is not yet available. The percentages of ILI cases in Clark County for weeks 41-52 and weeks 1-9 for the 2000-2001 season, as compared to the 2001-2002 season, are presented in the following figure.



The announcement by the World Health Organization on February 6, 2002 of the isolation of a new influenza A(H1N2) virus raised some concerns that this new strain might cause the next influenza pandemic. However, experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention think that is unlikely. Influenza A viruses are classified into subtypes on the basis of two surface antigens: hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). For a pandemic to occur, the new virus has to have a new hemagglutinin and/or neuraminidase protein on an influenza A virus that has not circulated among humans, so that most or all of the population has no protective antibodies. Because the A(H1N2) virus has the hemagglutinin of the currently circulating A(H1N1) virus and the neuraminidase of the currently circulating A(H3N2) virus, most people will have been exposed to A(H1N2) and therefore have antibodies.

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>