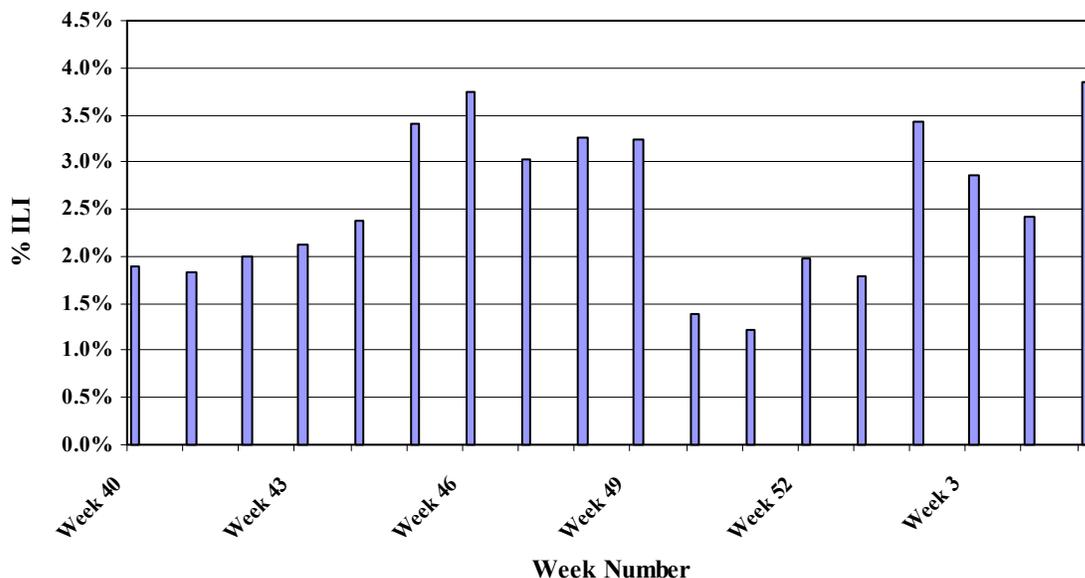


Date: February 7, 2003
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 5 (January 26 to February 1, 2003)

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-six cases of ILI were reported during week 5. The weighted average over the seven reporting sites was **3.9%**, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **7.3%**. The national P&I mortality for week 5 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 4 was 7.3%.

**Percentage of Influenza-Like Illnesses (ILI) Cases By Week
 Weighted Average, Weeks 40-52, 2002 and Weeks 1-5, 2003**



Ten confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology thus far this season in Clark County. Eight of the ten were confirmed by rapid test, which detects influenza A or B, but does not differentiate between the two. The other two cases were confirmed by nasopharyngeal culture isolates. One isolate was subtyped B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like at the Nevada State Health Laboratory. Subtyping result on the other isolate is pending. Typically, the yearly trivalent influenza vaccine confers protection against two widely circulating influenza A strains and one influenza B strain. For the 2002-2003 influenza season, the vaccine for the northern hemisphere consisted of A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2), A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1), and B/Hong Kong/330/01-like inactivated viruses. Influenza vaccine does not protect against influenza C, which causes a mild respiratory illness and is not thought to cause epidemics.

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>