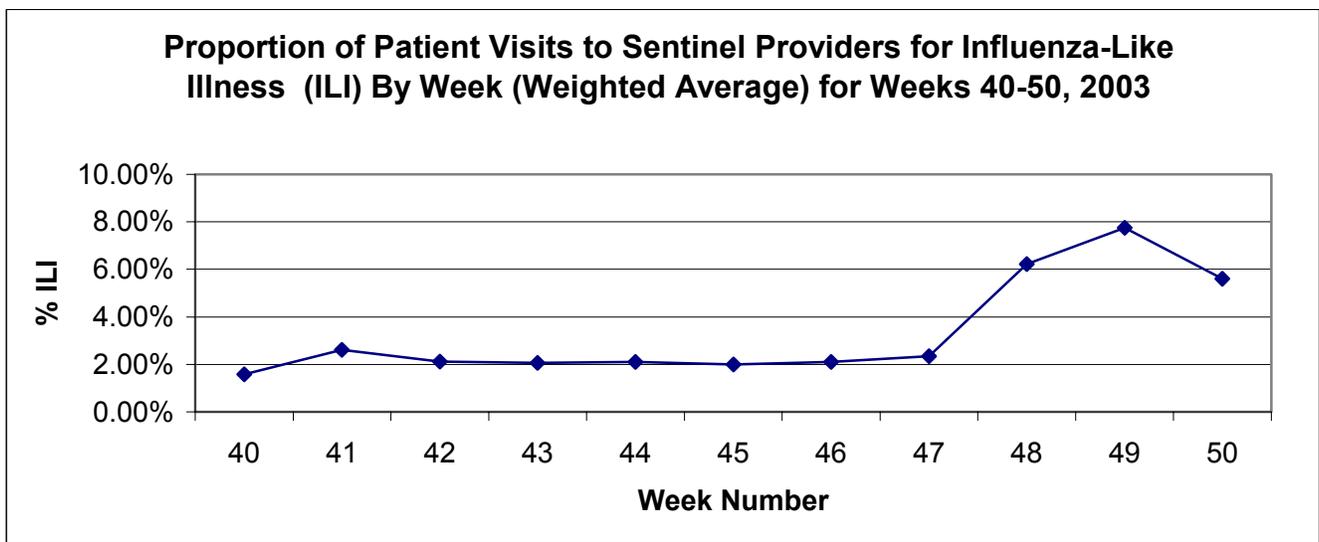


Date: December 19, 2003
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Surveillance Coordinator
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 50 (December 7-13, 2003)

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 Salena Savarda, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 383-1378.

Four hundred and twenty-two cases of ILI were reported during week 50. The proportion of patient visits to nine sentinel providers for ILI was **5.60%** (weighted average), which is higher than the national baseline of 2.5%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **4.21%**. The national P&I mortality for week 50 was 7.2%. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-50, 2003, of the 2003-2004 surveillance season are presented in the following figure.



Ninety-three confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) to date this season in Clark County. Eighty-two of the ninety-three were confirmed by an influenza rapid test. Two of these were results of a type of test which differentiates between influenza A & B, and both results were reported as influenza A. Eleven cases were confirmed by viral culture and were all typed as influenza A. Seven of these eleven isolates were subtyped as influenza A (H3N2). Subtyping on the remaining four isolates is still pending. The OOE has not received any reports of death of a Clark County resident due to influenza illness this season.

The decreasing supply of the trivalent inactivated vaccine has prompted many questions about the use of antiviral medications for chemoprophylaxis and treatment. To assist healthcare providers with these questions the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an official health update with interim chemoprophylaxis and treatment guidelines. Attached is the official update in its entirety. Additionally, CDC has also developed a reference guide for healthcare professionals on "Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings". This guide can be accessed and downloaded at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphgiene.htm>