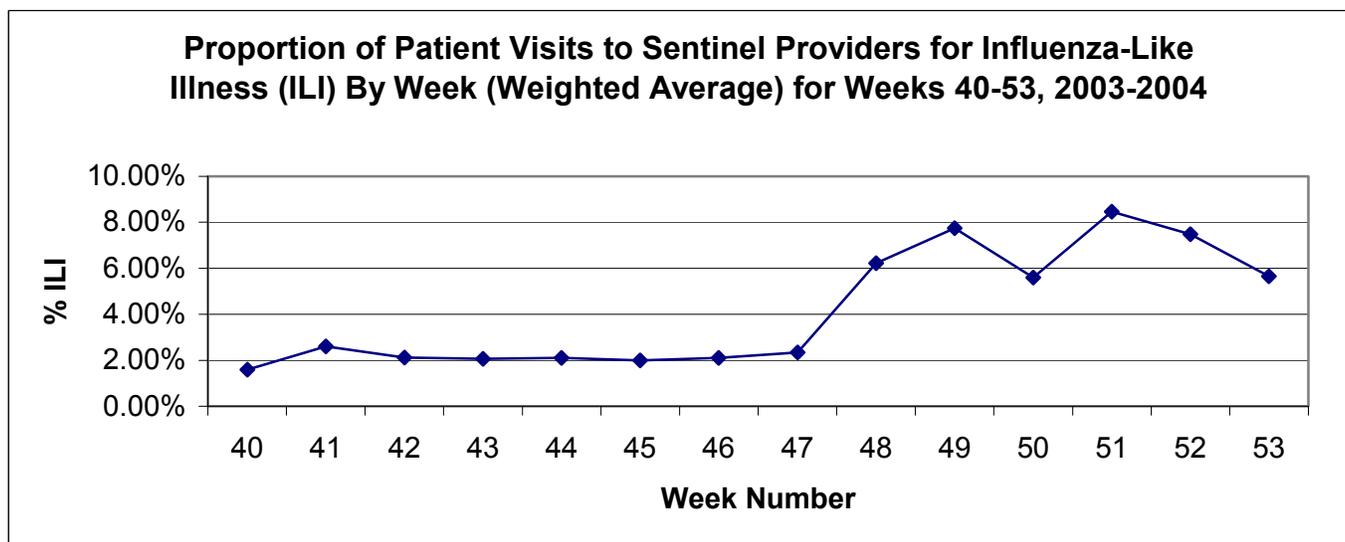


Date: January 9, 2004
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Surveillance Coordinator
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 53 (December 28-January 3, 2004)

Two hundred eighty-nine cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported during week 53. **Criteria for inclusion as a case of ILI are fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) and cough or sore throat.** The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for ILI was **5.65%** (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 **5.06%**. The national P&I mortality for week 53 was 9.4%, which exceeds the epidemic threshold of 8.0%. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-53 of the 2003-2004 surveillance season is presented in the following figure. Healthcare providers wishing to participate in the ongoing Clark County Health District Influenza Surveillance Program should contact Salena Savarda, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 383-1378.



Two hundred and two confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) to date this season in Clark County. One hundred seventy-three of the total cases were confirmed by an influenza rapid test. Fifty-four of these were results by a type of rapid test which differentiates between influenza A & B, and all but one result were reported as influenza A; the other result was reported as influenza B. Twenty-nine cases were confirmed by viral culture and were all typed as influenza A. Twenty-two of these twenty-nine isolates were subtyped as influenza A (H3N2). Subtyping on the remaining seven isolates is still pending. The OOE has confirmed three reports of influenza-related deaths in Clark County this season. These deaths were in adults with underlying medical conditions that placed them at greater risk for complications.

The live, attenuated vaccine continues to be available in both the private and public sectors. It is important to note that the nasal mist vaccine may replicate in cell cultures and produce a positive result in rapid tests up to 3 weeks post-immunization.

The Clark County Health District has received an additional 1,300 pediatric doses of the trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine. Those children between the ages of 6 and 36 months of age can be vaccinated for influenza at the main health district office located at 625 Shadow Lane between 8:00AM-4:30PM, Monday through Friday. For additional questions regarding vaccine availability, please call 702-383-1351.