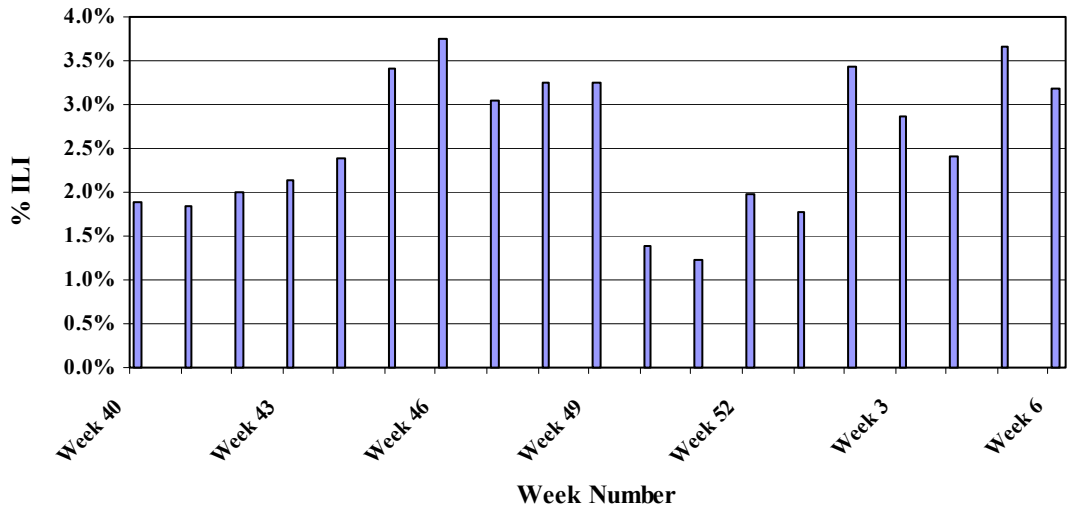


Date: February 14, 2003
To: Health Care Provider
From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 6 (February 2-7, 2003)

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 fifty-six cases of ILI were reported during week 6. The weighted average over the nine reporting sites was **3.2%**, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **5.4%**. The national P&I mortality for week 6 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality for week 5 was 7.2%.

**Percentage of Influenza-Like Illnesses (ILI) Cases By Week
 Weighted Average, Weeks 40-52, 2002 and Weeks 1-6, 2003**



Since the beginning of the 2002-2003 influenza surveillance season, Nevada has reported sporadic influenza activity. Texas, in contrast to Nevada, has reported widespread influenza activity. The influenza strain most often reported in Texas is B/Hong Kong/330/200. Many school age children have become ill, causing elevated school absentee rates. A total of fifty-three school districts in Texas have been temporarily closed due to influenza-like illnesses this year.¹ Although B/Hong Kong has also been reported in Clark County, no school was closed due to influenza thus far this year. B/Hong Kong is included in this season's influenza vaccine; however, since most Clark County school age children are not vaccinated against influenza, it is possible that the same situation seen in Texas may occur in Clark County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that children age 6 months or older receive the yearly influenza vaccine.

1) Reference: The San Antonio Express-News. <http://mysanantonio.com/images/art/flash/0211flu.swf>. February 13, 2003.