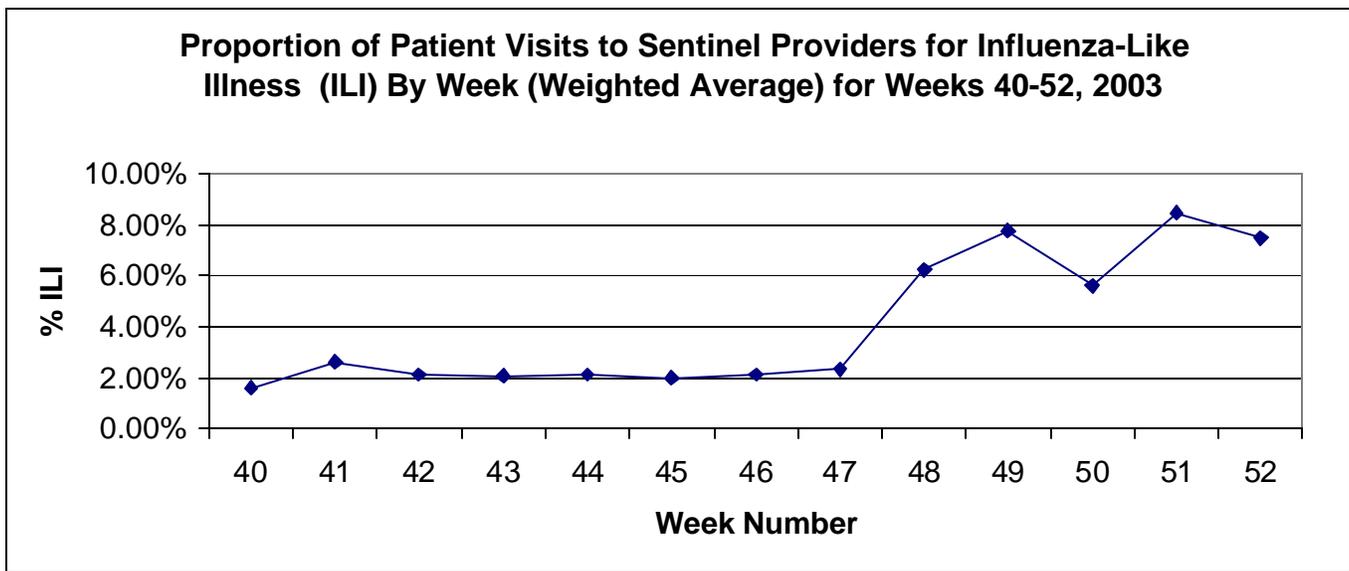


Date: January 2, 2003
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Surveillance Coordinator
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 51-52 (December 14-27, 2003)

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.

During the 2 week period (Dec. 14-27) the proportion (weighted average) of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) overall averaged **7.97%** (range 7.48%-8.46%). This percentage is above the national baseline of 2.5%. The proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County during weeks 51-52 averaged **6.42%**. The national P&I mortality for week 52 is not yet available. The national P&I mortality average for week 51 was 7.8%, which equals the epidemic threshold for the week. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-52, 2003, of the 2003-2004 surveillance season is presented in the following figure.



One hundred eighty-four confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) to date this season in Clark County. One hundred fifty-three of these were confirmed by an influenza rapid test, of which forty-one were results of a type of test which differentiates between influenza A & B, and all results were reported as influenza A. Twenty-eight of the total cases were confirmed by viral culture and were all typed as influenza A. Fifteen of these twenty-eight isolates were subtyped as influenza A (H3N2). Subtyping on the remaining twelve isolates is pending. The OOE has received and confirmed one report of a flu-related death in an adult Clark County resident with underlying health conditions.

The live, attenuated influenza vaccine continues to be available in both the private and public sectors. In the private sector, trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine is no longer available for sale by the manufacturers, although some vaccine may still be available through private wholesale/distribution companies. The live, attenuated influenza vaccine continues to be available for purchase from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals (Collegeville, Pennsylvania, telephone 800-358-7443). Additional information on the availability of influenza vaccine can be accessed at the following website <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>