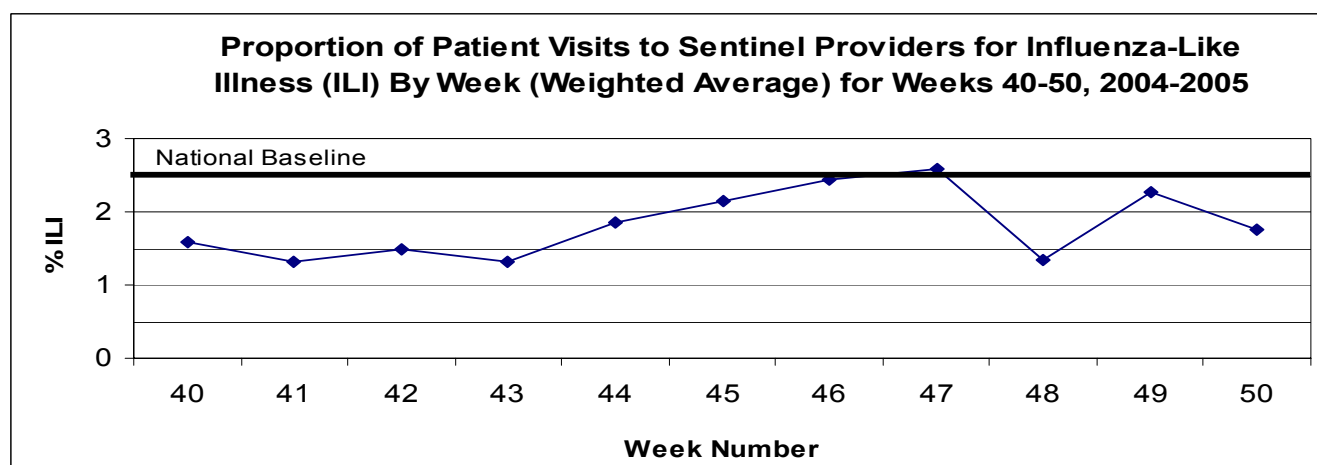


Date: December 23, 2004
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Epidemiologist II
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 50 (Dec. 12-18, 2004)

Eighty-six cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported during week 50. **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 1.75% (weighted average); this is below the national baseline of 2.5%. During week 50, the proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County was 4.65% and the national P&I mortality was 6.1%. Both percentages are below the epidemic threshold of 7.7% for week 50. Syndromic surveillance has identified no increase in influenza-like illness in the community this season. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-50 of the 2004-2005 surveillance season is presented in the following figure.



No new cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) during week 51. At total of four confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the OOE this season in Clark County. Two of the four were confirmed by throat culture isolates. Both isolates were subtyped as A (H3N2) by the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory. The other two cases were confirmed by a type of rapid test which differentiates between influenza type A and B and both resulted in influenza B. **The Nevada law (NAC 441A) requires that healthcare providers report all positive influenza tests (including rapid tests) to the local health authority.** Physicians and healthcare workers are reminded that any unusual occurrence or suspected outbreak should be reported to the Office of Epidemiology. The 24-hour number for reporting is 759-1300.

On December 22, 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has expanded the priority groups for inactivated influenza vaccination to include 1) adults aged 50-64 and 2) close contacts of persons in high-risk groups in areas where vaccine supply is sufficient to meet demand.. The Clark County Health District does have a limited supply of influenza vaccine available to offer to the expanded priority groups. The vaccination is available at the Clark County Health District Ravenholt Public Health Center at 625 Shadow Lane. For additional locations and any questions regarding immunizations please call 385-INFO.

- Reference:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>
December 23, 2004

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

Health care providers wishing to participate in the ongoing Clark County Health District Influenza Surveillance Program should contact Salena Savarda, Surveillance Coordinator, at (702) 759-1300.