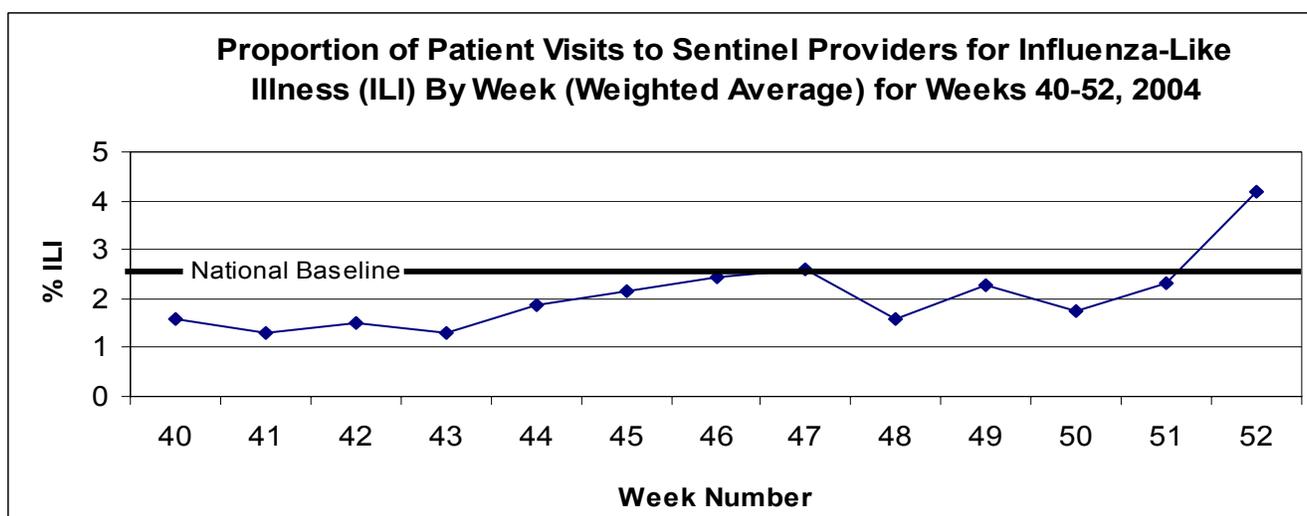


Date: January 7, 2005
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Epidemiologist II
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 52 (Dec. 26- Jan. 1, 2005)

Three hundred sixty-one cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported during week 52. **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 4.17% (weighted average), which is above the national baseline of 2.5%. During week 52, the proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County was 5.62% and the national P&I mortality was 7.0%. The epidemic threshold for week 52 was 7.8%. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-52 of the 2004-2005 surveillance season reported by sentinel site surveillance is presented in the following figure:



Four new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) during week 1. This brings the total to ten confirmed cases of influenza that have been reported to the OOE this season in Clark County. Four of the ten cases were laboratory-confirmed as influenza B (2 cultures, 2 rapid antigen tests). Three of the ten cases were laboratory-confirmed as influenza A (2 cultures, 1 rapid antigen tests). The remaining 3 cases were laboratory-confirmed by a type of rapid test which does not differentiate between influenza A and B. **Nevada law (NAC 441A) requires that healthcare providers report all positive influenza tests (including rapid tests) to the local health authority.**

Syndromic surveillance continues to detect an increase in ILI in the community. Sentinel site surveillance continues to show an increase of patient visits with influenza-like illness. However, no outbreaks of influenza-like illness in healthcare facilities, retirement homes, or schools have been reported to the OOE thus far this season. Physicians and healthcare workers are reminded that any unusual occurrence of illness or suspected outbreak should be reported to the Office of Epidemiology. The 24-hour number for reporting is 759-1300.

- Reference:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>
January 7, 2005

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.