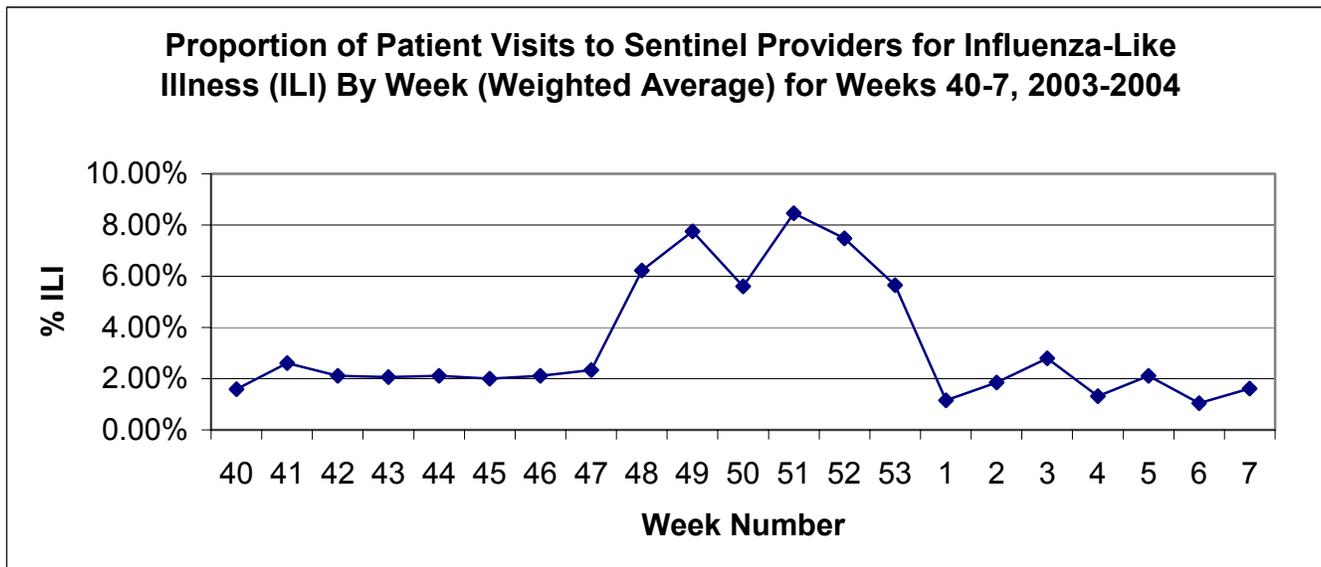


Date: February 27, 2004
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Surveillance Coordinator
Subject: Influenza Report for Week 7 (February 15-21, 2004)

One hundred and ninety-four cases of Influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported during week 7. **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 **1.61%** (weighted average), which is below the national baseline of 2.5%. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Las Vegas was **5.47%**. The national P&I mortality for week 7 was 8.0%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 8.3% for week 7. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-7 of the 2003-2004 surveillance season is presented in the following figure.



To date this season, two hundred and ten confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) in Clark County. No new influenza cases have been reported since January 30, 2004. One hundred and seventy-nine of these cases were confirmed by an influenza rapid test. Sixty-six of these were results of a type of test which differentiates between influenza A & B, and all results were reported as influenza A except for one which was reported as influenza B. Thirty-one of our total cases this season were culture confirmed cases and all have been typed as influenza A. Twenty-nine of these thirty-one isolates were subtyped as influenza A (H3N2). Subtyping on one isolate is still pending and the second isolate was not typed. Of the thirty-one culture confirmed cases, one isolate was antigenically characterized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as influenza A/Korea/770/2002-Like (H3N2). No new reports of influenza-related deaths have been confirmed by the OOE since week 53.

Since Clark County ILI rates continue to stay below the CDC national baseline of 2.5%, we will begin sending a biweekly surveillance update until the beginning of the 2004-2005 influenza surveillance season, when the weekly updates will be resumed. However, if unusual influenza activity is detected, the medical community will be alerted as quickly as possible. Physicians and healthcare workers are

reminded that any unusual occurrence or suspected outbreak should be reported to the Office of Epidemiology, 24 hours a day at 383-1378.

Each year from October through May, the Centers for Disease Control provide weekly updates on U.S. influenza activity. The information is online at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/> February 27, 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) 383-1378