

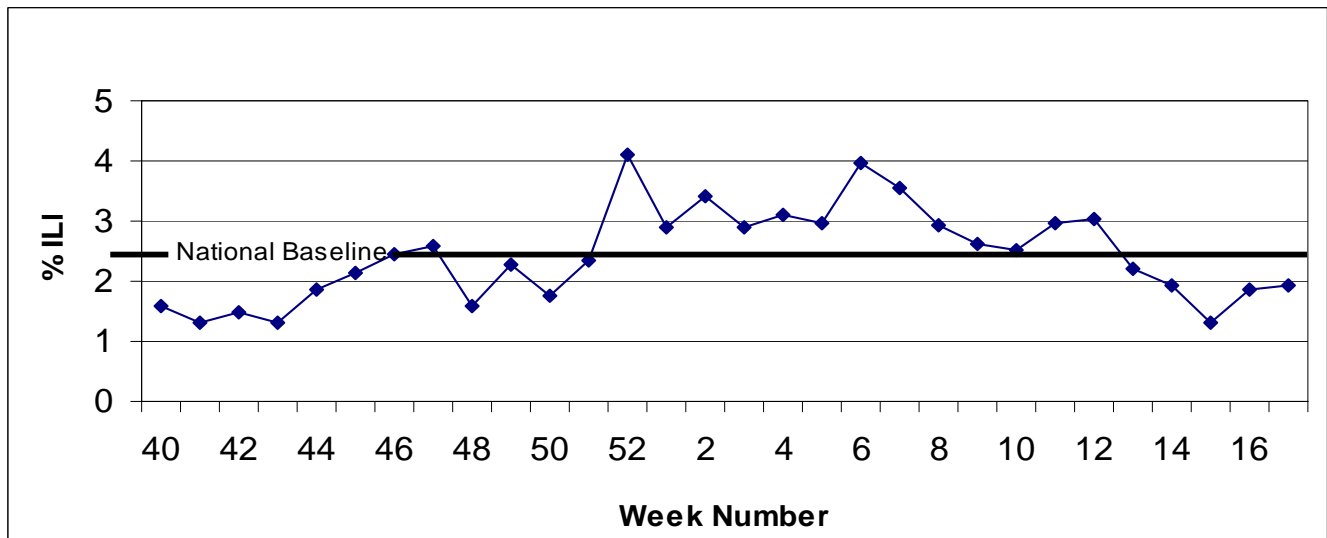
Date: May 6, 2005
To: Health Care Provider
From: Salena Savarda, BS, Epidemiologist II
Subject: Influenza Report for Weeks 16-17 (April 17-30, 2005)

Influenza-like Illness Update

During the two week period (April 17-30) the proportion (weighted average) of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) overall averaged **1.90%** (range 1.87%-1.93%). This is below the national baseline of 2.5%. This is the fifth consecutive week that Clark County ILI sentinel site surveillance has been below the national baseline since our peak in mid February. **Criteria for inclusion as a case of Influenza-Like Illness are fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) and cough or sore throat.** The proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County during weeks 16-17 averaged **7.57%** (range 6.81%-8.33%). The national P&I mortality average for this time period was 7.6%. The epidemic threshold average for weeks 16-17 was 7.8%. The proportion of ILI cases by week in Clark County for weeks 40-17 of the 2004-2005 surveillance season is presented in figure1.

Syndromic surveillance continues to detect slightly elevated ILI activity in the community. However, since the beginning of February it also has shown a steady decline.

Figure 1. Proportion of Patient Visits to Sentinel Providers for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) By Week (weighted average) for Weeks 40-17, 2004-2005



Clark County Health District Influenza Case Update

Four new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the Office of Epidemiology (OOE) during weeks 17-18. This brings the total to one hundred and nineteen confirmed cases of influenza that have been reported to the OOE this season in Clark County. Twenty-seven of the one hundred and nineteen cases were laboratory-confirmed as influenza A (21 cultures, 6 rapid antigen tests). Twenty-seven of the one hundred and nineteen cases were laboratory-confirmed as influenza B

(21 cultures, 6 rapid antigen tests). The remaining sixty-five 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.**

The 2004–05 influenza vaccine includes A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like, A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like, and B/Shanghai/361/2002-like antigens. A breakdown of the isolates identified circulating in Clark County thus far in the 2004-05 influenza season by type, subtype and antigenic characterization is presented in Table 1. All subtyping and antigenic characterization was conducted by the Nevada State Health Laboratory.

Table 1. Number of Isolates by Type, Subtype and Antigenic Characterization

Number of Isolates	Type	Subtype	Antigenic Characterization
18	A	H3N2	Pending
3	A	Pending	Pending
17	B		B/Shanghai/361/2002-like
2	B		B/Sichuan/379/99-like
1	B		B/HongKong/330/2001-like
1	B		Pending

Influenza A/H2N2 Update

On May 3, 2005, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health update which reported that “all influenza A (H2N2) samples that were prepared by the private contractor laboratory and distributed to laboratories and health care facilities in 18 countries as part of influenza proficiency testing panels have been accounted for and are reported by the proficiency testing organizations that sent out the panels as being destroyed.” The update also stated that as of May 3, 2005, there have been no confirmed reports of H2N2-related illness associated with possible exposure to the proficiency testing samples. This CDC health update can be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/han050305.htm>.

Additionally, the CDC has established a website to provide updates on the H2N2 situation which can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/h2n2situation.htm>

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/> May 6, 2005.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/h2n2situation.htm>. May 3, 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