

Current Situation

The 2006-2007 influenza season is winding down and this will be the final newsletter for the season. Surveillance for the 2007-2008 influenza season will begin in October of 2007; look for the next influenza newsletter then.

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) during the week ending May 5th (week 18) was 2.4%. This continues a trend in decreases in ILI seen at sentinel providers. Nationally, 1.0% of patient visits to sentinel providers were due to ILI; this is the seventh consecutive week that it has been below the national baseline of 2.1%. In addition, all nine regions are reporting ILI below their region-specific baselines(1).

During week 18, the proportion of mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) in Clark County was 6.2%. Nationally, the P&I mortality was 6.8% for week 18, which is below the epidemic threshold of 7.3% set for week 18 (1).

Since October 1st, 2006, U.S. WHO/NREVSS laboratories have tested 167,431 specimens and 13.5% were positive (22,733). Among positives, 79.4% (18,061) were influenza A and 20.6% (4,672) were influenza B (Chart 1). In addition,

the CDC has antigenically characterized 719 influenza specimens (358 influenza A(H1), 152 influenza A(H3) viruses, and 209 influenza B viruses). From influenza A (H1), 92% (331) were A/New Caledonia/20/99-like; influenza A (H3), 73% (152) were A/Wisconsin/67/2005-like; influenza B, 76% came from the Victoria lineage (1).

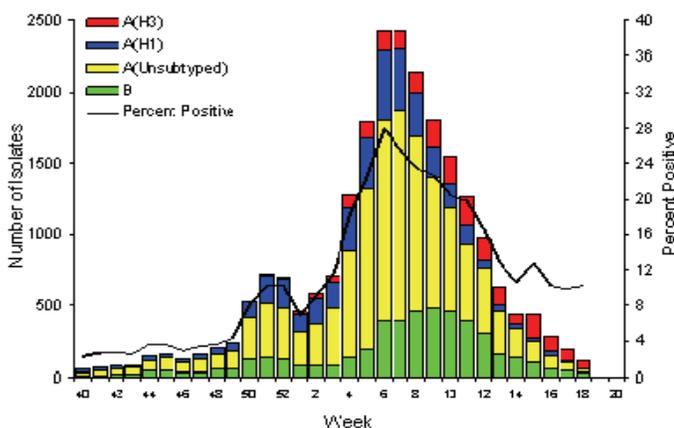
Analysis

Both nationally and locally in Clark County the 2006-2007 influenza season was mild. However, influenza continues to circulate in the community but at low levels. For Clark County, the peak of ILI surveillance was during week 52 (ending December 30, 2006) when the ILI was 7.1%.

Nationally, influenza activity continues to decrease. Nevada has seen sporadic activity; which means that small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI (Chart 2).

(1) U.S. Department of Health and Welfare. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Weekly Report: Influenza Summary Update Week ending January 6, 2007-Week 1." Accessed on February, 22, 2007 at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

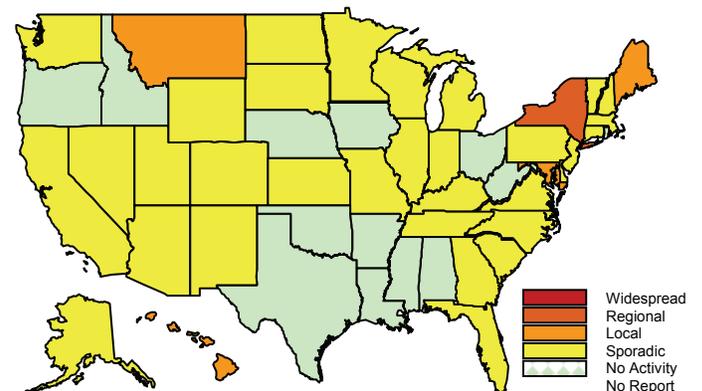
Chart 1: U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories Summary, 2006-7



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Chart 2: Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending May 5, 2007, 2006-Week 18



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention