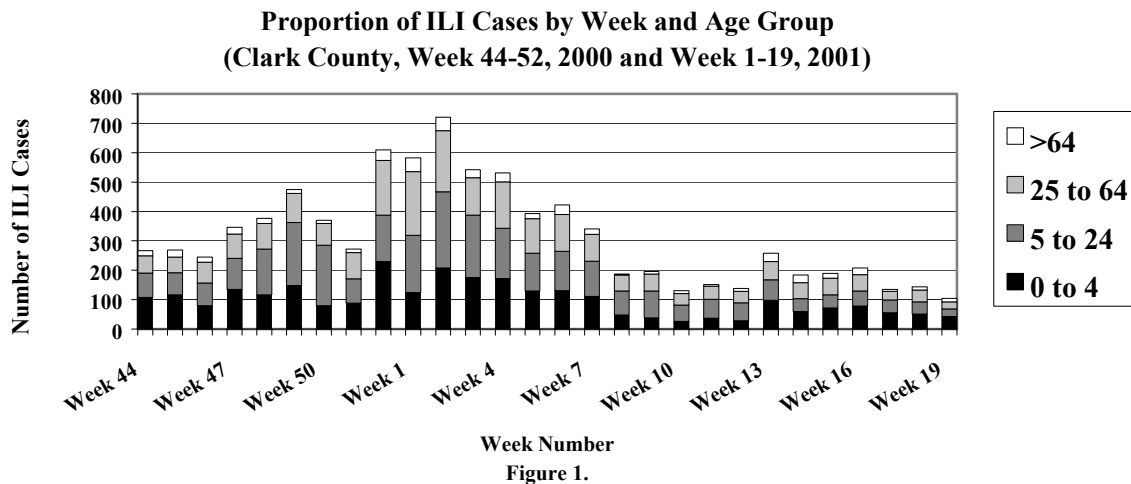


Date: November 5, 2001
 To: Health Care Providers
 From: Linh Nguyen, MPH, Epidemiologist II
 Subject: Report for week 44 (October 27- November 3, 2001)

We are pleased to report that there are forty-five sentinel sites, including twenty-seven schools, in the Clark County Health District (CCHD) Influenza Surveillance Program (which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) U.S. Influenza Sentinel Physicians Surveillance Network). Although CDC does not include schools as sentinel sites, CCHD decided to have schools participate in our influenza surveillance. Thus numbers reported by CDC will differ from reports disseminated locally by CCHD. The primary goal of the program is to monitor influenza-like-illness (ILI). **Criteria for inclusion as a case of ILI are fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) and cough or sore throat.** Health care providers wishing to participate in the CCHD Influenza Surveillance Program should contact Linh Nguyen, Epidemiologist, at (702) 383-1378.

The influenza surveillance network enables the CDC to determine when influenza viruses are circulating, identify circulating strains, detect changes in the viruses, and monitor the impact of influenza on overall U.S. mortality and morbidity. Approximately 500 health care providers in various areas of the country are serving as CDC sentinel sites. Last season, an average of thirty sentinel sites (including schools) participated in the CCHD program. The Figure 1 below shows the percentages of ILI cases by age and week that were reported in Clark County for the 2000-2001 influenza surveillance season.



There has been concern that during the “flu” season, members of the public might panic since the early symptoms of influenza resemble early symptoms of inhalational anthrax. Attached is a table which may be a useful tool in distinguishing between these two illnesses. CCHD Office of Epidemiology is developing a physician-only website and will post this table and other medical and bioterrorism information. If you wish to access this site, please e-mail keys@cchd.co.clark.nv.us to obtain a password. Include your name, address and phone number in the e-mail.

National influenza statistics can be accessed at this CDC website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

Distinguishing Characteristics of Flu vs. Early Anthrax *

Symptom	Flu	Anthrax
Sore throat	Common	Occasional
Rhinitis	Y	N
Fever and chills	Y	Y
Cough – occasionally productive	Y	N
Cough – dry, unproductive	Y	Possible
Shortness of breath	Rare	Common
Pronounced substernal chest pain (from mediastinal lymph node swelling and hemorrhage. Possible onset of productive cough).	Rare	Common
Hypoxemia (Oxygen saturation <90.9%)	Rare	Common
Respiratory distress – 2nd phase of Anthrax symptoms.	Not typical	Y

Source: Mark Oberle, M.D., University of Washington School of Public Health
M. Maki, M.D., University of Wisconsin

* Early symptoms typically last 24-48 hours before progressing to the second phase.