

# *Influenza Watch – San Diego County*

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## **Influenza Surveillance Weekly Update**

### **2001-02 Influenza Season Summary**

The 2001-02 influenza season was mild in San Diego County and mild to moderate across the United States. Both types A (H3N2) and B influenza were detected in San Diego County with influenza A being the most frequently isolated and reported to the Public Health Laboratory. Influenza-like illness visits to sentinel emergency departments during this season were at lower levels when compared to previous years.

Information was collected weekly regarding school absences from selected schools and visits compatible with “flu-like illness” reported from 10 emergency departments throughout San Diego County. In addition, sentinel physicians and hospitals submitted specimens from patients with suspect illness for viral culture. The Public Health Laboratory performed isolate testing to determine circulating influenza virus strains in the community.

Physicians and laboratories are encouraged to report positive influenza detections to the Public Health Laboratory by phone (619-692-8500) or fax (619-692-8558) and when possible, to submit specimens for viral culture and isolate subtyping.

San Diego County Community Epidemiology Division, Immunization Program, and Public Health Laboratory, in cooperation with local hospitals and medical professionals, have established this multi-prong approach to detection of influenza in San Diego County. Because influenza is not a reportable disease, surveillance is key for prevention and control.

If you would like to participate in our influenza surveillance efforts, please contact us at 619-515-6620.

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For more information, please contact us at:

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