

Influenza Watch – San Diego County, California

Influenza Surveillance Season Summary, 2006-07

San Diego County had a mild 2006-07 influenza season. Influenza activity peaked in late January through early March, 2007, and was predominantly characterized by influenza A detections (Figure 1). Influenza-like-illness at emergency departments (ED) remained at low levels (<5% of ED visits) throughout the season (Figure 2). School absenteeism remained at expected levels throughout the season as well.

Figure 1. Reported Influenza Detections by Type and Week, San Diego County, FY 2006-07

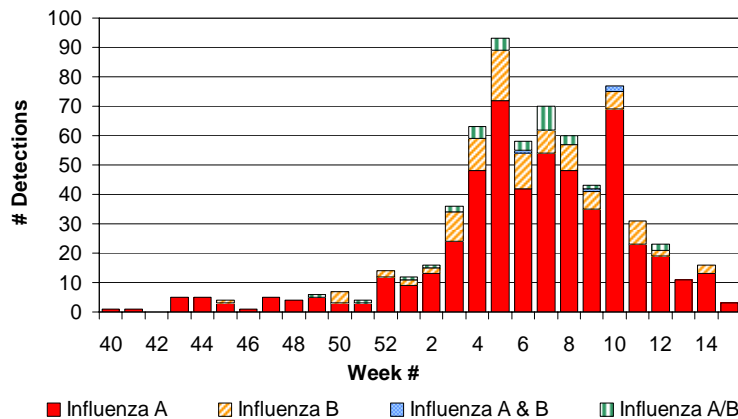
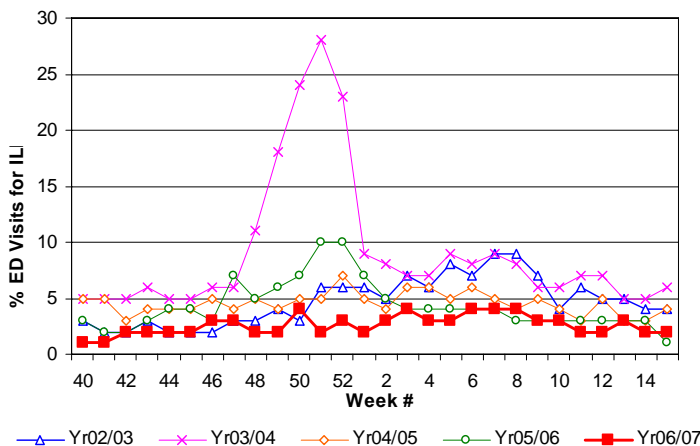


Figure 2. Percent Emergency Department Visits for ILI, by Week of Fiscal Year, San Diego County



The San Diego County Public Health Laboratory (PHL) received 722 reports of influenza detections from providers throughout San Diego County. Of the 722 laboratory detections reported, 267 (37%) were among children ages 0-17 years, 315 (44%) were 18-64 years, and 107 (15%) were 65 years or older; 33 (5%) were missing age. There were 4 influenza-related deaths during the season; one was a pediatric case, and 3 were adults.

PHL confirmed and characterized many influenza A and influenza B isolates received. Of the 87 influenza A isolates characterized by PHL, 61 (70%) were antigenically identified as influenza A(H1N1), and 26 (30%) were identified as influenza A(H3N2) subtypes.

The California State Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) strained typed one influenza A isolate as A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3)-like, and one as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1)-like; both strains were antigenically well-matched to the 2006-07 vaccine component strains. Of the 9 influenza B isolates antigenically characterized by VRDL, 4 were of the B/Victoria-lineage, and another 5 were specifically B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like strains of the B/Victoria lineage.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has noted that during the 2006-07 season, approximately 50% of B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like isolates had reduced titers to antisera produced against B/Ohio/01/2005, the antigenic equivalent to the vaccine component, B/Malaysia/2506/2004. During the summer of 2006, PHL also identified two influenza A(H1N1) subtypes associated with foreign travel to Asia.

Influenza Surveillance Program

The County's influenza surveillance program continues year round. Providers are encouraged to perform influenza testing for patients presenting with influenza-like-illness (ILI), and to report positive results to PHL by fax to (619) 692-8558. ILI is defined as fever >100°F, and cough and/or sore throat. Thank you for your continued participation. Please contact Community Epidemiology by telephone at (619) 515-6620 with questions regarding the County's influenza surveillance program.

Composition of the 2007-08 Influenza Vaccine

The 2007-08 trivalent influenza vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere contains A/Solomon Islands/3/2006-like (H1N1), A/Wisconsin/67/2005-like (H3N2), and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like viruses. The influenza A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1) component is the only change from last season's vaccine; the influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B components remain the same. Influenza A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1) is a recent antigenic variant of the 2006-07 vaccine strain A/New Caledonia/20/99.

Additional Resources

CDC Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza, 2007 <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5606.pdf>
California State DHS influenza surveillance summary: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>