



Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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Health Update

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report—Jan. 18th, 2008

Influenza transmission has begun locally; RSV activity is still elevated

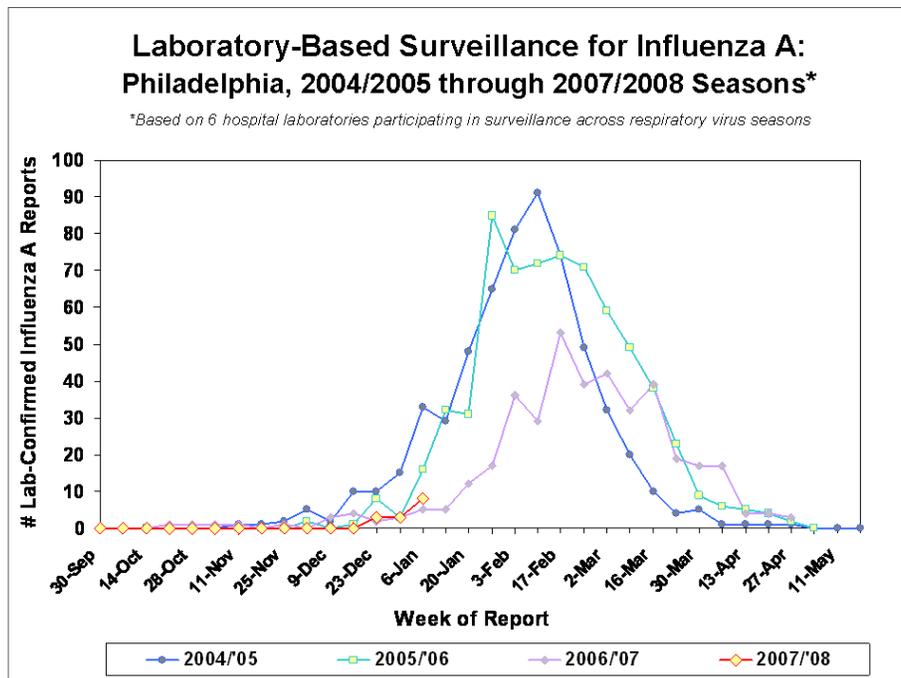
The Division of Disease Control (DDC) of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) monitors trends in the circulation of common respiratory viruses every year, from late September through early May. Several local clinical laboratories report weekly aggregate counts of influenza A and B, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), parainfluenza viruses, adenoviruses, and selected other respiratory viruses.

During the last 3 weeks, 14 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been reported to PDPH, all of which have been identified as influenza A. Currently, the state has reported steadily increasing regional influenza activity (162 positive tests, 29 of which have been confirmed by culture or PCR; transmission has been heaviest in the northeast and southwest parts of the state.) Nearly 70% of the influenza positive isolates across the state have been influenza A, predominantly influenza A(H1). **It is not too late to administer influenza vaccine**, as plenty is still available. It should be noted that the live,

attenuated intranasal vaccine (Flumist®) may now be administered to healthy, non-pregnant persons aged 2–49 years. Additionally, PDPH has developed guidelines for handling institutional outbreaks of influenza. For more information, please contact DDC at (215) 685-6740.

RSV activity continues to remain elevated beyond baseline values, with local laboratories still reporting >40% or more of submitted specimens as positive for RSV. In addition to RSV, rhinoviruses, parainfluenza (all types) and adenoviruses are still circulating in the metropolitan area (*data not shown*).

Nationally, one state reported widespread influenza activity, ten states reported regional activity (including PA) while the rest reported local or sporadic activity for the week ending Jan. 5th. For the same week, 221 (7.2%) influenza viruses were isolated by WHO and CDC-participating laboratories. One-hundred thirty-three were influenza A (not subtyped), 12 were influenza A (H3), 29 were influenza A (H1), and 47 were influenza B isolates.



To report institutional outbreaks, pediatric mortality due to influenza, or if you have questions or comments please contact DDC at (215) 685-6740.