



Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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Health Update Influenza and Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update March 26th 2010

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) continues to conduct surveillance for influenza and other respiratory viruses. Since the waning of the fall wave of 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza (pH1N1), positive determinations of influenza by local clinical laboratories have been few. Virtually all laboratory-confirmed disease continue to be identified as pH1N1. Only one case of seasonal influenza has been detected in Philadelphia during the winter season, which is when seasonal influenza historically peaks. A similar pattern of relative inactivity has been observed statewide and nationally.

It remains unclear whether widespread transmission of seasonal or 2009 pandemic H1N1 influenza will occur in the near future. Hospitals may wish to consider lifting visitation restrictions for influenza at this time, if not already done.

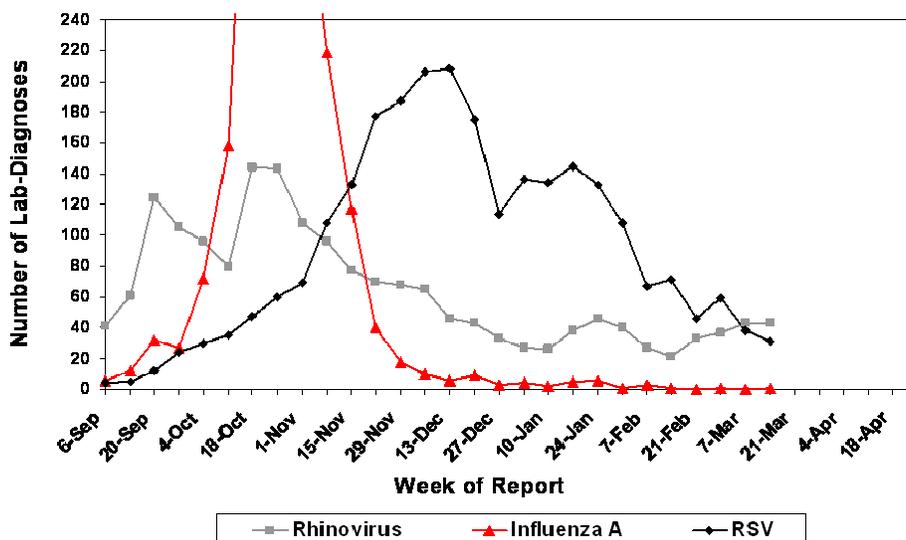
H1N1 influenza vaccine is still available for those individuals who wish to be vaccinated, especially children requiring a second dose of vaccine and travelers to the southern hemisphere. Vaccination remains the best way to prevent influenza and influenza-related complications.

In planning for future flu seasons, PDPH would like to inform providers that the PDPH Public Health Laboratory will begin offering confirmatory influenza diagnostic testing via RT-PCR in late spring 2010. Once the laboratory is able to accept specimens, PDPH will inform providers of the procedures for specimen submission.

In addition to low levels of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and rhinoviruses continue to circulate (figure). It should be noted that RSV is nearing its seasonal end, with less than 10% of specimens testing positive over the last 2 weeks. Parainfluenza viruses (predominantly type 3), human metapneumovirus and adenoviruses are also circulating in our area (data not shown).

Lastly, providers are encouraged to continue submitting reports of suspected or confirmed hospitalized, pregnant, and fatal cases of influenza to the Division of Disease Control through May 1st. The reporting forms, along with weekly surveillance reports, are available at <https://hip.phila.gov>. Completed report forms for severe influenza may be faxed to 215-545-8362.

Weekly Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A, RSV, and Rhinovirus: Philadelphia, 2009-2010 Season



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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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