



Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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Health Update

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report—Dec. 12th, 2007

Elevated RSV activity in Philadelphia Area

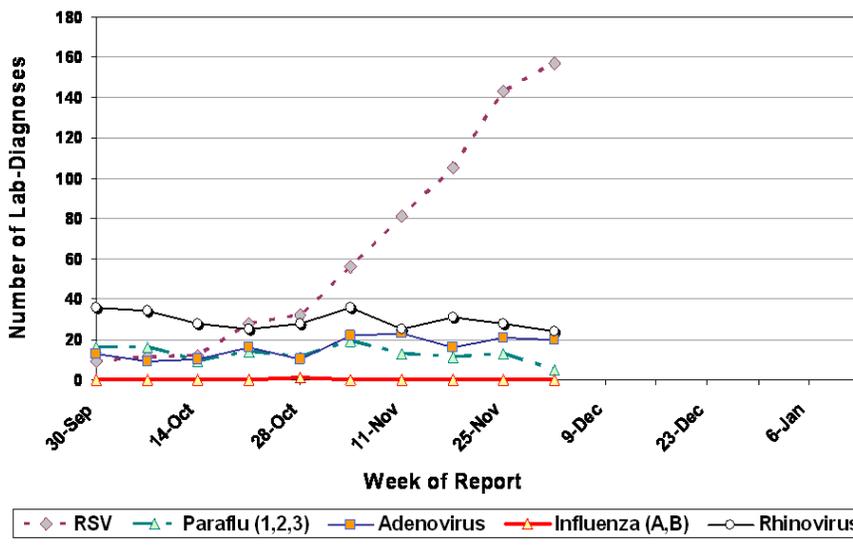
The Division of Disease Control (DDC) of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) monitors trends in the circulation of common respiratory viruses every year, from late September through early May. Several local clinical laboratories report weekly aggregate counts of influenza A and B, Respiratory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

This report indicates that RSV transmission is currently at its highest point this season, with some local laboratories reporting 40% or more of submitted specimens as positive for RSV. Clinical laboratories in other parts of the state have reported similarly elevated RSV transmission. In addition to RSV, rhinoviruses, parainfluenza (all types) and adenoviruses are still circulating in the metropolitan area at moderate levels. Only **one case** of laboratory-confirmed influenza has been reported in a Philadelphia resident thus far this season (influenza B). Currently, the state has reported sporadic

influenza activity (40 positive tests, three of which have been confirmed by culture or PCR). Influenza transmission has been heaviest in the northeast and southwest parts of the state.

Nationally, four states reported local influenza activity, thirty-three states reported sporadic activity (including PA) while the rest reported no activity for the week ending Dec. 1st. **No state has reported widespread influenza activity so far this year.** For the same week, 85 (3.4%) influenza viruses were isolated by WHO and CDC-participating laboratories. Forty-five were influenza A (not subtyped), 2 were influenza A (H3), 30 were influenza A (H1), and 5 were influenza B isolates. Since Sept. 30th, CDC has antigenically characterized 27 influenza viruses (19 A[H1], 5 A[H3] and 3 influenza B viruses). Of note, three H3 viruses were characterized as “A/Brisbane/10/2007-like”, a variant of the A/Wisconsin component in this year’s vaccine. Also, the three B viruses were of the Yamagata lineage, not the Victoria lineage currently in the vaccine (B/Malaysia).

Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza, RSV, Parainfluenza, Adenovirus, and Rhinovirus: Philadelphia, 2007-2008 season



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