Influenza Season 2012/2013 – Riverside County, California

Influenza Surveillance Weekly Update
Week ending January 19, 2013

Deaths due to Pneumonia and Influenza: During week 3, 4.1% of deaths were due, in part, to pneumonia or influenza. Compared to historical data, this is within normal limits.

School Absenteeism: During week 3, 12.6% of students at sentinel school sites were absent due to illness. Compared to historical data, this is above normal limits.

State Influenza Activity: During week 2*, overall influenza activity in California was upgraded from "regional" to "widespread". Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) increased 0.1% in Week 2 (5.4%) compared to Week 1 (5.3%). One influenza-associated death in an adult less than 65 years of age was reported from the Inland Empire during Week 2. No pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2012–2013 season and no novel influenza cases have been detected in California to date.

National Influenza Activity: During week 2*, influenza activity remained elevated in the United States, but decreased in some areas. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 4.6%; this is above the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Forty-eight states reported widespread geographic influenza activity; 2 states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia reported local activity; Guam reported no influenza activity, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report. A cumulative rate for the season of 18.8 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported. Among all cases, 49.6% were in adults 65 years and older. During week 2, 8.3% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to P&I. This percentage was above the epidemic threshold of 7.3% for week 2. Nine influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.

* Data reporting delayed one week.

Additional Resources
Riverside County Influenza Information: http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/SeasonalInfluenza/
State of California Influenza Information: http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/Influenza(Flu).aspx
United States Influenza Information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm

During week 3, 10.2% of visits to Riverside County emergency departments were related to influenza-like illnesses. Compared to historical data, this is within normal limits. Activity has continued to increase over the past several weeks.

During week 3, 8.6% of visits to physician sentinel sites were related to influenza-like illnesses. Compared to historical data, this is above normal limits.

Epidemiology and Program Evaluation
County of Riverside Department of Public Health
http://www.rivcohealthdata.org
(951) 358-5557