

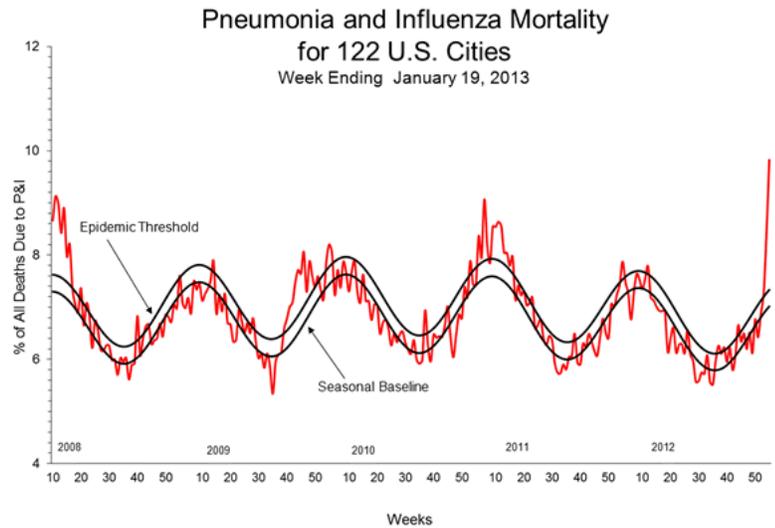


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**Influenza continues to be widespread in California. Orange County is seeing an increase in the number of reports of influenza from hospitals and influenza-like illness (ILI) from schools and long-term care facilities. It is still not too late to vaccinate. Persons at increased risk for complications of influenza with fever and respiratory symptoms should seek treatment promptly.**

## Influenza Update

- Influenza activity remains elevated in most of the U.S. Though activity is decreasing in some areas, ILI continues to increase in the Southwest (including Orange County), Mid-Atlantic, and Northwest parts of the country. The percentage of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza in 122 cities was 9.8% for the week ending January 19, well above the epidemic threshold.
- The majority (80%) of flu viruses continue to be influenza A, with influenza A/H3N2 being the predominate subtype. Nationally, nearly 100% of the flu A viruses that were strain-typed match the A components in the vaccine. For the B viruses (20%), approximately 70% match the vaccine.
- **In Orange County**, 16 severe influenza cases (ICU/deaths in persons less than 65 years of age), including four deaths, have been reported this season as of 1/24/2013. The median age of the 16 severe cases is 47 years (range, 0-60 years). ILI visits to sentinel providers, reports of influenza detections by hospitals, and outbreaks of ILI in schools and long-term care facilities have all increased.
- **CDC urges people 65 and older to seek treatment for influenza symptoms promptly.** CDC reports that similar to other seasons during which A(H3N2) strains predominated, this influenza season is taking the heaviest toll on people 65 years of age and older. During the week ending January 19, 2013, persons 65 years and older were being hospitalized with influenza-related disease at a rate of almost 98 per 100,000 people, the highest recorded since 2007-2008 when it was 73.7. See [www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/flu-activity-update.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/flu-activity-update.htm) for more information.
- **Orange County Schools:** Schools should visit the Orange County Public Health Epidemiology webpage "Information for Schools", available at <http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/schools>. Relevant to influenza, this page contains:
  - Recommendations for schools with suspect or confirmed case(s) of influenza or increases in influenza-like illness
  - Instructions on how to report a cluster, outbreak, or increase in influenza-like illness
  - Template letters for schools to use to notify/educate parents about influenza.
 Additional information for schools and childcare providers is available from CDC at [www.cdc.gov/flu/school](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school).
- **Recommendations for Health Care Facilities:** CDC has specific recommendations for prevention of influenza in healthcare settings and for outbreak management, including testing, isolation and infection control, treatment and prophylaxis. For more information, see [www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/index.htm).
- **It's not too late to vaccinate.** For retail locations where influenza vaccine is available, see the Flu Vaccine Finder at <http://flushot.healthmap.org/>. For publicly funded vaccine availability, see [www.ochealthinfo.com/flu](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/flu).



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