



## **INFLUENZA VIRUS SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY UPDATE**

**Week ending December 29, 2001-Week 52**

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**National report:** During week 52 (December 23-29, 2001), 20 of 608 specimens tested by the World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories across the United States were positive for influenza. Since September 30, a total of 17,212 specimens for influenza viruses have been tested and 356 (2.2%) specimens from 36 states were positive. Of the 356 isolates identified, 343 (96%) were influenza A viruses and 13 (4%) were influenza B viruses. Two hundred and nine (61%) of the influenza A viruses were subtyped, 203 were influenza A (H3N2) and 6 were influenza A (H1N1) viruses. One hundred and ninety-eight (56%) of the 356 influenza viruses isolated were from the Pacific region. (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington) and 136 (38%) of the 356 viruses isolated were identified in Alaska. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) overall was 2.5%, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza as reported by the vital statistics offices of 122 U.S. cities was 7.0% during week 52. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.9% for this time. Influenza activity was reported as widespread in Colorado and regional in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Utah this week. Sporadic activity was reported from 42 states and New York.

**Florida:** Influenza activity appears to be increasing in Florida with 2.3% of patients seeking care by physicians in the influenza sentinel surveillance met the case definition for ILI (> 100 F + cough and or sore throat) during week 52 compared to 1.3% during week 51. Influenza-like illness activity was detected in 13 counties from Leon to Monroe. Higher flu activity than expected for this time of year (>2%) was reported by physicians in Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Lake, Leon, Monroe, Palm Beach, Polk and Sarasota counties. Five cases of influenza A (H2N3) were confirmed from Duval, Pinellas and Indian River Counties this week. An untyped influenza A from Palm Beach and six positive rapid antigen tests from Hillsborough County were also reported this week. Between September 4 and December 27, influenza A (H3N2) was isolated from 16 patients residing in Broward, Collier, Duval, Hillsborough, Indian River, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, and St Johns Counties and infections with influenza A of unknown subtype, was diagnosed in patients in Gadsden, Martin, Pinellas, Palm Beach and Hillsborough County. Influenza B was isolated from 2 patients in Hillsborough County. In addition, positive rapid antigen tests were reported from Duval County (1), Hillsborough (11), Palm Beach (1), Marion (8), Miami-Dade (13) Okaloosa (2) and Volusia (6) Counties.