The purpose of the weekly Influenza Watch is to summarize current influenza surveillance in San Diego County. Please note that reported weekly data are preliminary and may change due to delayed submissions and additional laboratory results.

Current Week 6 (ending 2/13/2016)
- 616 new influenza detections reported: Elevated level
- 6% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: Expected level
- 1 influenza-related death reported this week
- 7% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: Expected level

Table 1. Influenza Surveillance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>FY 2015-16*</th>
<th>FY 2014-15</th>
<th>Prior 3-Year Average**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>1,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of emergency department visits for ILI</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Virus Characteristics

- Influenza A
- Influenza A (H3)
- Seasonal
- Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09
- Influenza B
- Influenza B/Yamagata
- Influenza B/Victoria
- Influenza A/B

1,812 Total Cases
30 ICU Cases
6 Deaths
4 Outbreaks

2015-16 Data:
- Week 6: 616
- Week 5: 266
- Week FYTD*: 1,812

2014-15 Data:
- Week 6: 642
- Week 5: 5,484
- Week FYTD*: 589

Prior 3-Year Average:
- Week 6: 4,233
- Week 5: 8%

FYTD* = Fiscal Year To Date (FY is July 1 - June 30, Weeks 27-26). Total deaths reported in prior years: 97 in 2014-15, 70 in 2013-14, 65 in 2012-13.

* Previous weeks case counts or percentages may change due to delayed processing or reporting.
^ Current FY deaths are shown by week of report; by week of death for prior FYs.
High poverty rates associated with higher rates of flu hospitalization

Influenza-related hospitalization rates and high poverty levels showed a "robust" correlation, according to an analysis of data from 14 states during the 2010-11 to 2011-12 flu seasons published on February 12, 2016 in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

The age-adjusted incidence of flu-related hospitalization in communities where 20% or more of households were below the federal poverty line (i.e., high poverty) was 21.5 per 100,000 person-years (95% confidence interval [CI], 20.7 to 22.4), compared with 10.9 (CI, 10.3 to 11.4) in areas where fewer than 5% of households were below the poverty line (i.e., low poverty).

The study found that vaccination rates were lower in areas with a higher poverty level. Unvaccinated persons 65 years of age or older accounted for 94% of hospitalized cases in high-poverty areas, compared with 80% in lower poverty areas.

Persons in poorer neighborhoods should be a focus for enhanced influenza vaccination outreach and early use of antiviral treatment. Although the flu vaccine is available at many physician's offices, community clinics and retail pharmacies, influenza vaccine is also available at San Diego County Public Health Centers for anyone 6 months and older, regardless of health insurance status. The cost is $10 for the immunization clinic visit at County Public Health Centers, but the fee can be waived for those who cannot afford it.

For a list of locations providing routine influenza immunizations in San Diego, individuals can visit sdiz.org or call 2-1-1. For further information about the recent MMWR study, go to:

Influenza-Related Hospitalizations and Poverty Levels — United States, 2010–2012
Figure 1. Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY

Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2015-16 (N=1,812)
Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2009-10 to 2015-16 YTD

Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Week & Season
Figure 5. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY Compared to 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)

Figure 6. Percent of All San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold (Serfling Method)
Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type, and Season

Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season
Figure 9. Number of Influenza Cases Requiring ICU Care by Episode Week and Type of Influenza, 2015-16 YTD (N=30)

Episode Week is the Week of Onset, or earliest available date in which the case is identified.

Influenza Reporting in San Diego County

Local providers are encouraged to report laboratory positive influenza detections to the County Epidemiology Program by FAX (858) 715-6458. Please fax a Case Report Form and/or a printed laboratory result, and indicate if patient was admitted to ICU or died, and/or is a resident of a congregate living facility.

For questions regarding sending specimens to Public Health Laboratory (PHL), call (619) 692-8500. Click here for the updated PHL PCR Test Request Form. Contact Epidemiology with any questions at (619) 692-8499 or by email to: EpiDiv.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Resources
County of San Diego Immunization Branch www.sdiz.org
California Department of Public Health Influenza
CDC Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report