During week 6, 12.7% of visits to Riverside County emergency departments were related to influenza-like illnesses. Compared to historical data, this is slightly above normal limits.

During week 6, 6.2% of visits to physician sentinel sites were related to influenza-like illnesses. Compared to historical data, this is within normal limits.

Deaths due to Pneumonia and Influenza: During week 6, 6.6% of deaths were due, in part, to pneumonia or influenza. Compared to historical data, this is within normal limits.

School Absenteeism: During week 6, 8.0% of students at sentinel school sites were absent due to illness. Compared to historical data, this is within normal limits.

State Influenza Activity: During week 5*, overall influenza activity was “widespread” in California. Based on available data from 117 enrolled sentinel providers, the percentage of visits for ILL in week 5* (4.7%) exceeds the epidemic threshold (3.8%) for this time of year. Seven influenza-associated deaths in adults less than 65 years of age were reported during Week 5*. Thirty-two laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were reported.

National Influenza Activity: During week 5*, influenza activity decreased, but remained elevated in the United States. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.8%, which is above the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILL at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico and 15 states experienced high ILL activity; New York City and 15 states experienced moderate ILL activity; eight states experienced low ILL activity; 12 states experienced minimal ILL activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data. The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and 32 states was reported as widespread; Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 16 states reported regional activity; and the District of Columbia and two state reported local activity. During week 5*, 8.1% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to P&I. This percentage was above the epidemic threshold of 7.2% for week 5*. Eleven influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.

* Reporting delayed one week

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

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