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MONO-GRAM - FLU UPDATE 3/16/2016

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

Public Health
Mono-Gram

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WEEKLY FLU UPDATE – LATE PEAK?

Key Points:

- Evidence shows that influenza activity continues to increase both in California and nationally over the last few weeks. Further increases in flu activity may occur in the coming weeks. Although unpredictable, the flu season usually peaks in mid-February. It appears that we will have a later peak this year.
- This year's vaccine is a close match for the types of flu in circulation.
- All orders and recommendations for masking of healthcare workers who have not been vaccinated still are in effect!

Regional Perspectives:

- Sierra Park Clinics (Family Med and Pediatrics in Mammoth Lakes) are continuing to see increased #'s of patients with influenza-like illness as compared to baseline, especially in the last 5 weeks. It is too early to tell if flu-like activity has peaked or not.
- Schools in Inyo County are reporting normal levels of absenteeism.

National Perspectives: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most barometers of influenza circulation in the United States ticked upward again last week, with 37 states reporting geographically widespread activity. That number was up from 33 states a week earlier.

Ten states and Puerto Rico reported high influenza-like illness (ILI) activity, compared with eight states and Puerto Rico the week before. Thirteen states and New York City reported moderate ILI levels, versus nine states and New York the previous week.

Two flu-related deaths in children were reported, raising the season's total to 20. The previous week brought reports of four pediatric deaths.

The estimate of cumulative flu-related hospitalizations for the whole season reached 10.4 per 100,000 people, up from 7.8 per 100,000 last week. Elderly people (65 and older) have been hit hardest, with a rate of 27.6 hospitalizations per 100,000, followed by children under 5 years old (15.8 per 100,000). In the previous week, the hospitalization rate in the elderly was 21.3 per 100,000

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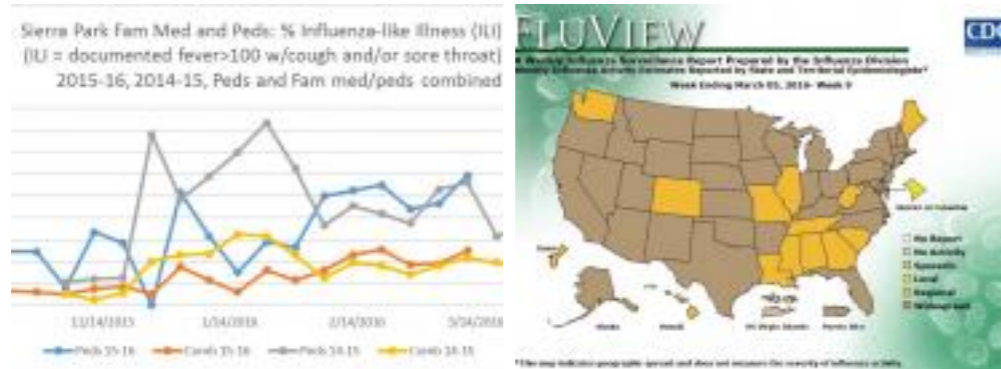
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population, and in children younger than 5 it was 11.8 per 100,000.

Virologic testing showed that influenza A viruses continued to heavily outnumber type B viruses last week (77.6% to 22.4%). Of type A viruses that were characterized, 83.5% were 2009 H1N1.

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