During week 8 (February 17, 2013 - February 23, 2013) influenza-like illness continued to decrease in Louisiana. The percent of positive samples from sentinel laboratories and the state lab increased. All influenza A samples submitted to CDC for subtyping so far this season have been characterized as A/VICTORIA/361/2011-LIKE(H3N2) GP, the influenza A (H3N2) component of the 2012-2013 Northern Hemisphere vaccine. An influenza B specimen submitted for characterization belonged to the B/Victoria lineage which was the 2011-2012 B component of the Northern Hemisphere vaccine formulation. The 2012-2013 formulation is from the B/Yamagata lineage.
This graph shows the percentage of visits for ILI over the total number of visits for sentinel surveillance sites. This is the best approach to estimate the magnitude of influenza transmission. ILI counts do include some viral infections other than influenza, but experience over the last 50 years has shown that this approach is a reliable method to estimate influenza transmission. It does not show which strain of influenza virus is responsible. The page on lab surveillance does show the proportion of specimens attributable to each virus strain.

This graph shows the data on ILI surveillance among sentinel physicians' over the past 5 seasons to enable comparisons with previous years and better estimate the amplitude of this season's influenza transmission.
Virologic Surveillance

Sentinel site testing is based on rapid test results. All subtyping is done by PCR at the State Lab.

Geographical Distribution of ILI

* %ILI over the last 4 weeks based on sentinel surveillance data
During week 8, influenza activity remained elevated in the U.S., but decreased in most areas.

Proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.

Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.

Proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.7%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%.

### Antiviral Resistance:
#### Neuraminidase Inhibitor Resistance Testing Results on Samples Collected Since October 1, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virus Type</th>
<th>Specimens tested (n)</th>
<th>Resistant Viruses, Number (%)</th>
<th>Viruses tested (n)</th>
<th>Resistant Viruses, Number (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A (H3N2)</td>
<td>1,267</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>1,267</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Influenza A (H1N1)</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>2 (0.7%)</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of currently circulating viruses are susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications oseltamivir and zanamivir; however, rare sporadic cases of oseltamivir-resistant 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and A (H3N2) viruses have been detected worldwide. Antiviral treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir is recommended as early as possible for patients with confirmed or suspected influenza who have severe, complicated, or progressive illness; who require hospitalization; or who are at greater risk for serious influenza-related complications. Additional information on recommendations for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza virus infection with antiviral agents is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/index.htm).

### Novel Influenza A Virus:

No new infections with novel influenza A viruses were reported to CDC during week 8. A total of 312 infections with variant influenza viruses (308 H3N2v viruses, 3 H1N2v viruses, and 1 H1N1v virus) have been reported from 11 states since July 2012. More information about H3N2v infections can be found at [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-cases.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-cases.htm).

### Antigenic Characterization:

99.0% of 2009 H1N1 viruses tested were characterized as a match to the H1N1 component of the 2012-2013 vaccine. 99.5% of influenza A (H3N2) viruses antigenically characterized at CDC since October 1, 2012 have matched components of the 2012-2013 influenza vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere. 71.8% of influenza B viruses match the influenza B component of the 2012-2013 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine.
2012-2013 Season

**Graph 1: Geographic Spread of Influenza as Assessed by State and Territorial Epidemiologists:** The influenza activity reported by state and territorial epidemiologists indicates geographic spread of influenza viruses, but does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

**Graph 2: ILINet Activity Indicator Map:** Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity by state. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation.