



Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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Health Advisory

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary – Local RSV Activity Increasing November 20, 2012

Surveillance Summary

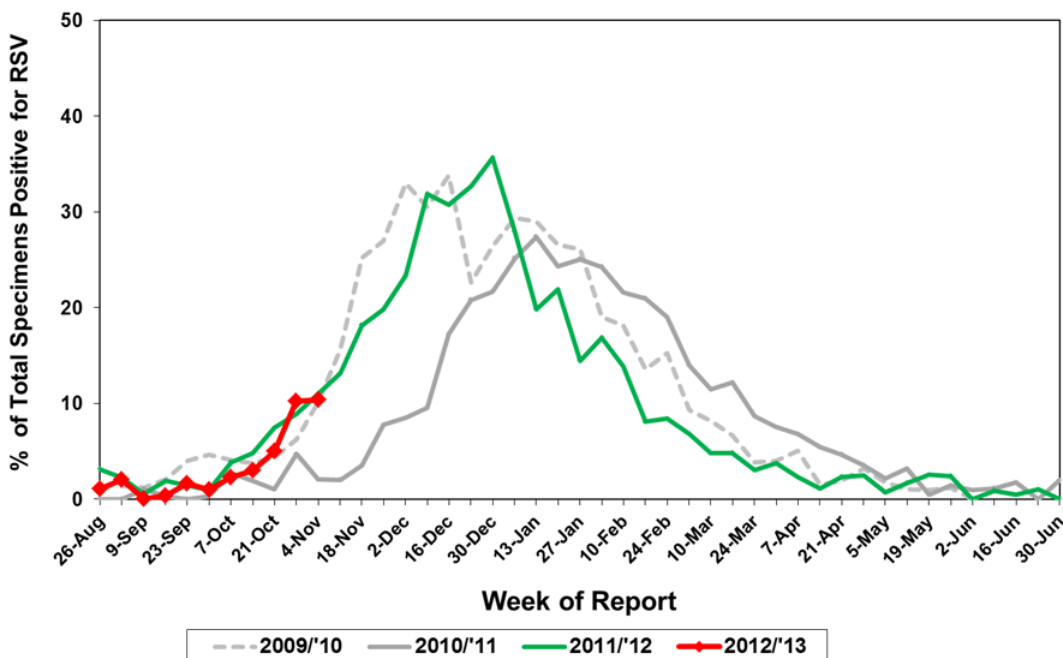
The Division of Disease Control (DDC) of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health monitors trends in the circulation of common respiratory viruses throughout each year. During the past several weeks, reports of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in respiratory specimens have increased steadily, with overall percent positivity surpassing 10% over the last two weeks (figure). Those at high risk for severe RSV-related illness include the elderly, immunocompromised persons, infants, children under 2 years of age with chronic lung disease, and premature infants <35 weeks gestation at birth. Though no vaccine exists, avoidance behavior, where feasible, for contagious settings, and appropriate hand hygiene can help prevent RSV infection. Additionally, select high-risk children <24 months of age may benefit from palivizumab, the RSV monoclonal antibody preparation given monthly during RSV season to prevent RSV lower respiratory tract disease. In severe, life-threatening RSV infection, use of ribavirin may be considered.

In addition to RSV, rhinoviruses, parainfluenza viruses (all types) and adenoviruses are also circulating in the metropolitan area. Only 6 confirmed cases of influenza have been reported since September. Sporadic flu cases have also occurred in Pennsylvania over the last several weeks. Influenza-like illness activity, as measured by emergency department and doctor visits for influenza-like illness, remain similarly low throughout Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. Influenza vaccine should be offered to individuals who have not yet received it this season.



Laboratory-Based Surveillance for RSV (%): Philadelphia, 2009/2010 through 2012/2013 Seasons*

*Based on five hospital laboratories with RSV testing capabilities across respiratory virus seasons



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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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