



**Influenza-like illness surveillance, Israel**  
**Weekly report, updated for week 32/2009 (ending 8/8/09)**

**Summary**

Morbidity due to influenza-like illness in the community continues to increase. The Rates of visits to community clinics due to pneumonia are still high relative to average summer predictions. Visits to pediatric ER due to pneumonia decreased during the past week, however, rates are still higher than the annual average summer predictions. Fifty-five (43.3%) of 127 specimens collected during the past week by the sentinel clinic network were found to be positive to pandemic influenza H1N1.

**Morbidity**

- **Morbidity due to influenza-like illness/ upper respiratory infection (Figures 1-3):** In the community: The rates of visits to community clinics due to influenza-like illness continue to increase. This trend is evident particularly among children and adolescents up to age 18 and among adults under age 65. The increase in influenza-like illness was observed in all districts, with the highest rates occurring in the central and Tel Aviv districts. In the ERs: Visits to adult ERs due to acute upper respiratory infection continued to increase. No further increase in visits to pediatric ERs was observed during the past week. For the fifth week in succession, visits are higher than expected in the summer season, in both adult and pediatric ERs (data not shown).
- **Morbidity due to pneumonia (Figures 4-7):** In the community: During the past week, no further increase was observed in rates of visits to community clinics of "Maccabi Health Services due to pneumonia. These rates have in recent weeks been above the annual average for the summer season. In the ERs: During the past week, a decrease was observed in visits to both adult and pediatric ERs due to pneumonia. These visits are still above the annual average for the summer season.
- **Hospitalizations (Figures 8-9):** During the past week there was no significant change in average bed occupancy: 85% in pediatric departments and 105% in adult departments, in accordance with seasonal predictions. A slight decrease was observed in use of artificial ventilation systems.

**Mortality**

- **Figures 10-11:** During the past week, there was an increase in the number of deaths (all causes) in general hospitals. For the second week in succession, number of deaths have been above the annual average for the summer season.



**Laboratory surveillance (Figure 12):** During the week ending 8/8/09, 127 nasopharyngeal swabs were collected by the sentinel clinics network. 55 specimens (43%) were found to be positive for pandemic influenza H1N1. Since the beginning of the pandemic influenza in Israel (week 18, ending 2/5/09), a total of 754 specimens have been collected by the sentinel clinics. 289 (38.3%) were found to be positive for pandemic influenza H1N1.

### **Influenza activity in the world (based on CDC and EISS weekly reports)**

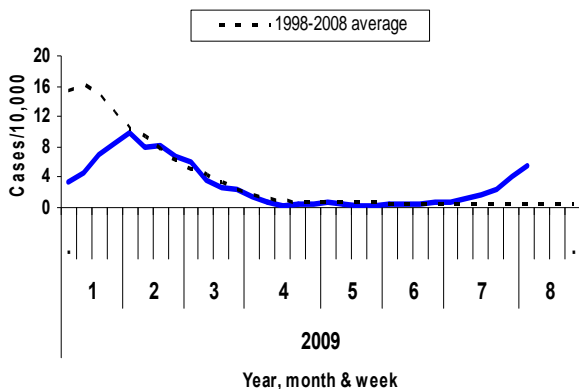
**U.S:** Influenza activity continues to decrease in the United States, however, rates of influenza-like illness are still high for this time of the year (as of week 31, ending 1/8/09). Rates of clinic visits for influenza-like illness are still below the national baseline. During week 31, seasonal influenza A/H1 and A/H3 viruses co-circulated with pandemic influenza H1N1, however over 98% of all positive specimens reported to the CDC were positive for pandemic influenza H1N1.

**Europe:** Most countries in Europe report low levels of influenza activity. However, Malta, reported high influenza activity in week 31. Seventeen countries reported that the pandemic influenza virus H1N1 was the dominant virus testing positive for influenza.

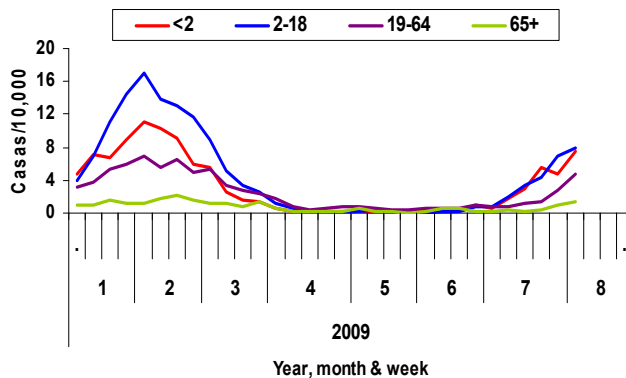
**Pandemic Influenza H1N1:** As of 11/8/09, 1,735 deaths from pandemic influenza H1N1 have been reported worldwide. In Israel (as of 9/8/09), approximately 2000 cases have been confirmed. There have been five (5) deaths.

**Patient visits to community clinics**

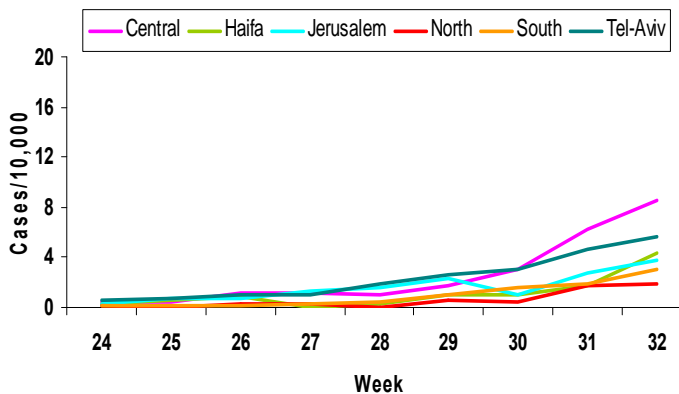
**Fig. 1: Weekly visits to community clinics due to influenza-like illness, by year, 2008-2009, compared to annual average**



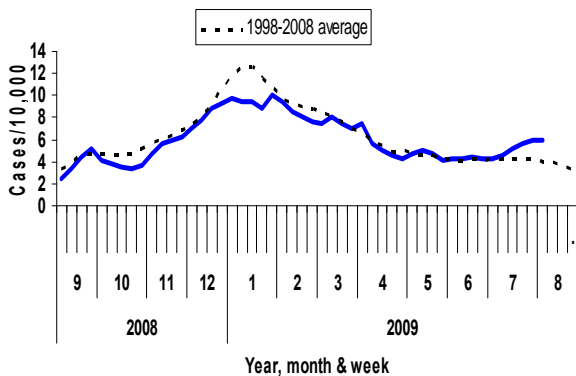
**Fig. 2: Weekly visits to community clinics due to influenza-like illness, by age, 2009**



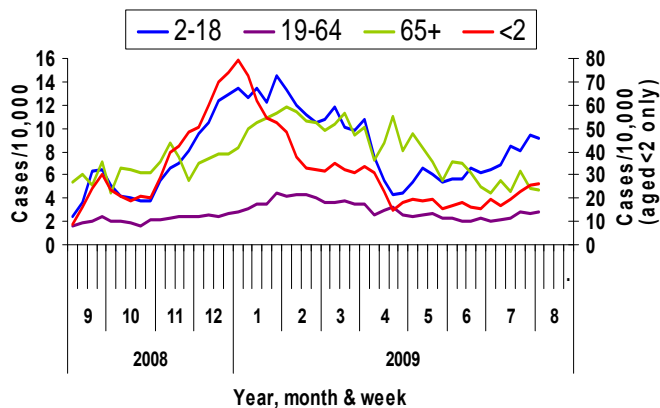
**Fig. 3: Weekly visits to community clinics due to influenza-like illness, by district, 2009**



**Fig. 4: Weekly visits to community clinics due to pneumonia, by year, 2008-2009, compared to annual average**



**Fig. 5: Weekly visits to community clinics due to pneumonia, by age, 2008-2009**



### Admissions to ERs (Clalit Health Services)

Fig. 6: Weekly visits to Emergency Rooms (adults) due to pneumonia, Clalit hospitals, 2008-2009, compared to annual average

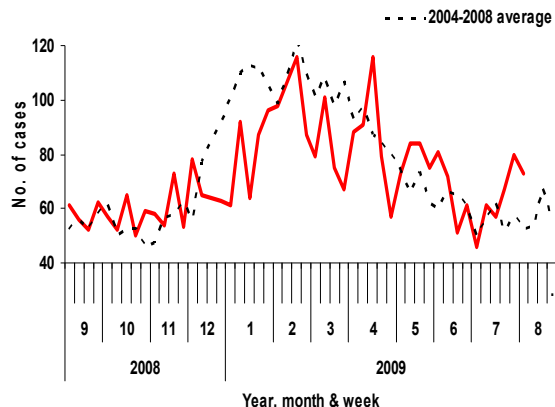
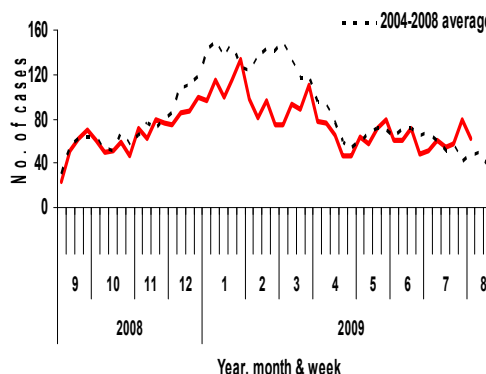


Fig. 7: Weekly visits to pediatric Emergency Rooms due to pneumonia, Clalit hospitals, 2008-2009, compared to annual average



### Hospitalizations

Fig. 8: Weekly average bed occupancy, internal and pediatric departments, all hospitals, 2008-2009

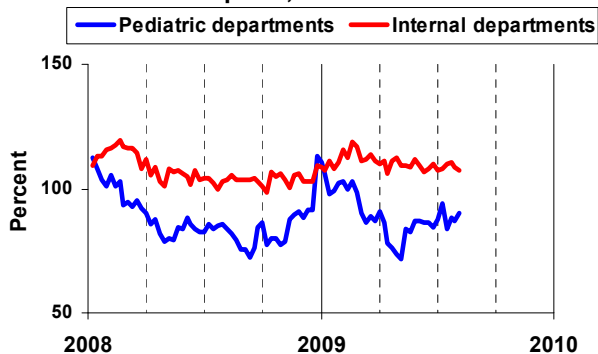
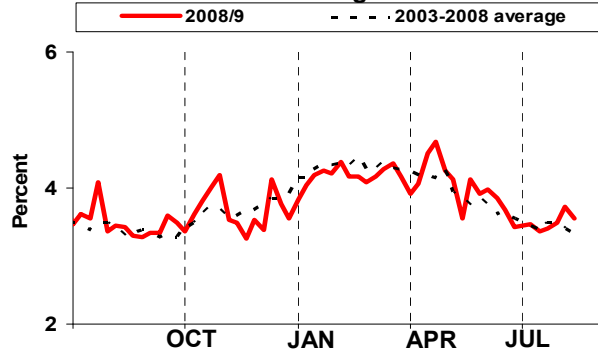


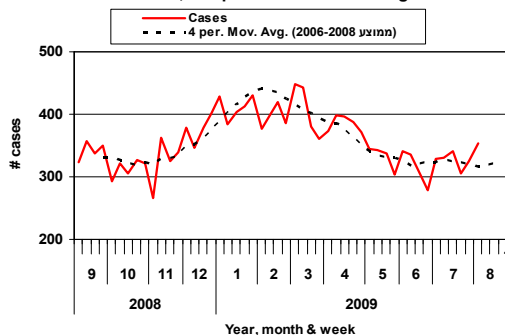
Fig. 9: Use of artificial ventilation in relation to overall bed occupancy, all hospitals, 2008-2009, compared to annual average



### Mortality

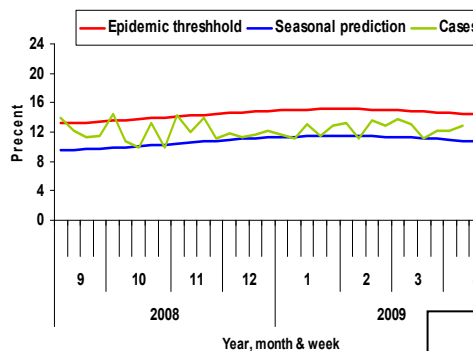
#### Hospital Mortality

Fig. 10: Number of hospitals deaths, all causes, 2008-2009, compared to annual average



#### Pneumonia- Related Mortality (Epidemiology Department)

Fig. 11: Percentage of pneumonia-related deaths, 2008-2009, as compared to a multi year seasonal prediction



Updated to week ending 18/4/09



**Laboratory Surveillance ( Central Virology Laboratory, Tel Hashomer)**

**Fig. 12: Positive influenza samples out of total samples collected by sentinel network, 2009**

