

I. Summary of Information

In the three-week interval since the publication of the last CDC Influenza Surveillance Report, No. 58, January 16, 1961, no outbreaks of influenza or unusual concentrations of cases of influenza-like disease have been reported to this unit. There has been no evidence of influenza activity in the continental United States thus far during the present season.

Analysis of current deaths due to influenza and pneumonia received from 108 cities in the United States reveals that the number of deaths through the week ending February 4, 1961, are within the expected limits of normal for the season.

Reports received during the past three weeks indicate that the epidemic of influenza in Great Britain, confirmed as due to type A₂ influenza virus, is continuing to spread. The epidemic of influenza reported from Japan, centering around metropolitan Tokyo, is likewise continuing, and has been confirmed as due to influenza type B. An epidemic characteristic of influenza, but not yet laboratory confirmed, has been reported from Samoa.

II. Current Status of Influenza in the United States

To this date, no outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like diseases have been reported to the Influenza Surveillance Unit. Special reports have been received recently from five States. All report that school and industrial absenteeism are within normal seasonal limits; there have been no reports of an unusual incidence of respiratory disease, no increase in diagnostic specimens submitted to State health laboratories, and no laboratory confirmation of cases of epidemic respiratory disease due to influenza viruses. These reports were received from the following: Dr. N. J. Fiumara, Director, Division of Communicable Diseases, Massachusetts Department of Health; Dr. R. M. Albrecht, Director, Bureau of Epidemiology and Communicable Disease Control, New York State Department of Health; Dr. Winslow Bashe, Chief, Division of Communicable Diseases, Ohio Department of Health; Dr. W. J. Murphy, Director, Epidemiology Service, Georgia Department of Health; and Dr. Henry Renteln, Influenza Surveillance Unit, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, California State Department of Public Health.

III. Current Analysis of Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality

Examination of Figure I, Weekly Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths, as reported from 108 cities in the United States up to the week ending February 4, 1961, reveals that there has been a moderate amount of random variation in the numbers of influenza and pneumonia deaths reported during the past several weeks. These weekly reports average to a level slightly above the expected level of normal incidence, but well below the epidemic threshold. There has been no significant excess mortality due to influenza and pneumonia thus far this season.

IV. International Notes

The Ministry of Health, London, reported in the Weekly Influenza Statement for England and Wales, 1960-61, No. 5, week ending 28 January 1961, that influenza continues to be prevalent in parts of the Midlands and North West, and in the West Riding of Yorkshire. A total of 699 influenza deaths were reported for the week ending January 28, 1961, compared to 43 deaths in the same week one year ago, and an increase of 95 per cent over the number reported during the preceding week. The following age breakdown was reported:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
<1	2
1-4	2
5-14	2
15-24	3
25-34	7
35-44	17
45-54	36
55-64	116
65-74	208
74 & over	306
all ages	699

Ninty per cent of the influenza deaths were in persons aged 55 and over.

Dr. Edward O'Rourke, Epidemiological Consultant, Division of Foreign Quarantine, USPHS, London, reported that there have been 25 isolations of influenza viruses, most of them confirmed as type A₂. These have been isolated from laboratories in Birmingham, Manchester, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Sheffield, London, Leeds, and Preston. There have been no reports of influenza on the European continent.

Preliminary reports from the National Institute of Public Health, Tokyo, Japan, and the World Health Organization indicate that the epidemic of influenza now prevalent in the metropolitan Tokyo area is due to influenza type B. It has been estimated that from 5,000 to 6,000 individuals have become infected. Of 2,800 schools, 100 are completely closed. The peak of the epidemic is anticipated to occur in mid-February.

The Surgeon General of the Air Force has reported that there has been no influenza among members of the United States Armed Forces or their dependents stationed in Japan.

Dr. Delmar Ruthig, Director of Medical Services, American Samoa, has reported that an outbreak characteristic of influenza commenced on Tutuila Island about January 9, with morbidity rates on the order of 10-20 per cent. The number of patients with respiratory infections seen in the out-patient department of the Pago Hospital reached a maximum on January 18 and has subsided since that time. The epidemic has also involved the Island of Manua, and is rumored to have spread to the Fiji Islands and Western Samoa. Specimens are being obtained for diagnostic studies.

(This report was prepared in the Surveillance Section, Communicable Disease Center, by Theodore C. Eickhoff, M. D., Chief, Influenza Surveillance Unit, with the assistance of the Statistics Section, Robert E. Serfling, Ph.D., Chief.)

Figure 1 WEEKLY PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA DEATHS

