



Eye on Influenza

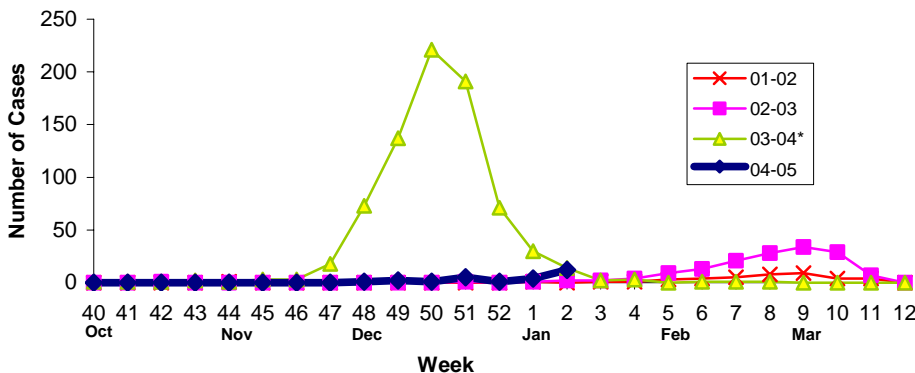
January 21, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 12

Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 01/15/05 (CDC Disease Week 2).

- Flu activity appears to be increasing in OC and in California.
- It's not too late to vaccinate! As long as flu activity is present in our community, high-risk patients, their caregivers and household contacts should be offered flu vaccine. Flu vaccine is available for purchase by health care providers or can be administered directly to patients through Public Health by calling 1-800-564-8448.
- Be prepared! Prevent transmission of influenza and other respiratory infections in your facility or office: Post visual alerts; provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal; provide adequate supplies for hand hygiene (hand-washing or alcohol-based hand rub). For more information, see the CDC Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/pdf/resphygiene.pdf>).

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



Orange County*

- OC had a dramatic increase in flu detections (12) reported last week: 4 flu A and 8 flu B. To date this season, we have received 26 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (9 flu A, 16, flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified).
- 25% of respiratory specimens submitted by sentinel providers have been positive for influenza.

***Note:** The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases occurring in OC as not all labs participate, the surveillance programs are not population based, and testing may be influenced by many factors such as public interest. However, the trends in influenza activity are likely to be reflected accurately.

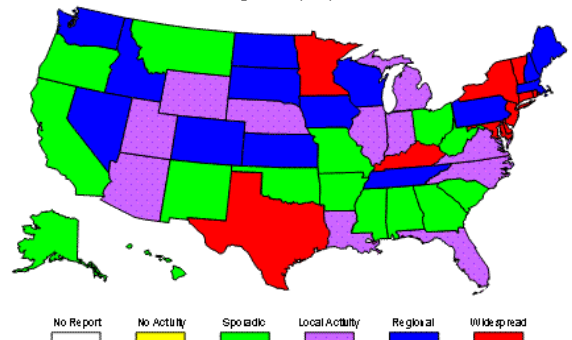
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity continues to be sporadic, but lab detections are increasing.
- In the U.S., influenza-like illnesses are above the national baseline and pneumonia and influenza deaths are above the epidemic threshold. Ten states and New York City reported widespread activity, 14 states regional, 11 states local, and 15 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico sporadic.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending January 15, 2005 - Week 2



Additional Information:

General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>
 OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm
 California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm
 USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.