



Eye on Influenza

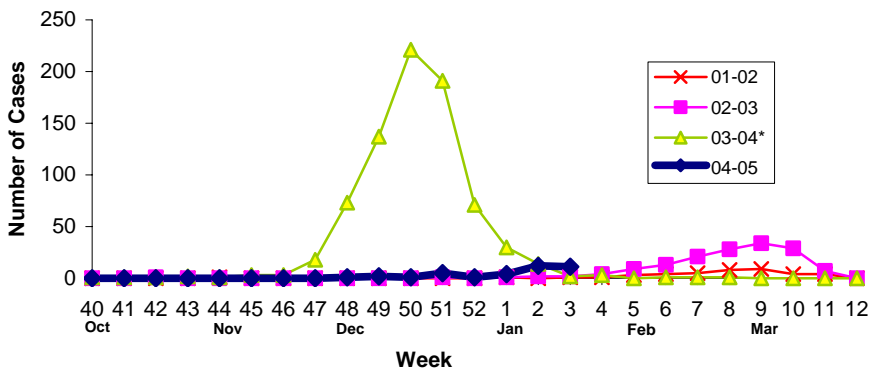
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This report includes information through 01/22/05 (CDC Disease Week 3).

- It does not appear that the flu season has peaked yet this year. All California residents (>6 months of age) are eligible for vaccination. CDC released late season guidelines for vaccination today: see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/pdf/flu vaccine-late season guidance.pdf>.
- Updated CDC recommendations for the prevention and control of flu in health care settings are at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/pdf/flu-infectioncontrol-hcfacilities.pdf>. This document includes links to '04-'05 guidelines for diagnostic testing, antiviral use and vaccination.
- Since mid-December, 10 human cases of avian influenza with 9 deaths have been reported in Vietnam. With the Lunar New Year approaching, increased travel to and from Asia may occur. Consider avian influenza in returned travelers from southeast Asia with respiratory symptoms. Contact OC Epidemiology for more info at 714-834-8180.

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



Orange County*

- OC reported 11 cases of influenza last week: 1 flu A and 10 flu B.
- To date this season, we have received 37 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (10 flu A, 26, flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Please report weekly by Mondays! Thanks!

*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.
- 7 severe pediatric (ICU) cases of influenza with at least one death have been lab confirmed and reported to the state (4 flu A and 3 flu B).
- A new strain of flu A was identified in and named after our state: A/California/7/2004 (H3N2). 5% of the H3N2 strains characterized by the CDC have been A/California (95% have been similar to the A/Fujian component in this season's vaccine).

Additional Information:

General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

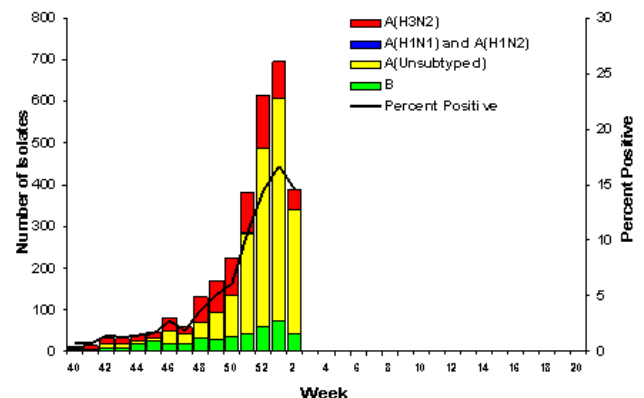
OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dc/dc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories Summary, 2004-05



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.