



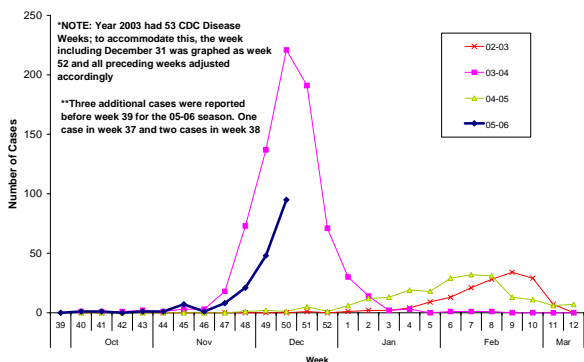
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS! This report includes information through 12/17/05 (CDC Disease Week 50).

Influenza reports in Orange County continue to increase. As your patients return from vacation or visiting families and friends, be sure to ask those presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms about their recent travel history to screen for possible avian influenza.

- **Oseltamivir is now FDA-approved for prophylaxis of seasonal influenza in children as young as 1 year of age.** For details, see <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2005/NEW01285.html>. For guidelines on the use of antivirals for treatment or prevention of seasonal influenza, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/0506antiviralguid.htm>.
- **Avian influenza H5N1 & oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) resistance:** In the latest edition (12/22/05) of the New England Journal of Medicine (<http://content.nejm.org/>), there is a report (p. 2667) of two patients who died from avian influenza in Vietnam and were found to have virus highly resistant to oseltamivir. Two other articles (p. 2633 and 2636) further discuss resistance and concerns about stockpiling. Some of the conclusions: 1) Treatment of H5N1 infections may require higher doses of oseltamivir for longer durations and additional antiviral agents. 2) Personal stockpiling of oseltamivir is likely to promote resistance, thereby limiting this drug's usefulness during an outbreak. Orange County Public Health strongly discourages healthcare providers from prescribing oseltamivir or other antivirals for personal stockpiling purposes. For more information, see <http://www.ochalthinfo.com/epi/af/NO-stockpile.pdf>.

Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2002-2005*



*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.

Avian Influenza Update

- As of December 23, 2005, 141 human cases of avian influenza H5N1 and 73 deaths have been reported from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, China, and Cambodia since winter 2003.
- The sensitivity of commercial flu antigen tests for detecting H5N1 has not been established. Therefore, patients with fever and respiratory symptoms returning from affected areas in Asia should be reported to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 even if they test negative for flu by rapid antigen detection.

Additional Information:

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

OC: <http://www.ochalthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>

California: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>

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

Orange County*

- To date this season, we have received 219 reports of influenza in OC residents and one flu-associated death. 126 (57.5%) were children. 207 (95%) cases were influenza A; 100% of 33 isolates subtyped were A/H3N2. Two cases have been confirmed as influenza B. We have received reports of 7 OC children with severe influenza necessitating intensive care (PICU) admissions.

California and USA

- During the week ending 12/17/05, influenza activity continued to increase, mostly in the southwestern U.S. One state reported widespread influenza activity; five states including California reported regional influenza activity; two states reported local influenza activity; 33 states, New York City and DC reported sporadic influenza activity.



If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Pamela Roa Hipp or Sandra Nutter at (714) 834-8180.

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