



Eye on Influenza

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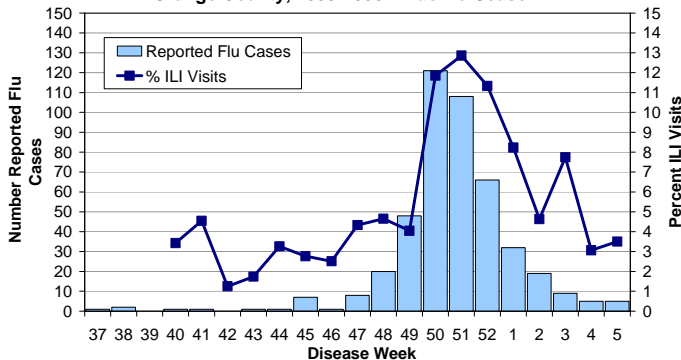
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 2/10/06.

Influenza activity in Orange County continues to decrease. We continue to monitor activity to detect possible late resurgences due to a different strain.

- **Avian Influenza:** The FDA recently approved a new test for diagnosing avian influenza A/H5 (Asian lineage). This test utilizes reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) methods. Testing for influenza A H5 is available from OC Public Health and should be considered on patients with fever and respiratory symptoms and a history of travel to an H5N1 affected area. Please contact OC Public Health at (714)834-8180 to report the suspect case and arrange for testing if indicated.
- **New Recommendations on Influenza Vaccination of Health-Care Personnel:** The Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released a new report summarizing recommendations for health-care professionals in a variety of settings. The recommendations are targeted at health-care facility administrators, infection-control professionals, and occupational health professionals. The full report can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr55e209.pdf>.
- **Influenza Vaccine Facts:** About 86 million doses have been produced this season, compared to 61 million doses last year. This is nearly equal to the maximum number of influenza vaccine doses ever distributed in the U.S. within a single season. Vaccine is still available from FFF Enterprise, Inc (1-800-843-7477 x1359), Medimmune (301-398-4384) or sanofi pasteur (1-800-822-2463).

Reported Influenza Cases by Type & Percent of Visits Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)
Orange County, 2005-2006 Influenza Season



Orange County*

- To date this season, we have received 457 reports of influenza in OC residents and three flu-associated deaths. 427 (93%) cases were influenza A; 100% of 95 A isolates subtyped were A/H3N2. Six cases have been confirmed as influenza B, two of which have been identified as B/Victoria-like lineage. This B strain is not currently covered by the '05-'06 northern hemisphere vaccine.

*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

- Avian influenza (H5N1) has been identified in domestic birds in northern Nigeria, marking the further geographical spread of the virus.
- As of February 9, 2006, 166 human cases of avian influenza H5N1 and 88 deaths have been reported from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iraq, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam since winter 2003. H5N1 infected birds have also been detected in Croatia, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nigeria Romania, Russia, and Ukraine. For an up-to-date list of areas affected visit:

<http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.

Additional Information:

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

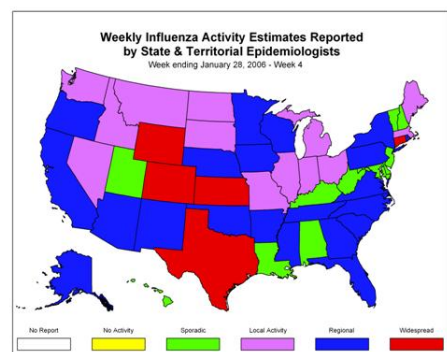
OC: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>

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

USA: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

California and USA: Week ending January 28th

- Influenza activity continued at approximately the same level with 5 states (mainly Midwest) reporting widespread influenza, 21 states (including CA) and NYC reporting regional activity, 13 states local, and 11 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico sporadic influenza activity.



If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Pamela Roa Hipp or Sandra Nutter at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.