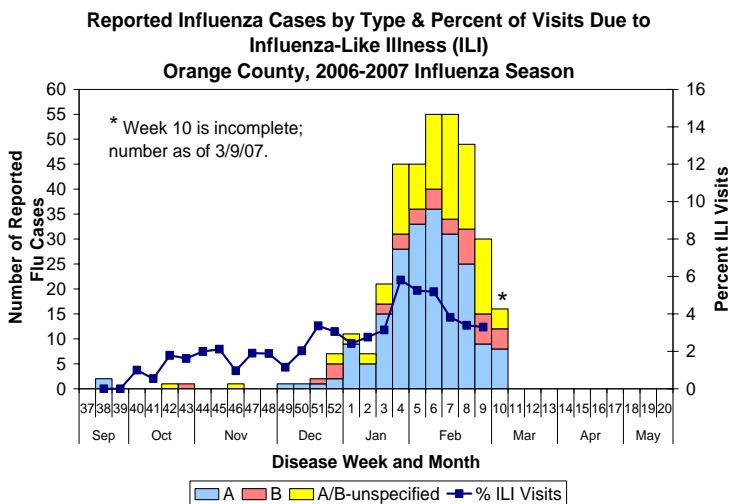




Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

## Influenza activity continues to decrease in Orange County. After this issue, publication frequency of the Eye on Influenza newsletter will decrease to every other week.

- **CDC reports flu-shot coverage children with asthma was low (29%)** during the 2004-05 influenza season. This report is the first national estimate of vaccination coverage in children with current asthma. Annual flu vaccination has been recommended for children with asthma since 1964. These findings indicate that influenza vaccination coverage among children with asthma is inadequate and that opportunities for vaccination during health-care provider visits likely are being missed. See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5609a2.htm> for more information.
- **It is not too late to vaccinate against seasonal influenza. Free flu shots are available** for adults of all ages and children 6 months of age and older through programs sponsored by OC Health Care Agency. For more info, call the Health Referral Line at 800-564-8448 or visit [www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com).
- **Very low doses of an inactivated H5N1 vaccine using adjuvant may provide cross-protection against more than one H5N1 strain**, according to findings released by GlaxoSmithKline. Further trials are needed to confirm the findings. Vaccines that are effective against more than one strain could strengthen the case for building pre-pandemic vaccine stockpiles. For more information, see <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar0607vaccine.html>.
- **Review article, "1918 Influenza Pandemic: Insights for the 21st Century"**, addresses questions regarding the pandemic virus origin, unusual epidemiologic features, and the causes and demographic patterns of fatality. See *J Infect Dis* 2007;195:1018-1028.
- **First human H5N1 death in Lao People's Democratic Republic confirmed.** See [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007\\_03\\_08/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007_03_08/en/index.html).



### Orange County\*\*

- Since the last newsletter, there have been 16 new influenza cases (8 A, 4 B & 4 A/B unspecified).
- Of the 354 total reported cases to date: 58% were A, 10% B, and 32% A/B-unspecified.
- Of the 105 subtyped flu A specimens, 60% were H1 and 40% were H3.
- To date, a total of 8 severe pediatric influenza (all flu A) cases have been reported, including 2 deaths.

\*\*Note: The number of reported 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

- 277 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (6), China (23), Djibouti (1), Egypt (23), Indonesia (81), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (1), Nigeria (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (93), and have resulted in 168 (61%) deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe. For a list of H5N1-affected countries, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.



#### Recommended Resources

- General:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>  
**OC:** <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>;  
**CDC:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>;  
**HHS:** <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>;  
**CA:** <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dccdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>

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