



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

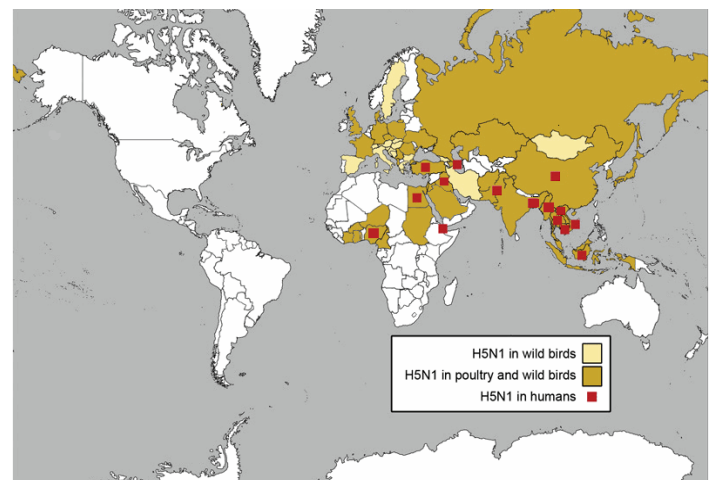
Although official influenza season has ended, influenza viruses may still be circulating. Surveillance sites: Please continue to report influenza-like illnesses and flu cases to OC Epidemiology.

- **Home Health Care During an Influenza Pandemic: Issues and Resources.** This HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) report identifies home health care as a critical component in providing care during a pandemic, explores key issues and challenges, and offers resources to planners. The report summarized findings of an expert panel meeting on July 12 & 13, 2007, which included representatives from home health care, emergency and disaster planning, key federal and state agencies, and professional organizations. Issues and strategies addressed in the report include: collaboration with community partners; exploring the use of technology to monitor patients; legal and ethical considerations of providing care under emergency conditions; and workforce issues, including training. See <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/healthcare/homehealth.html>.
- **Checklist of key legal issues for healthcare providers during an influenza pandemic.** Co-sponsored by the American Health Lawyers Association, the CDC, and the Office of Inspector General of HHS, this document discusses legal issues that may arise in the event of a pandemic or large-scale disaster such as consent to treatment, altered standards of care and avoiding malpractice liability, a health care provider's relationship with the emergency management system and public health, and the privacy and security of protected health information. See <http://www.healthlawyers.org/panfluchecklist>.
- **Indiana study reveals county-level pandemic planning problems.** Interviews of public health, emergency preparedness, and hospital officials in 11 counties found misperceptions about the threat of a pandemic; vagueness regarding the roles and responsibilities of each group and a mismatch between political and healthcare market boundaries; rivalry between hospital systems that impaired coordination; and unrealistic expectations for outside assistance. To read more, visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jul0908counties.html>.
- **Effectiveness of Hong Kong's H5 poultry vaccine waning.** A Hong Kong microbiology expert reports that the vaccine, based on the Fujian strain of avian influenza, has lost effectiveness over the past seven years as the virus changes; tests on birds in 2005 suggested that the vaccine generated only a quarter of the antibody response when compared to 2001 test results. In June, animal health workers detected H5 virus in poultry feces at several market stalls. As a result, officials banned poultry from overnight stays in the market and have proposed a total ban on live poultry in Hong Kong markets. See <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/jul1008avian-br.html>.

Avian Influenza Update (as of Jun. 19th)

- 385 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Bangladesh (1), Cambodia (7), China (30), Djibouti (1), Egypt (50), Indonesia (135), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Myanmar (1), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (3), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (106), and have resulted in 243 (63%) deaths. Infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Report any suspect avian influenza cases to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.

Nations with Confirmed H5N1 Avian Influenza Cases (as of July, 2008)



Recommended Resources

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

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

