

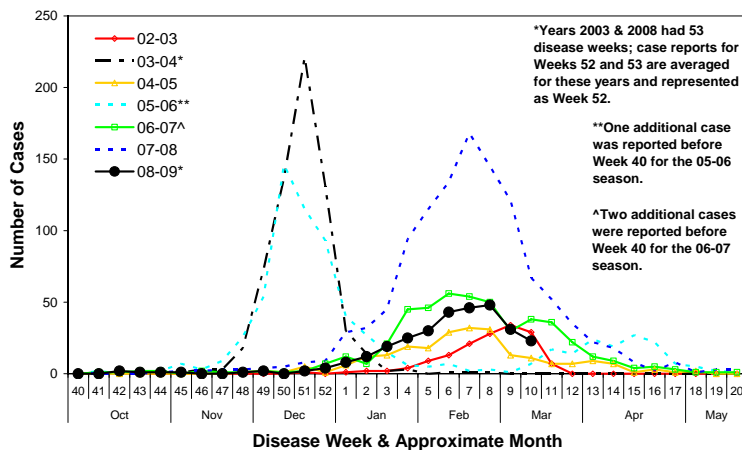


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**Influenza activity continues throughout the U.S. It's not too late to vaccinate! Free flu vaccine for eligible groups is still available:** [www.ochealthinfo.com/Public/flu/index.htm](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/Public/flu/index.htm).

- **Flu shot results in fewer medical encounters for respiratory illness than nasal spray vaccine (FluMist®) in annually immunized healthy young adults.** A study of US military personnel over three influenza seasons showed that in highly immunized, healthy adults (age 17-49 years), injected trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV) was more effective at preventing medical visits for pneumonia and influenza than live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV). In adults that had not been vaccinated in previous seasons, the efficacy of LAIV was more robust and comparable to TIV, similar to what has previously been seen in studies in young children who in general have limited previous influenza vaccine exposure. Overall, those vaccinated with either type of flu vaccine had fewer medical visits for respiratory illness than those not vaccinated. See: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/2009.265>. Results from this study may not be generalizable to other adults in the population who are not immunized annually.
- **Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®)-resistant H1N1 flu viruses cause illnesses similar to those caused by susceptible viruses.** Recent studies suggest that resistant viruses do not have reduced pathogenicity, transmission, or virulence as once assumed. Several items in the most recent issue of *JAMA* describe these findings for the 2007-2008 season (<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/2009.294>), in a nosocomial outbreak in the Netherlands (<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/2009.297>), and through an editorial (<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/2009.324>). 99% of circulating H1N1 viruses in the US this season are resistant to oseltamivir, but remain sensitive to zanamivir (Relenza®). For guidelines on antiviral use for 2008-09, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/>.
- **HHS releases interim guidance on cleaning transit vehicles and facilities during a pandemic:** [http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/transit\\_guidance.html](http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/transit_guidance.html).
- **Federal spending bill includes \$700 million in pandemic preparedness funds** for the rest of fiscal year 2009 (through 9/30). None of these pandemic funds will go to state or local public health agencies. See: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/biz-plan/news/mar1209bill-jw.html>.

Reported Influenza Cases by Week and Season, Orange County, 2002-2009



### Orange County\*\*, California, and U.S. to date

- 310 influenza reports have been received in OC: 63% flu A (of which 44% were H1, 11% H3, 45% not subtyped), 12% flu B, and 25% flu A/B unspecified. OC has reported 3 cases of severe pediatric influenza (PICU admit); all were flu A/H1N1.
- Overall flu activity remains high in the US. CA remains at regional influenza activity.
- Circulating A/H1 and H3 strains appear to be matching this season's vaccine, but 76% of the B strains characterized are of the Victoria lineage, which is not in the vaccine.

**\*\*Note:** The number of reported cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases occurring in OC as not all hospitals/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

Eight new human H5N1 cases have been reported since the last update: Egypt (5), Vietnam (2), China (1). The cumulative number of cases for 2003-2009 is 411, with 62% mortality. For the latest WHO updates: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/).

**REGISTER NOW! A Pandemic Influenza and Hospital Surge Tabletop Exercise** will be held on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, see <http://healthdisasteroc.org/registration/surgetabletop/index.htm>.

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