



# Eye on Influenza

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

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

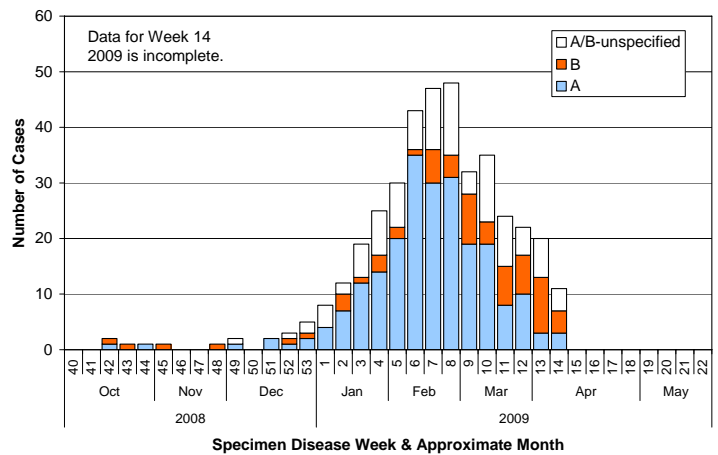
- **Rapid H5N1 flu test approved by FDA.** The new rapid test – AVantage A/H5N1 Flu Test – takes less than 40 minutes to identify the presence of H5N1, compared to 3-4 hours in previously approved tests. The test detects a specific H5N1 protein (NS1) using a patient throat or nasal swab. FDA press release: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2009/NEW01987.html>.
- **Disinfection methods and survival conditions for H5N1 explored.** Scientists in Pakistan examined the effects of a variety of physical and chemical conditions on local H5N1 virus. The virus was killed after 5 minutes by soap at 0.1% dilution, detergent at 0.2% dilution, and alkali (caustic soda) at 0.3% dilution; by commercially available disinfectants when used as recommended; and after 30 minutes at 56°C (132.8°F). The virus was not killed by one hour of UV light, and survived for more than 100 days when at 4°C (39.2°F). Abstract is at <http://www.virologyj.com/content/6/1/38> and provisional full text is at <http://www.virologyj.com/content/pdf/1743-422x-6-38.pdf>.
- **Low-pathogenic avian influenza detected in Kentucky chickens.** Exposure to flu A/H7N9 has been confirmed through routine testing for chickens at a commercial hatching-egg production farm in Grayson County, Kentucky. The chickens had no increase in symptoms or mortality, but did have a modest decrease in egg production. Twenty-thousand chickens were culled as a precaution. Additional surveillance is being performed in a 6.2-mile (10K) radius around the farm. See: [http://www.oie.int/wahis/reports/en\\_imm\\_0000007979\\_20090406\\_163231.pdf](http://www.oie.int/wahis/reports/en_imm_0000007979_20090406_163231.pdf).
- **Federal stimulus money made available for immunization programs, including childhood flu immunization.** \$300 million has been allocated to the Immunization Grant Program (aka Section 317 programs). \$250 million will go to states and selected cities to purchase, produce, and distribute vaccines and operate programs. California will receive \$23 million in this area. \$18 million will be available through grant application ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)) to support innovative approaches to increase the number of children who complete the childhood vaccination schedule, which includes annual influenza vaccination. \$32 million will be used for healthcare provider education, research on the impact and safety of vaccines, and increasing public knowledge of vaccination risks and benefits. For details, see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/about/recovery-act-funds.htm>.

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

- 394 influenza reports have been received in OC: 57% flu A (of which 46% were H1, 9% H3, 45% not subtyped), 17% flu B, and 26% flu A/B unspecified. 36% of reports in the past four weeks have been flu B.
- Overall flu activity continues to decline in the U.S., while the relative proportion of flu B continues to increase. CA flu activity has been downgraded to “regional”.
- 71% of B strains characterized in the U.S. this season were of the Victoria lineage, which is not the flu B component in the 2008-09 vaccine, but will be in the 2009-10 vaccine. Circulating A/H1 and H3 strains appear to match this season and will not be changed for 2009-10.

\*\*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.

Reported Influenza Cases, by Week and Type, Orange County, CA 2008-2009



### Avian Influenza Update

Six new human H5N1 cases have been reported since the last update: Egypt (5) and Vietnam (1). For the latest WHO avian influenza updates: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/).

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).