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Eye on Influenza

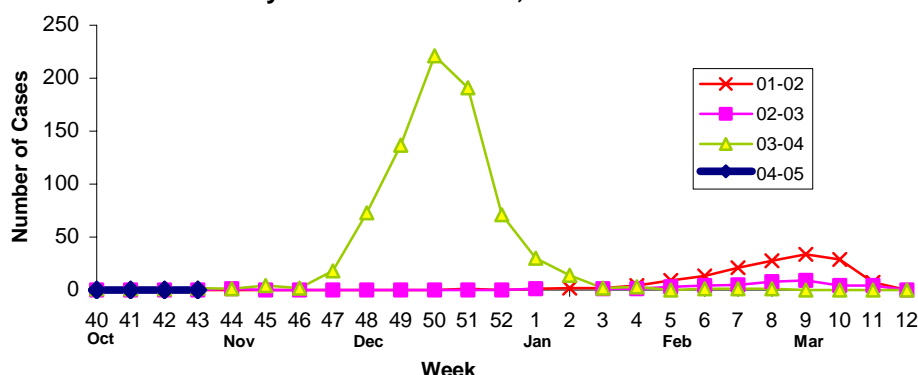
November 5, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 1

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

Welcome to the first edition of *Eye on Influenza*. This weekly flyer will update you on influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Orange County (OC) during the flu season (October – May). This report includes information through 10/30/04 (CDC Disease Week 43).

- No cases of influenza have been reported to OC Public Health for the 2004-2005 season.
- LA and San Diego County each reported 1 case of influenza type B this week.
- Remind patients, family, and friends: Reduce your risk of spreading or contracting flu this season by covering your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, washing your hands often, and staying home when sick.
- Limited amounts of vaccine are available for high-risk persons at specific county-sponsored clinics through November 15. For locations, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/locations.htm>
- For information about the use of antivirals for treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/0405antiviralguide.htm>

**Orange County Weekly Influenza Cases Reported
by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



***Note:** The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases 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.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu is at baseline for this time of year.
- San Francisco and San Mateo Counties have reported outbreaks of flu A and B, respectively, in long-term care facilities.
- Flu in the US is at baseline levels with 17 states and Puerto Rico reporting sporadic activity for week 42.

Additional Information:

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

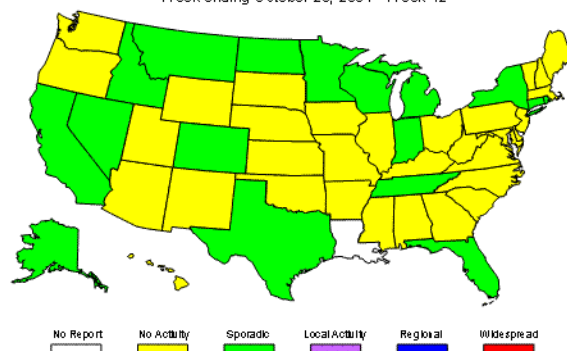
OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending October 23, 2004 - Week 42



If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



Eye on Influenza

November 12, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 2

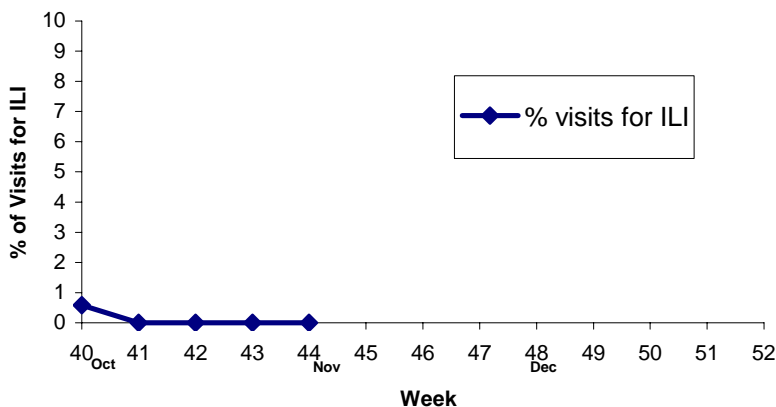
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 11/06/04 (CDC Disease Week 44).

- No cases of influenza have been reported to OC Public Health for the 2004-2005 season.
- Please remember to report all outbreaks, including influenza and respiratory illnesses, to OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.
- A drifted influenza A (H3N2) strain, A/Wellington/1/2004, has been detected in the Southern Hemisphere and in Europe. Although the majority of H3N2 isolates this year were similar to the A/Fujian strain represented in this season's vaccine, an increasing proportion of recent isolates were more closely related to the A/Wellington strain. For this reason, WHO has recommended that an A/Wellington-like virus be included as the H3N2 component of the 2005 Southern Hemisphere vaccine.
- For information about the use of antivirals for treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/0405antiviralguide.htm>.



Orange County Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) -- Sentinel Providers 2004



Orange County Surveillance

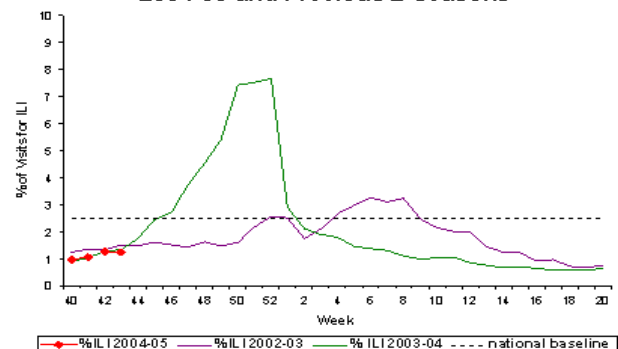
- OC Public Health, in conjunction with the State and CDC, monitors outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) visits reported by sentinel providers throughout the county. The CDC defines ILI as fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ AND a cough and/or sore throat.
- OC ILI visits have been below the national baseline (see below).
- Influenza isolates received from participating laboratories, clinics, hospitals, and sentinel providers are typed and subtyped at the Public Health Laboratory in Santa Ana.

Health care providers and laboratories can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu is at baseline for this time of year. Influenza A was reported from San Diego and Santa Clara and influenza B from Los Angeles in week 44.
- Flu in the US is at baseline levels with 26 states and Puerto Rico reporting sporadic activity, 1 state (TX) reporting local activity, and 1 state (NY) reporting regional activity for week 43.

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers, National Summary 2004-05 and Previous 2 Seasons



The 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons were selected for comparison because they were the most recent A (H3N2) seasons of mild and moderate severity, respectively.

Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochcahealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dccdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180.

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Eye on Influenza

November 19, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 3

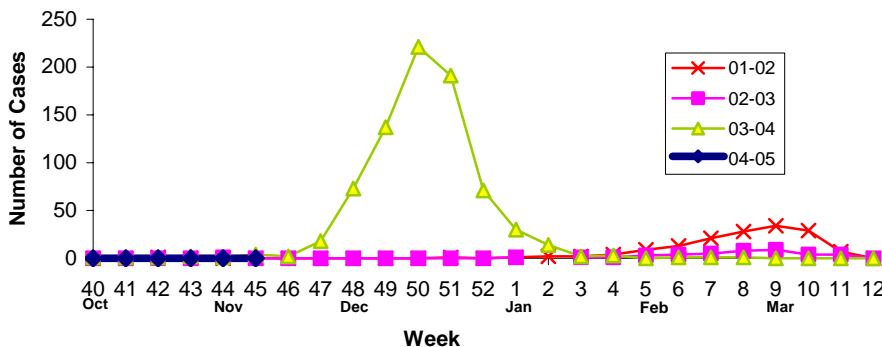
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

California announced an additional 844,000 doses of flu vaccine will be available for purchase by qualified health care providers. For information on how to purchase, please visit <http://www.oc.ca.gov/hca/epi/flu/index.htm> or call OC Public Health at (800) 564-8448.

This report includes information through 11/13/04 (CDC Disease Week 45).

- No cases of influenza have been reported to OC Public Health for the 2004-2005 season.
- Contra Costa, San Francisco, and San Diego Counties each reported 1 case of influenza type A this week; San Diego reported 1 case of influenza B.
- Influenza is expected to arrive in Orange County soon. Please help us identify the presence of influenza in our county by keeping a high index of suspicion for influenza and sending appropriate testing (DFA, rapid tests, and/or viral culture) on your patients with flu-like symptoms.
- Prevent transmission of influenza and other respiratory infections in your facility or office: Post visual alerts; provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal; provide adequate supplies for hand hygiene (hand-washing or alcohol-based hand rub). For more information, see the CDC Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/pdf/resphygiene.pdf>).

**Orange County Weekly Influenza Cases Reported
by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



*Note: The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases 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.

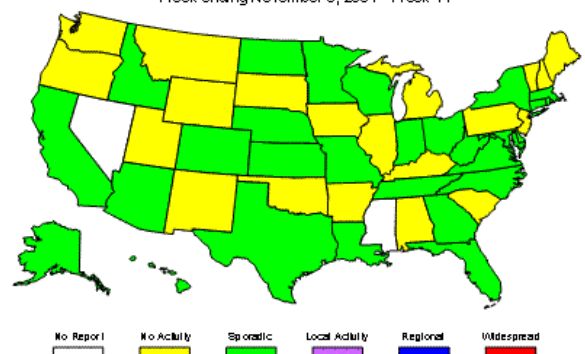
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Flu in CA and in the US is at baseline levels. 28 states and D.C. reported sporadic activity for the week ending 11/06/04.
- Of the influenza isolates received by the CDC, ~75% have been type A (H3N2) and ~25% type B. 3 isolates have been strain-typed as A/Fujian, the H3N2 component represented in this season's vaccine.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending November 6, 2004 - Week 44



Additional Information:

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

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

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdcr/VRD/HTML/FLU/Flutables04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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Eye on Influenza

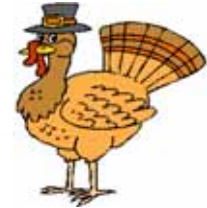
November 24, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 4

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

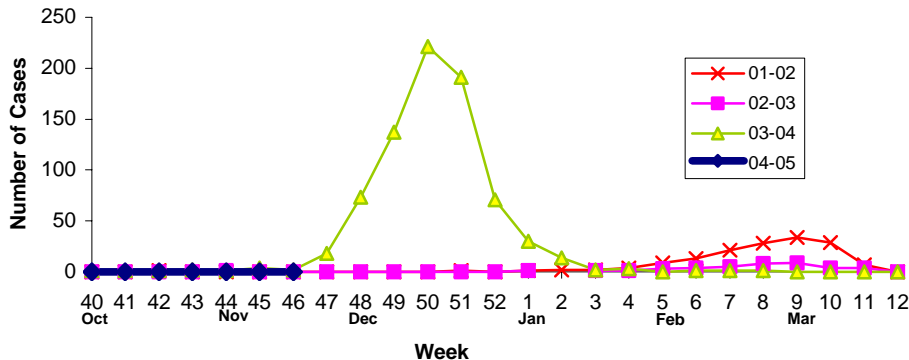
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

This report includes information through 11/20/04 (CDC Disease Week 46).

- No cases of influenza in Orange County residents have been reported to OC Public Health for the 2004-2005 season.
- As the holiday season approaches, remind patients to restrict travel and close contact with others while ill to prevent further spread of disease.
- Additional flu vaccine clinics will be offered in selected senior centers and hospitals between 11/30 and 12/9. For details, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/locations.htm>. To purchase vaccine for your patients, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm> or call OC Public Health at (800) 564-8448.



**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



*Note: The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases 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.

Orange County

- One case of influenza A was reported in a traveler passing through Orange County (acquired out-of-county).
- Orange County influenza-like illness (ILI) visits remain below the state and national baselines.
- Sentinel physicians: Please report weekly even in weeks when no patients with ILI are seen.

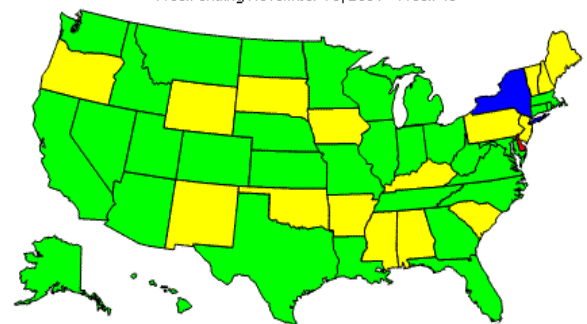
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Flu in CA and in the US is at baseline levels for this time of year. Delaware reported widespread activity, New York reported regional activity, and 32 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity for the week ending 11/13/04.
- One flu A detection was reported from San Francisco County this week.
- All isolates strain-typed by the CDC to date this season have been strains represented in the 2004-05 influenza vaccine.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending November 13, 2004 - Week 45



Additional Information:

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

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

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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Eye on Influenza

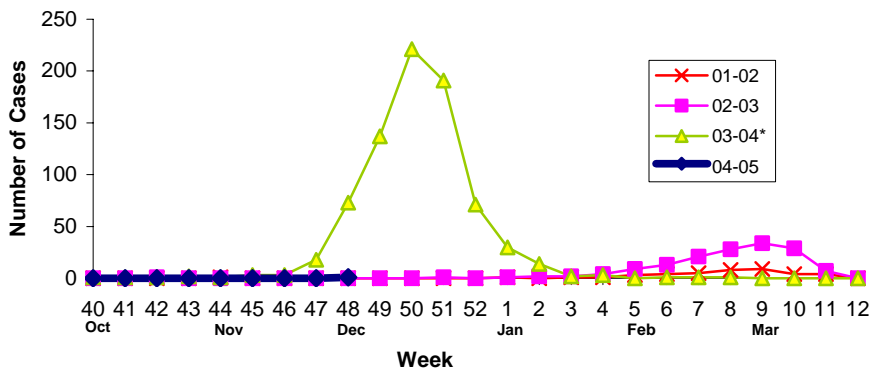
December 2, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 5

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

This report includes information through 11/27/04 (CDC Disease Week 47).

- OC reported its first case of influenza this week (Week 48); an infant with influenza B.
- Diagnostic testing should be considered when an institutional outbreak of influenza is suspected or if test results would influence clinical decision-making. For more information on when to order influenza testing, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/0405testingguide.htm>.
- Additional flu vaccine clinics will be offered in selected senior centers and hospitals. For details, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/locations.htm>. To purchase vaccine for your patients, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm> or call (800) 564-8448.
- Patients who meet the CDC-defined priority groups for flu vaccination this year may also be vaccinated through OC Public Health. Patients may call (800) 564-8448 for more information.

**Orange County Weekly Influenza Cases Reported
by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



*Orange County Surveillance**

- Flu activity is at baseline levels in Orange County.
- Rapid test kits may be available from the State for sentinel providers assisting us in influenza surveillance. Please call (714) 834-7729 for more information.
- Medical reference manuals may be available as incentives for the sentinel providers who report most consistently.

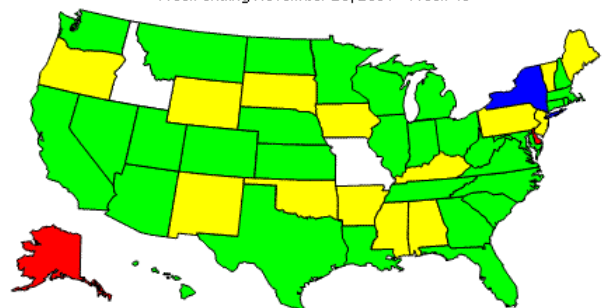
**Note:* The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases in OC as not all labs participate, the surveillance programs are not population based, and testing may be influenced by many factors such as public interest.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu is at baseline for this time of year. Influenza A was reported from Alameda, Sacramento, San Diego, and Solano Counties, and flu B from San Diego.
- Flu in the US is at baseline levels with 31 states and DC reporting sporadic activity, New York reporting regional activity, and Alaska and Delaware reporting widespread activity for the week ending 11/20.

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending November 20, 2004 - Week 46



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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Eye on Influenza

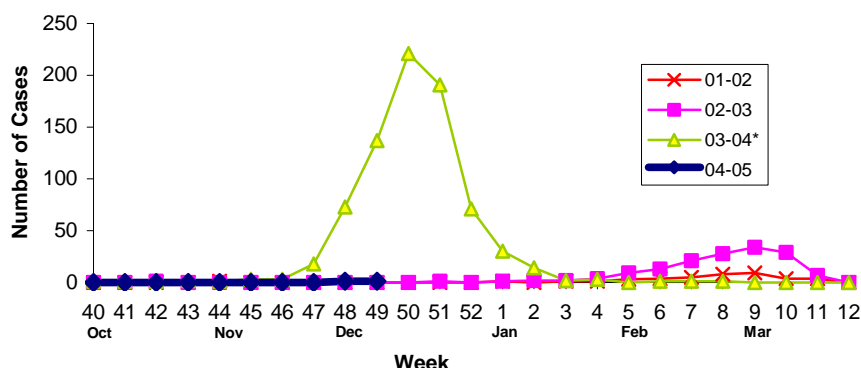
December 9, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 6

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

This report includes information through 12/04/04 (CDC Disease Week 48).

- OC reported its first case of influenza A in an OC resident this week (Week 49).
- Flu A was reported from Santa Clara County and flu B from LA and Santa Clara Counties.
- Additional flu vaccine clinics will be offered in selected senior centers through December 16. For details, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/locations.htm>. To purchase vaccine for your patients, call (800) 564-8448. Patients may also arrange for flu vaccination by OC Public Health by calling (800) 564-8448.
- The CDC has developed an Influenza Prevention Toolkit with printable resources, posters, and flyers. To download, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/resources.htm>. Be sure to click on "More Tools" at the bottom right of the web page for a list of available resources to download.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



*Note: The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases 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.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu is sporadic and at baseline for this time of year. ILI accounted for 2.3% of visits to sentinel physicians.
- Flu in the US is also at baseline levels with Alaska and New York reporting regional activity, four states reporting local activity, and 36 states, DC and Puerto Rico reporting sporadic activity.



Additional Information:

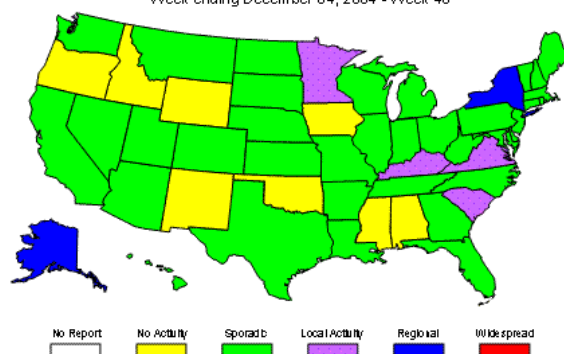
General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdl/vrld/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending December 04, 2004 - Week 48



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Eye on Influenza

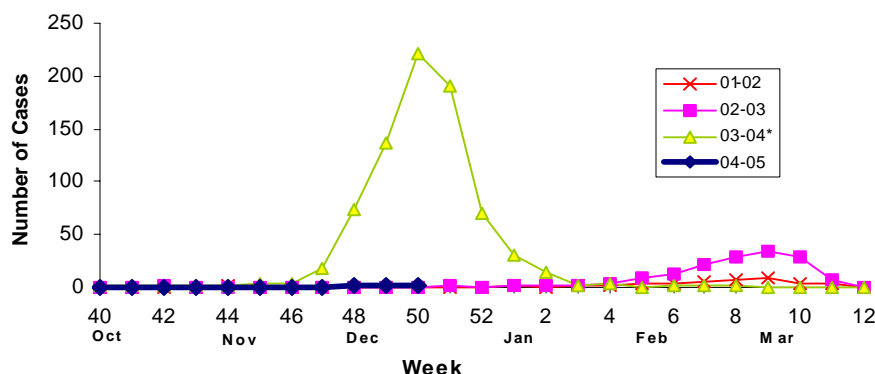
December 18, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 7

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

This report includes information through 12/11/04 (CDC Disease Week 49).
Correction from last week's newsletter: LA County reported a case of influenza B, not influenza A

- OC reported an additional case of influenza A this week (Week 50).
- One pediatric influenza-associated death due to influenza B was reported in California.
- The California State Health Officer has issued an amended order expanding the "high risk" groups to receive influenza vaccine this season to include adults aged 50-64 years of age, household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of any "high risk" individual, and emergency services personnel, including medical, fire, and law enforcement. For the complete list of "high risk" categories and a copy of the amended order, please see: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/amended-flu-order.pdf>.
- The CDC has a new fact sheet for caregivers of infants less than 6 months old. You may access it at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/pdf/infantcare.pdf> or <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/infantcare.htm>.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



***Note:** The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases 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.

Orange County*

- To date, 4 cases of flu (2 A and 2 B) in OC residents have been reported for the 2004-2005 season.
- This week we will be sending out forms for sentinel providers to request their book incentive preferences. Providers who report at least 26 weeks and submit specimens for at least 5 weeks are eligible. Fax your preferences by 1/31/05 to 714-834-8196 or email to mcheung@ochca.com.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu is sporadic. Flu A was reported from San Francisco, Alameda, and San Diego Counties. Flu B was reported from San Joaquin County. The State laboratory has characterized 2 flu isolates; both (A/Fujian and B/Shanghai) are represented in this season's flu vaccine.
- In the US, New York reported widespread activity, 3 states regional, 5 states local, and 38 states, DC and Puerto Rico sporadic.

Additional Information:

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

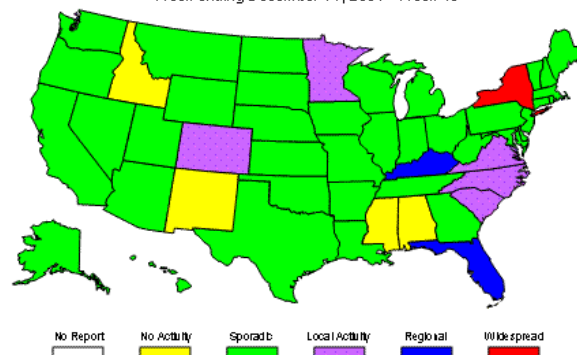
OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dc/dc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending December 11, 2004 - Week 49



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Eye on Influenza

December 22, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 8

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

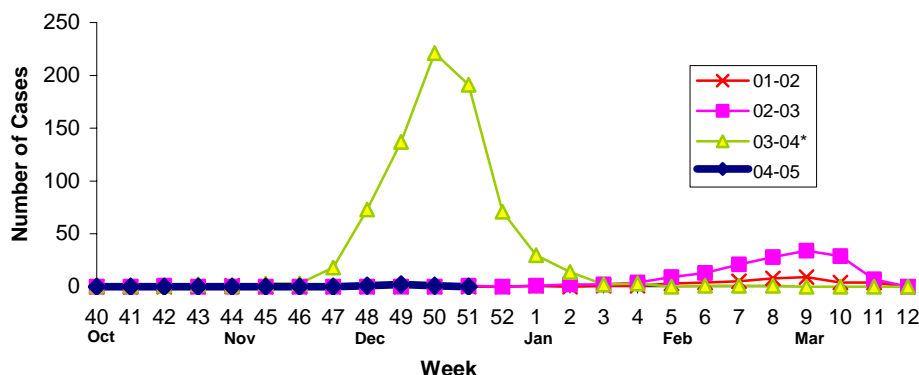


This report includes information through 12/18/04 (CDC Disease Week 50).

- No new cases of influenza were reported in OC this week.
- The CDC has also expanded the “high risk” groups recommended to receive influenza vaccine this season; see <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r041217.htm>. Essentially, the ACIP recommendations for the 2004-05 season (prior to the Chiron announcement) have been resumed.
- Published articles in last week’s MMWR reveal vaccination coverage in the US is suboptimal in all assessed priority groups (see <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5349.pdf>). **It is not too late to vaccinate, and vaccine is available by calling OC Public Health at 1-800-564-8448.**
- Providers may, under certain circumstances, borrow between privately held vaccine stock and Vaccine For Children (VFC) stock. For details, see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/states/letters/smd121404.pdf>.



**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



**Note:* The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases 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.

Orange County*

- To date this season, we have received reports on 2 flu A and 2 flu B detections in OC residents.
- Last year, the influenza season peaked early with the greatest number of cases reported around this time (December 14-22, 2003).
- Sentinel providers: Please remember to send in your Rapid Test Usage Log weekly with your influenza-like illness reports. Thanks!

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity remains sporadic. Influenza B was reported this week from San Diego and Los Angeles Counties.
- An additional severe pediatric (ICU) case of influenza was reported in California.
- To date, all influenza isolates characterized by the CDC or the State have been either A/Fujian or B/Shanghai, corresponding to strains represented in the 2004-5 vaccine.
- RSV appears to be increasing in California.

Additional Information:

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

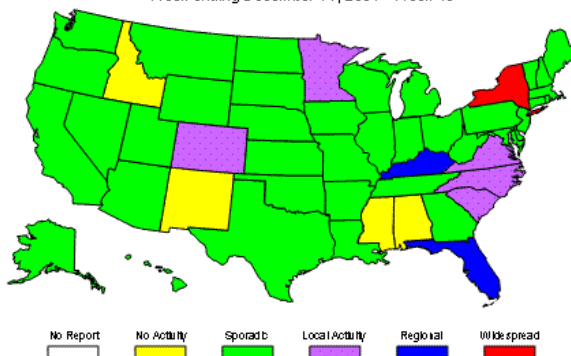
OC: www.ochca.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcde/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending December 11, 2004 - Week 49



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Eye on Influenza

December 29, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 9

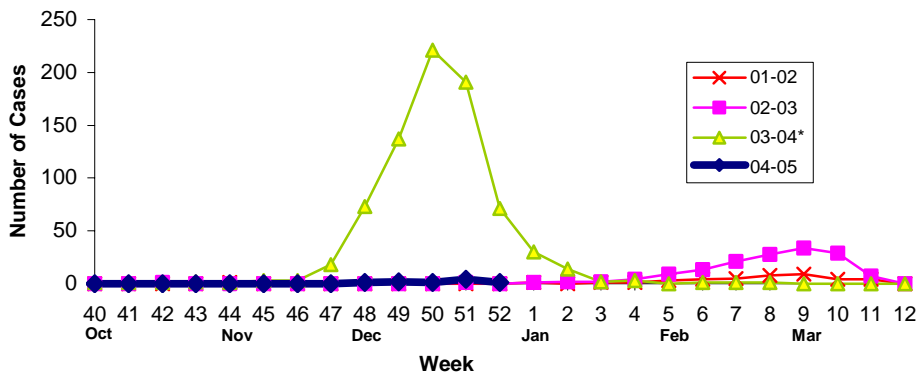
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 12/25/04 (CDC Disease Week 51).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- OC reported 4 cases of influenza (1 flu A, 2 flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified) last week.
- One OC child was hospitalized in intensive care with influenza B this week (week ending 01/01/05).
- All healthcare workers, without valid contraindications such as egg anaphylaxis, with direct patient contact should be vaccinated against influenza. Household contacts and caregivers of ALL high risk individuals should also be vaccinated. **It is not too late to vaccinate, and vaccine is available by calling OC Public Health at 1-800-564-8448.** See <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/index.htm> for info.
- Patients with respiratory symptoms and a history of travel to or immigration from certain areas in Asia in the 10 days prior to symptom onset may need evaluation for avian influenza. Please call OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 for more information.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



**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, trends in influenza activity are likely to be reflected accurately.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

Orange County*

- To date this season, we have received 9 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (3 flu A, 5 flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Please report weekly even in the absence of influenza-like illness (ILI). Also, remember to send in your Rapid Test Usage Log weekly with your ILI reports. Thanks!

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity is sporadic. Flu B was reported from Los Angeles and San Diego Counties, and an unspecified A/B detection was reported from San Diego.
- Flu activity in the US is still low. New York reported widespread activity, 4 states regional, 10 states local, and 34 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico sporadic for week 50. A few of the flu B isolates characterized by the CDC this season are B/Hong Kong, a strain represented in previous season's vaccines but not in '04-05.

Additional Information:

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

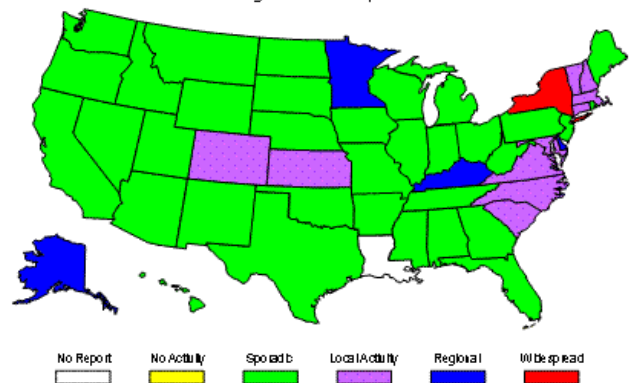
OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcde/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending December 18, 2004 - Week 50



If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180.
To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



Eye on Influenza

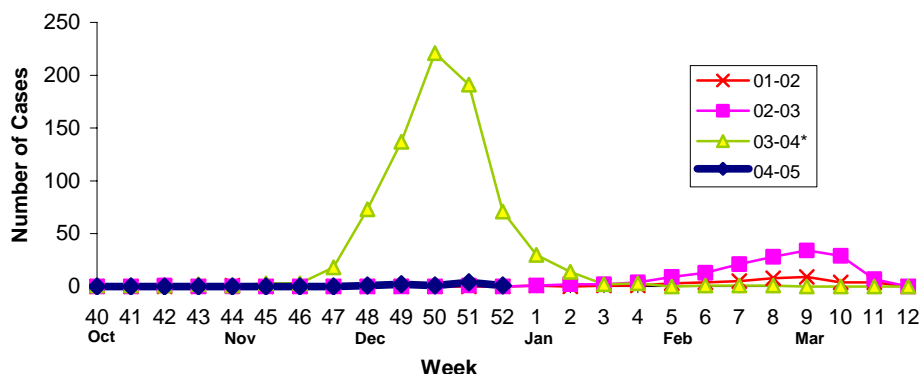
January 7, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 10

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

This report includes information through 1/1/05 (CDC Disease Week 52).

- One case of flu B was reported to OC Public Health during week 52.
- Two additional human cases (with one death) of avian influenza H5N1 have been reported in Vietnam in the past week. These are the first new human cases since September 2004 and coincide with renewed outbreaks in poultry. With the colder weather approaching, additional poultry outbreaks and human cases are expected in Asia. Consider avian influenza infection in your patients with respiratory symptoms and a history of travel to or immigration from certain areas in Asia in the 10 days prior to symptom onset. Please see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm> for more information and call OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 with questions or to report suspect cases.
- It's not too late to vaccinate! Flu vaccine is available for purchase by health care providers and directly for patients through Public Health by calling 1-800-564-8448.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



***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.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

Orange County*

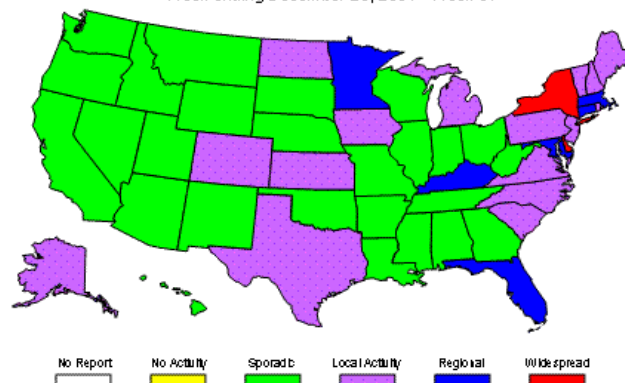
- To date, we have received 10 reports of influenza detections in OC residents for the 2004-2005 season: 3 flu A, 6 flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified.
- Please report any pediatric ICU admissions or deaths associated with flu to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.
- Sentinel providers: Please fax your choices for the medical handbook incentive to 714-834-8196.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity appears to be increasing.
- Nationally, flu activity continues to increase, especially on the East Coast. Delaware and New York reported widespread activity, 6 states reported regional activity, 16 states reported local activity, and 26 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity for week 51 (week ending 12/25/04).
- Influenza-like illness visits to sentinel providers and pneumonia and influenza deaths remained below the national baseline for week 51.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending December 25, 2004 - Week 51



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180.

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Eye on Influenza

January 14, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 11

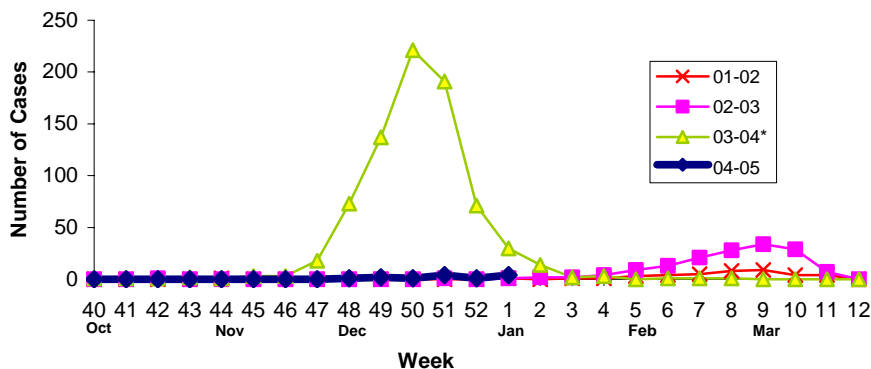
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

California has lifted previous restrictions on flu vaccine and all California residents (>6 months of age) are now eligible for vaccination. To obtain vaccine, call OC Public Health at (800) 564-8448. For additional information, visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm>.

This report includes information through 01/08/05 (CDC Disease Week 1).

- The CDC, AAP, and AAFP have released the Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for 2005 (<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/child-schedule.pdf>). Recommendations for annual influenza vaccination of children remain unchanged from 2004 and include all healthy children aged 6-23 months, children ≥ 6 months with chronic medical conditions or on long-term aspirin therapy, and close contacts of these high risk children and of healthy children aged 0-23 months.
- Additional human cases of avian influenza H5N1 have been confirmed this week. With the Lunar New Year approaching, increased travel to and from Asia may occur. Consider avian influenza in returned travelers with respiratory symptoms and contact us for more info at 714-834-8180.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



Orange County*

- OC reported 4 cases of influenza (1 flu A and 3 flu B) last week.
- To date this season, we have received 13 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (4 flu A, 8 flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified).
- One influenza A specimen has been subtyped as H3N2 by the OC Public Health Laboratory. Further strain typing is pending.

**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.

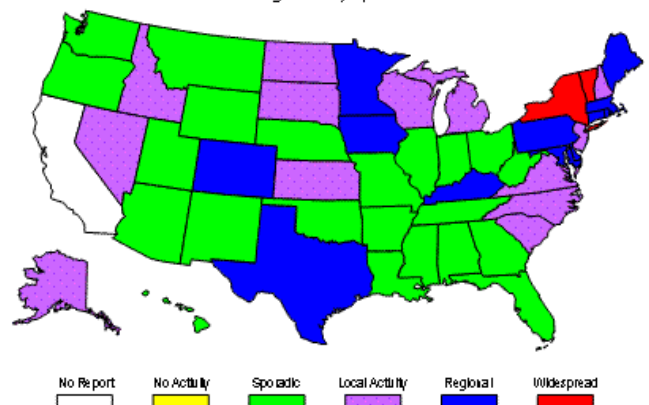
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity continues to be sporadic. Laboratory detections of both influenza A and B are increasing.
- Flu activity in the US continued to increase, mostly in the east. New York and Vermont reported widespread activity, 12 states regional, 13 states and D.C. local, and 22 states sporadic for week 52.

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending January 1, 2005 - Week 52



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



Eye on Influenza

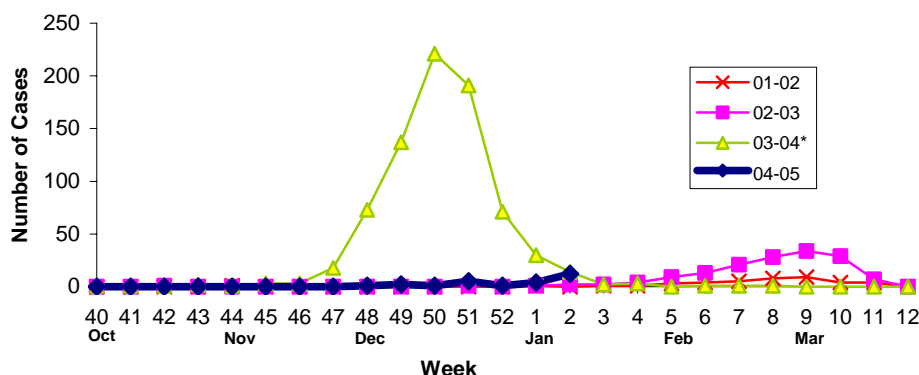
January 21, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 12

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

This report includes information through 01/15/05 (CDC Disease Week 2).

- Flu activity appears to be increasing in OC and in California.
- It's not too late to vaccinate! As long as flu activity is present in our community, high-risk patients, their caregivers and household contacts should be offered flu vaccine. Flu vaccine is available for purchase by health care providers or can be administered directly to patients through Public Health by calling 1-800-564-8448.
- Be prepared! Prevent transmission of influenza and other respiratory infections in your facility or office: Post visual alerts; provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal; provide adequate supplies for hand hygiene (hand-washing or alcohol-based hand rub). For more information, see the CDC Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette in Healthcare Settings (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/pdf/resphgiene.pdf>).

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



Orange County*

- OC had a dramatic increase in flu detections (12) reported last week: 4 flu A and 8 flu B. To date this season, we have received 26 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (9 flu A, 16 flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified).
- 25% of respiratory specimens submitted by sentinel providers have been positive for influenza.

***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.

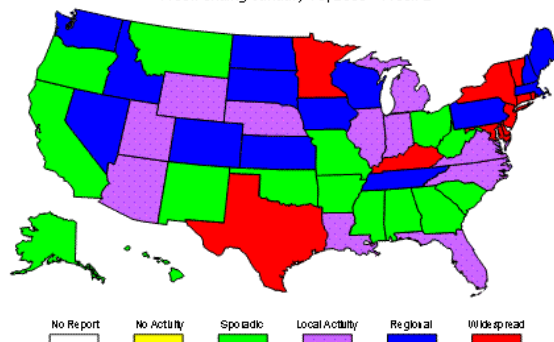
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity continues to be sporadic, but lab detections are increasing.
- In the U.S., influenza-like illnesses are above the national baseline and pneumonia and influenza deaths are above the epidemic threshold. Ten states and New York City reported widespread activity, 14 states regional, 11 states local, and 15 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico sporadic.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending January 15, 2005 - Week 2



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochca.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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Eye on Influenza

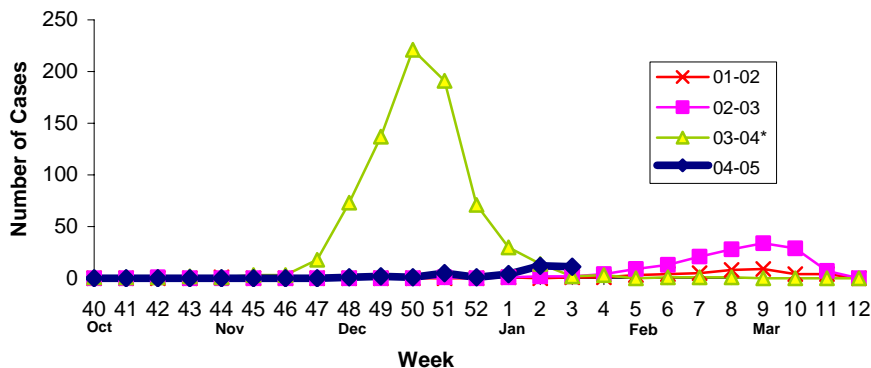
January 27, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 13

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

This report includes information through 01/22/05 (CDC Disease Week 3).

- It does not appear that the flu season has peaked yet this year. All California residents (>6 months of age) are eligible for vaccination. CDC released late season guidelines for vaccination today: see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/pdf/flu vaccine-late season guidance.pdf>.
- Updated CDC recommendations for the prevention and control of flu in health care settings are at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/pdf/flu-infectioncontrol-hcfacilities.pdf>. This document includes links to '04-'05 guidelines for diagnostic testing, antiviral use and vaccination.
- Since mid-December, 10 human cases of avian influenza with 9 deaths have been reported in Vietnam. With the Lunar New Year approaching, increased travel to and from Asia may occur. Consider avian influenza in returned travelers from southeast Asia with respiratory symptoms. Contact OC Epidemiology for more info at 714-834-8180.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



*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.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity continues to be sporadic.
- 7 severe pediatric (ICU) cases of influenza with at least one death have been lab confirmed and reported to the state (4 flu A and 3 flu B).
- A new strain of flu A was identified in and named after our state: A/California/7/2004 (H3N2). 5% of the H3N2 strains characterized by the CDC have been A/California (95% have been similar to the A/Fujian component in this season's vaccine).

Additional Information:

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

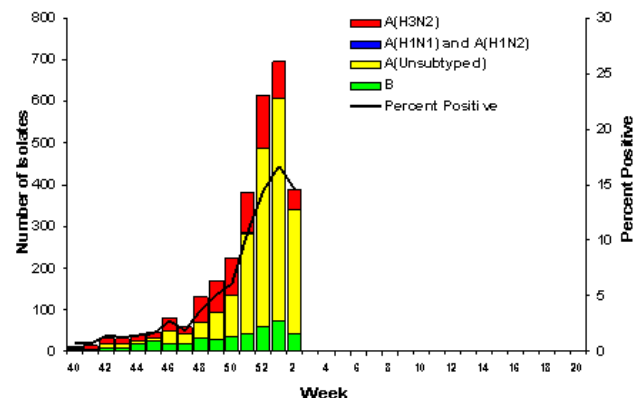
OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dc/dc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories Summary, 2004-05



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To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



Eye on Influenza

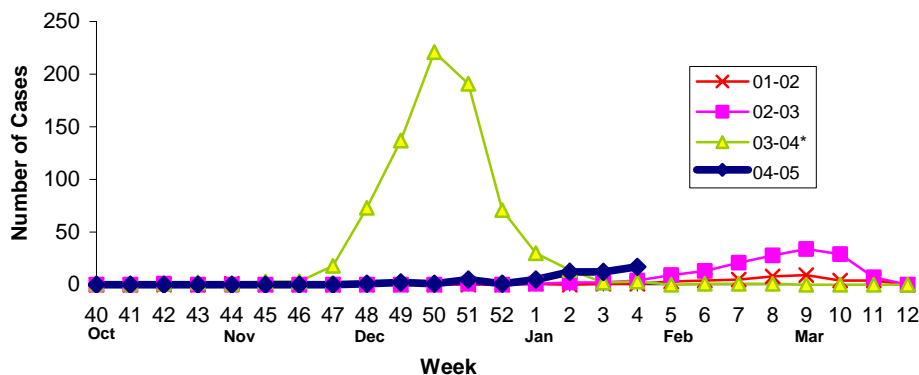
February 4, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 14

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

This report includes information through 01/29/05 (CDC Disease Week 4).

- It's not too late to vaccinate! Flu vaccine doses from the CDC stockpile are available for purchase directly from the manufacturer, with reimbursement for returned unused vaccine. See www.vaccineshoppe.com for more information or the CDC's late season guidelines at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/pdf/flu vaccine-late season guidance.pdf>.
- The first human case of avian influenza in Cambodia was reported last week. Since mid-December, Vietnam has reported 13 human cases of avian flu with 12 deaths. A travel health precaution was issued by the CDC for Vietnam: http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_vietnam_2005.htm (available in English and Vietnamese). Consider avian influenza in travelers returning from Asia with respiratory symptoms and call OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 for more information.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



***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.

Orange County*

- OC reported 17 cases of influenza last week: 3 flu A, 10 flu B and 4 flu A/B unspecified.
- To date this season, we have received 56 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (13 flu A, 38 flu B, and 5 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report weekly by Mondays! Thanks!

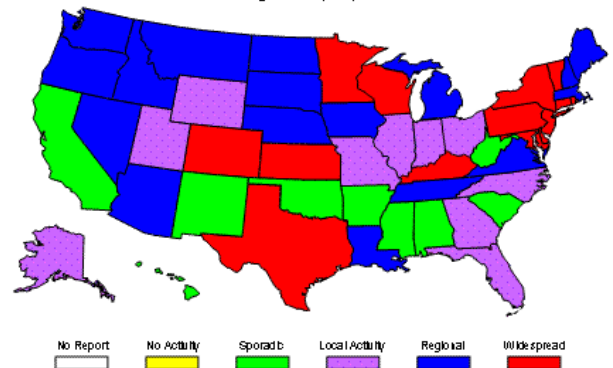
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, influenza activity is sporadic. Influenza and RSV detections continue to increase.
- In the U.S., 14 states and New York City reported widespread activity, 17 states regional, 10 states local, and 9 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico sporadic for the week ending 1/22/05. Influenza-like illness visits to sentinel providers were above the national baseline.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending January 22, 2005 - Week 3



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochcahealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



Eye on Influenza

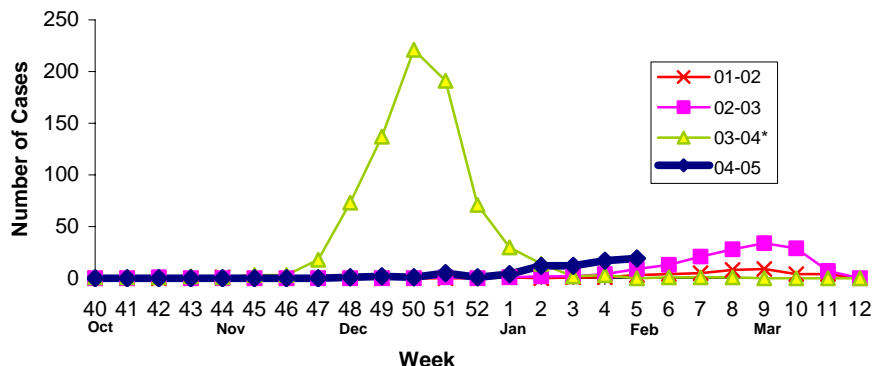
February 11, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 15

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

This report includes information through 02/05/05 (CDC Disease Week 5).

- We have received report of the first death in Orange County this season secondary to laboratory-confirmed influenza. An elderly man passed away in mid-January from complications of pneumonia; viral cultures done by the OC Public Health Laboratory confirmed influenza B.
- Thousands of travelers may be returning to Orange County over the next few weeks after celebrating the Lunar New Year in Asia. Consider avian influenza in travelers with respiratory symptoms returning from Asia, in particular Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia, in the past 10 days. Call OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 for more information and to report a suspect case.
- It's not too late to vaccinate! A recent survey suggests ~43% of adults and ~51% in children in priority groups, and ~43% of health care workers with direct patient contact, have received vaccine this season (as of 12/31/04). For more info: (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/brfss0405season.htm>)

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



Orange County*

- OC reported 19 cases of influenza last week: 7 flu A, 11 flu B and 1 flu A/B unspecified.
- To date this season, we have received 75 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (20 flu A, 49 flu B, and 6 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report weekly by Mondays! Thanks!

**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.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity is sporadic. In the U.S., 27 states reported widespread activity, 16 states and NYC regional, 4 states and D.C. local, and 2 states and Puerto Rico sporadic.
- 28% of the flu A H3N2 strains characterized by the CDC this season have been similar to a new drifted strain, A/California, that is not included in this season's vaccine formulation. WHO has recommended that A/California be included in the 2005-06 vaccine.

Additional Information:

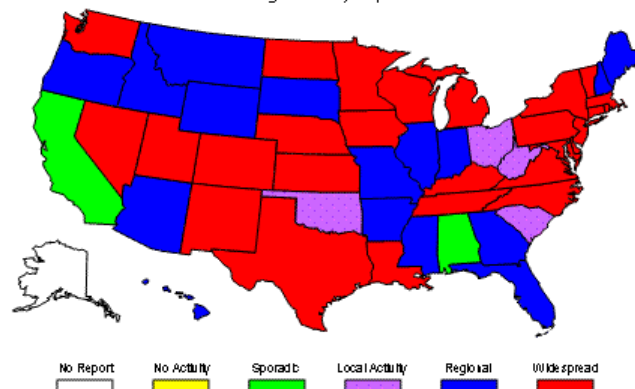
General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

OC: www.ochca.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcde/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending February 05, 2005 - Week 5



If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180.
To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



Eye on Influenza

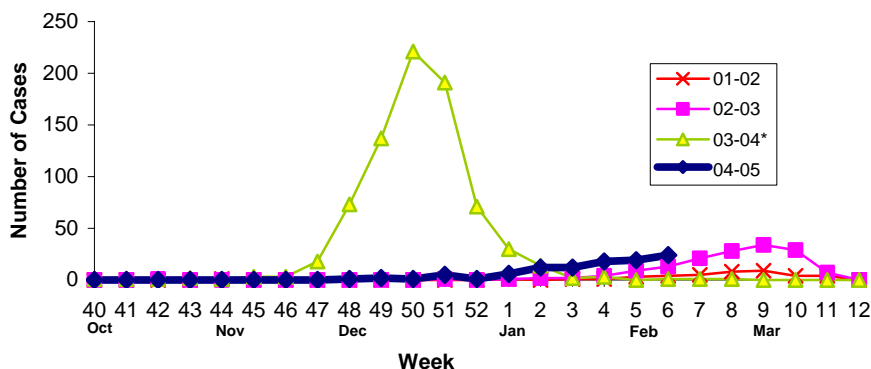
February 18, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 16

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

This report includes information through 02/12/05 (CDC Disease Week 6).

- Medicare beneficiaries with flu-like symptoms or exposed to influenza can get assistance to pay for up to 2 prescriptions for antivirals through the Influenza Treatment Demonstration Project. For more information, see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos/flu/> or e-mail flumeddemo@cms.hhs.gov. The Project does not cover medications for general flu prophylactic use.
- NIH & CDC released a statement in response to a recent Archives of Internal Medicine article which concluded that flu vaccination in the elderly may be less effective in preventing death among the elderly than previously assumed, but did not imply that elderly should not be vaccinated. NIH & CDC continue to support immunization of the elderly: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/statementeldmortality.pdf>

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



Orange County*

- OC reported 24 cases of influenza last week: 6 flu A, 17 flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified.
- To date this season, we have received 101 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (27 flu A, 67 flu B, and 7 flu A/B unspecified).
- 1 flu A was further subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002(H3N2)-like, and 2 flu B were subtyped as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like. These 2 strains are represented in the 2004-05 influenza 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.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity is regional, especially in Northern California. 13 severe pediatric (PICU) influenza cases have been reported.
- Flu activity continues to rise in the US. 29 states reported widespread activity, 19 states and New York City reported regional, and 2 states and DC reported local. No states reported sporadic activity.

Additional Information:

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

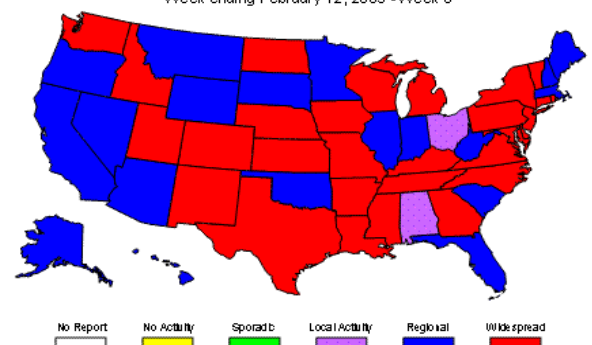
OC: www.ochca.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcde/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending February 12, 2005 - Week 6



If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180.
To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



Eye on Influenza

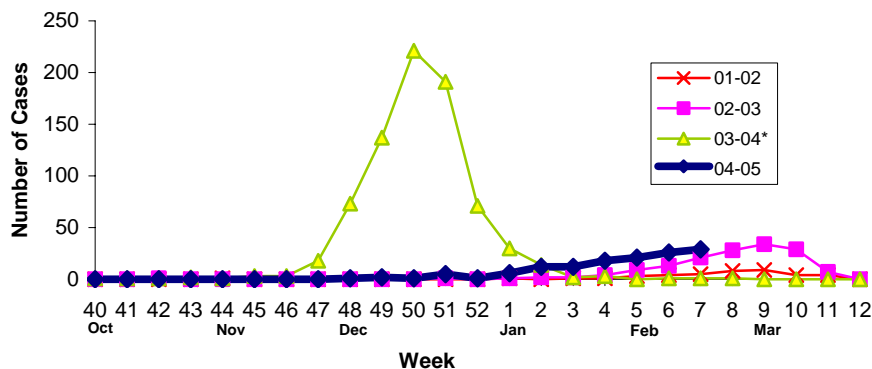
February 25, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 17

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

This report includes information through 02/19/05 (CDC Disease Week 7).

- Both flu A and flu B reports are increasing in OC. We have not yet reached our peak activity!
- It's not too late to vaccinate, as the CDC recommends that influenza vaccination should continue in the United States during the influenza season as long as influenza viruses continue to circulate in this country. For more information, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/0405vaccination.htm>.
- 45% of influenza A (H3N2) isolates typed this season have been similar to A/California, which was not in the 2004-2005 vaccine. Therefore, WHO recommended that A/California/7/2004(H3N2)-like virus be included in the 2005-2006 Northern Hemisphere vaccine (along with A/New Caledonia/20/99(H1N1)-like virus, and B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus).

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



**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.

Orange County*

- OC reported 29 cases of influenza last week: 9 flu A and 20 flu B.
- To date this season, we have received 133 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (37 flu A, 89 flu B, and 7 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report ILI and rapid test kit usage weekly by Mondays! Thanks!

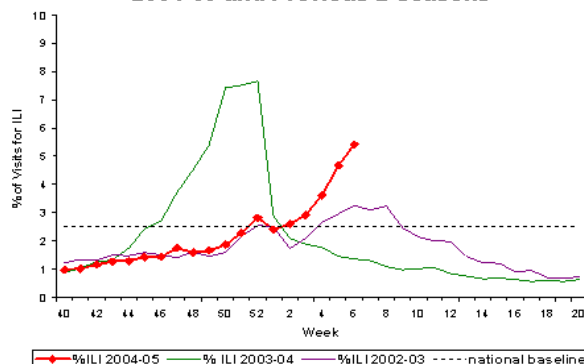
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, influenza activity continues to be regional.
- Nationally, influenza-like illness visits to sentinel providers continued to increase and were well above the national baseline for the week ending 2/12/05.



**Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness
Reported by Sentinel Providers, National Summary
2004-05 and Previous 2 Seasons**



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcde/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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Eye on Influenza

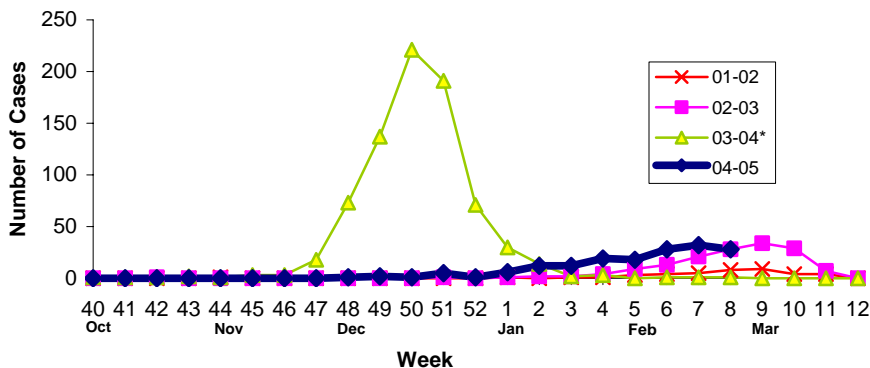
March 4, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 18

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

This report includes information through 02/26/05 (CDC Disease Week 8).

- Both flu A and flu B continue to be reported in OC.
- It's still not too late to vaccinate! The CDC stated that this season's vaccine was a good match for the majority of flu strains circulating the US. This season's vaccine may have reduced effectiveness against A/California viruses, but the vaccine should still provide some protection. For more information about vaccination, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/0405vaccination.htm>
- Previous studies have shown that vaccination of health care workers reduces flu infections and absenteeism, prevents mortality in their patients, and was a financial savings to the sponsoring health institutions. An article in this week's MMWR stresses the value of making the flu vaccine convenient and at no cost to HCWs (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5408a2.htm>).

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2005***



Orange County*

- OC reported 28 cases of influenza last week: 8 flu A, 16 flu B, and 4 flu A/B unspecified.
- To date this season, we have received 165 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (46 flu A, 108 flu B, and 11 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Thanks again for your continued support!

*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.

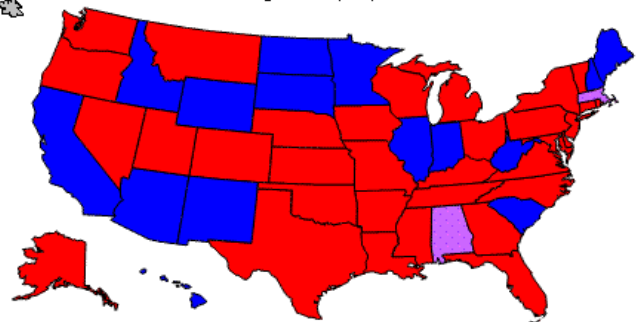
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, influenza activity continues to be regional.
- Nationally, influenza activity has increased steadily since late December. Of the 11,547 positive flu specimens, 84.6% were A and 15.6% were flu B.
- Pneumonia and influenza deaths and influenza-like illnesses were above the national baseline for the week ending 2/19, during which 33 states reported widespread flu activity and 15 regional.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending February 19, 2005 - Week 7



No Report No Activity Sporadic Local Activity Regional Widespread

Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochca.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcde/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180.
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Eye on Influenza

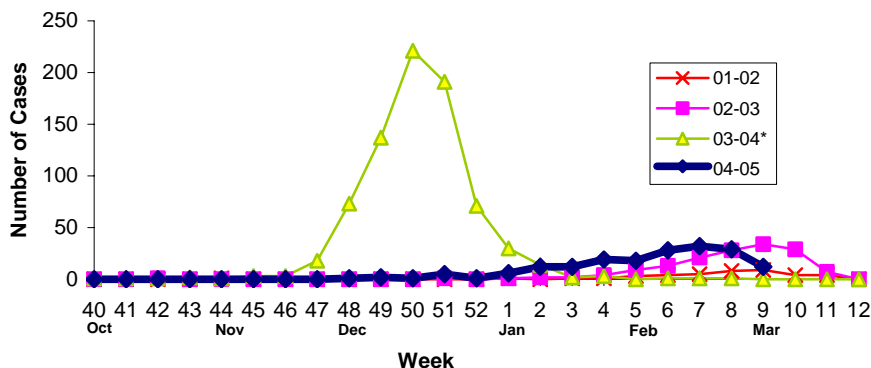
March 11, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 19

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

This report includes information through 3/5/05 (CDC Disease Week 9).

- Flu is decreasing in OC and in the US! We continue to receive reports so flu season is not over yet!
- 10 additional human cases of avian influenza were confirmed in Vietnam, bringing the total of lab-confirmed cases in Vietnam since December 2004 to 24, with 13 fatalities. Since January 2004, there have been 69 human cases of avian influenza, with 46 fatalities, from Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia. Investigation of these newer cases by WHO continues as part of an ongoing assessment of pandemic risk. Consider avian flu in travelers with respiratory symptoms returning from Southeast Asia and call OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 for more information.
- For more information on pandemics, see <http://www.dhhs.gov/nvpo/pandemics/>

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2005***



Orange County*

- OC reported 12 cases of influenza last week: 1 flu A and 11 flu B.
- To date this season, we have received 178 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (47 flu A, 120 flu B, and 11 flu A/B unspecified).
- 41% of respiratory specimens submitted by sentinel providers have been positive for influenza. Keep up the good work!

*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.

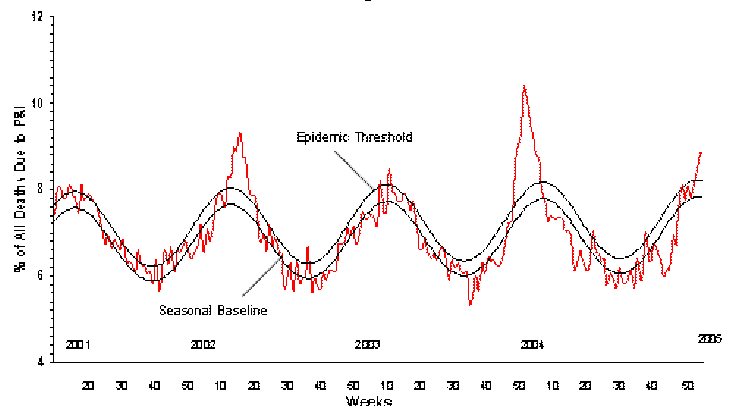
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity was regional.
- In the U.S., flu activity continued to decline, although pneumonia & influenza deaths were above the national baseline. Flu activity was widespread in 24 states, regional in 20 states, local in 5 states, New York City, and DC, and sporadic in Puerto Rico.



Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality for 122 U.S. Cities Week Ending 3/05/2005



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochca.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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Eye on Influenza

March 18, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 20

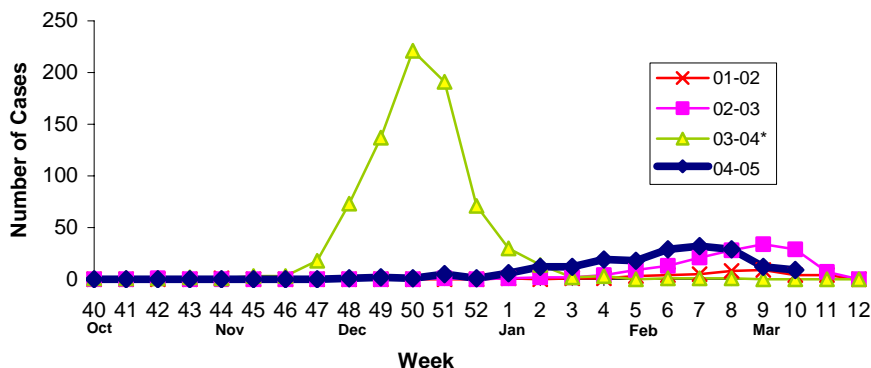
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 3/12/05 (CDC Disease Week 10).

- Flu activity has decreased in OC and it appears that flu may have peaked. However, some regions in the U.S. are experiencing a 2nd wave of activity from flu B so we may continue to have influenza viruses circulating in OC for several more weeks. It's still not too late to vaccinate!!!
- The Mayo Clinic has updated its fact sheet for patients regarding vaccination and treatment for flu. Please see <http://www.mayoclinic.com/invoke.cfm?id=ID00017>.
- Researchers funded by NIAID are studying a new type of therapy for pandemic flu: inhaled powdered anti-influenza IgG antibodies. Advantages of an inhaled dry powder over injection include stability at room temperature and quick distribution into the lungs. For more information, view <http://www2.niaid.nih.gov/Newsroom/FocusOn/Flu04/cape.htm>.



**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2005***



Orange County*

- OC reported 9 cases of influenza last week: 3 flu A and 6 flu B.
- To date this season, we have received 188 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (50 flu A, 127 flu B, and 11 flu A/B unspecified).
- 40% of respiratory specimens submitted by sentinel providers have been positive for influenza. Keep up the good work!

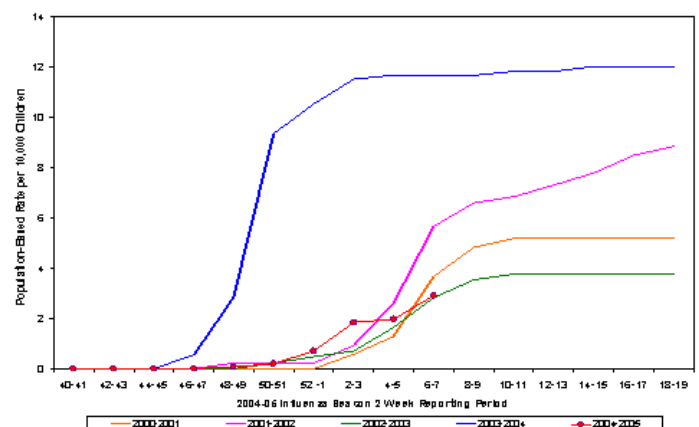
***Note:** The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases occurring in OC as not all labs participate, the surveillance programs are not population based, and testing may be influenced by many factors such as public interest. However, the trends in influenza activity are likely to be reflected accurately.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity was local.
- 23 children hospitalized in pediatric ICU's with laboratory-confirmed flu and 4 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported to the State this season.
- Nationally, the hospitalization rates for laboratory-confirmed flu in children aged 0-4 years this season are much lower than in the 2003-2004 season but similar to previous years, according to the New Vaccine Surveillance Network (NVSN).

NVSN Influenza Laboratory-Confirmed Cumulative Hospitalization Rates for Children 0 - 4 Years, 2004-05 and Previous 4 Seasons



Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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Eye on Influenza

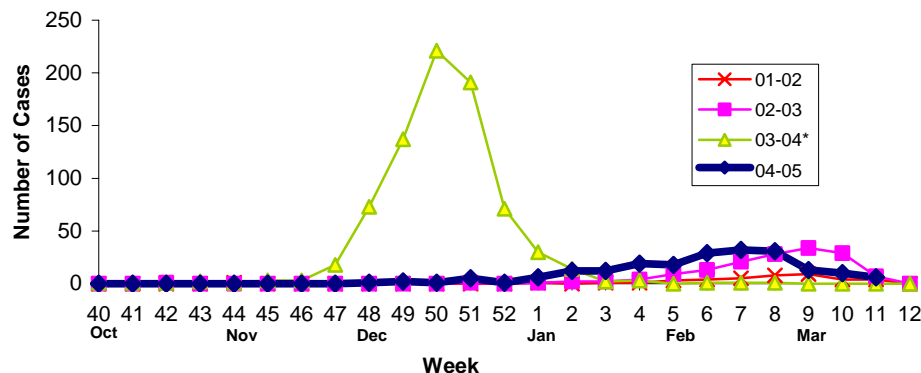
March 25, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 21

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

This report includes information through 03/19/05 (CDC Disease Week 11).

- Flu activity continues to decrease in OC and overall seems to have peaked in most areas of the U.S. However, some areas continue to see an increase in influenza B activity.
- The FDA has approved a new preservative-free formulation of Sanofi-Pasteur's pediatric influenza vaccine, Fluzone, which will replace the previously licensed pediatric formulation that contained trace amounts of thimerosal. Sanofi-Pasteur plans to manufacture approximately 8 million doses of the new formulation for the 2005-06 flu season.
- The CDC has updated its avian influenza website, describing how bird flu viruses differ from human subtypes (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/facts.htm>). CDC has not recommended that the general public avoid travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1, but provides a list of precautionary measures for travelers at http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_h5n1_031605.htm.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2005***



*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.

Orange County*

- OC reported 6 cases of influenza last week: 3 flu A and 3 flu B.
- To date this season, we have received 198 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (54 flu A, 133 flu B, and 11 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report ILI weekly! Flu is still in the community.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity was local.
- As of March 12, 81% of flu viruses typed in the US were type A, with nearly 100% of these H3N2. Of the H3N2, 42% were similar to A/Fujian (the '04-'05 vaccine component) and 58% were similar to the drifted strain A/California (which will be included in the '05-'06 vaccine). Of the B strains, 75% were of the same lineage as the B/Shanghai vaccine strain and 25% were of a different lineage seen previously in the U.S.

Additional Information:

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

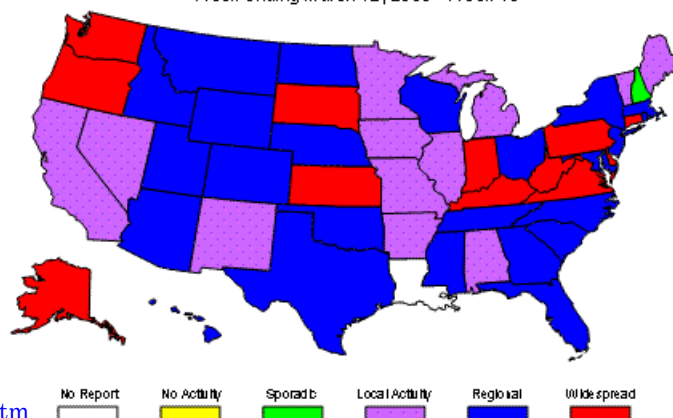
OC: www.ochca.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcde/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending March 12, 2005 - Week 10



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Eye on Influenza

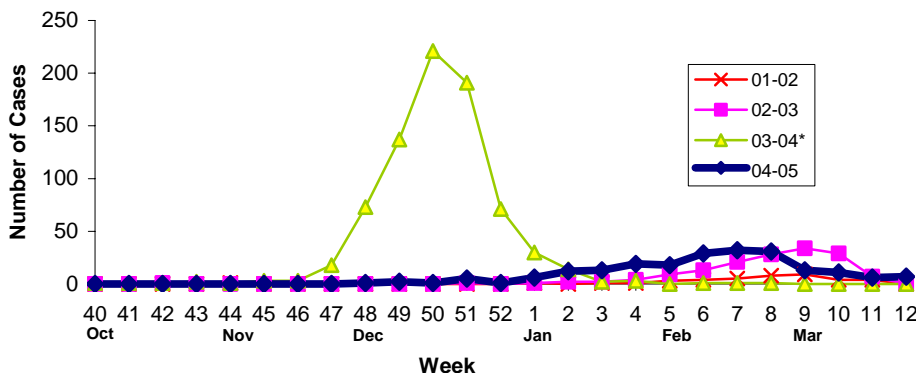
April 1, 2005
Volume 1, Issue 22

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

This report includes information through 03/26/05 (CDC Disease Week 12).

- Flu activity continues to decrease in OC. This is the last issue of *Eye on Influenza* for this flu season, unless an increase in flu activity is seen. Please let us know your comments and suggestions for next year!
- The 2004-2005 flu season was mild. To date, OC Epidemiology has received reports on 207 flu detections (57 (28%) A, 138 (67%) B, and 12 A/B unspecified). In OC, this season's peak was in the latter half of February during Weeks 7 and 8 (weeks ending 2/19/05 and 2/26/05).
- Additional human cases of avian flu were reported from Vietnam and Cambodia. Since January 2004, there have been 74 human cases in Vietnam (55), Thailand (17) and Cambodia (2), with 49 deaths. Clusters of human illness, especially in families, are being investigated, but thus far there has been no evidence of SUSTAINED person-person transmission. On March 27, North Korea reported its first outbreak of avian flu among poultry; no human cases were reported.

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2005***



Orange County*

- OC reported 7 cases of flu last week: 2 flu A and 5 flu B.
- During the flu season, sentinel providers submitted 131 specimens for testing: 38.2% (50) were positive for flu (11 A and 39 B).
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report ILI weekly! Flu is still in the community and it is important to monitor ILI year-round to detect the importation of novel strains or other events.

***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.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity is local. California experienced increased flu activity through January and February with no defined peak.
- Nationally, flu activity peaked during February and continues to decline. ILI visits continue to be above baseline, but have declined for the past 4 weeks. Pneumonia & influenza deaths are at the epidemic threshold. 21 pediatric flu-associated deaths were reported to the CDC this season.



West Nile Virus (WNV) on its way

- Dead birds and mosquitoes in OC have tested positive for WNV already this year. Remind your patients to reduce their risk of WNV infection by:
 - Regularly eliminating standing water in their backyards and community
 - Applying mosquito repellent with DEET when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn
 - Repairing doors and screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- For information on WNV, see: <http://www.ochhealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/index.htm>
- If you have been receiving this newsletter, you will be on our distribution list for WNV updates. Please let us know if you would like to be removed.

Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochhealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

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