



Eye on Influenza

November 19, 2004
Volume 1, Issue 3

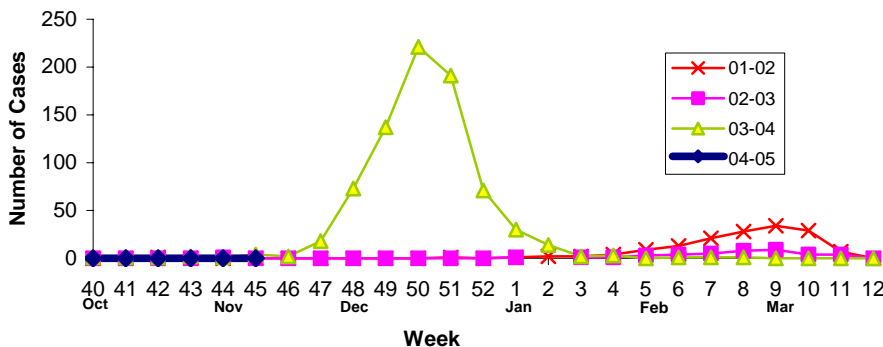
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

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*



Orange County Surveillance*

- Orange County (OC) influenza-like illness (ILI) visits remain below the national baseline.
- The CDC, the State, and OC monitor severe influenza cases and influenza-associated deaths in children. In the 2003-04 season, 16 cases of severe influenza and one influenza-associated death in children were reported to OC Public Health.

*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.

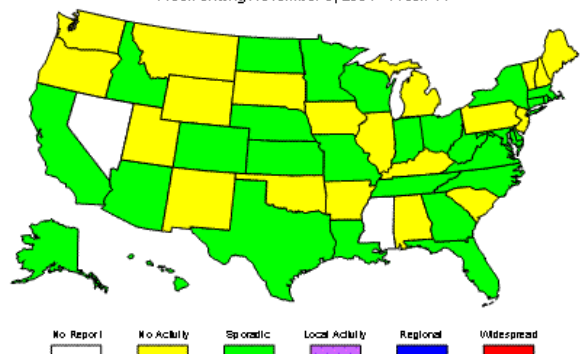
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

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.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/

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.