

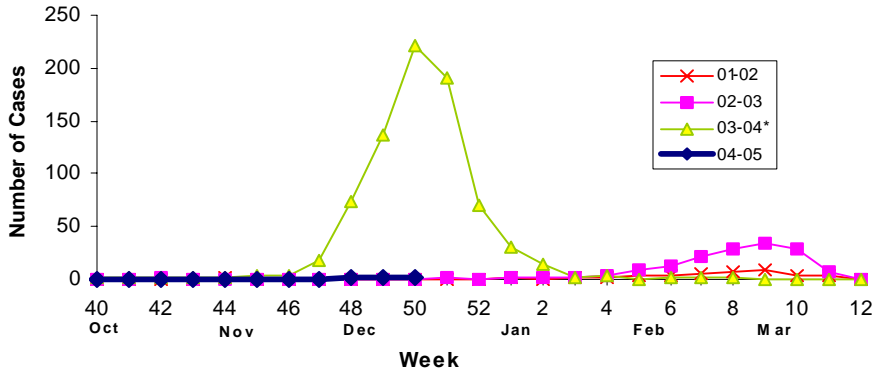


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

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***



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.

**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.

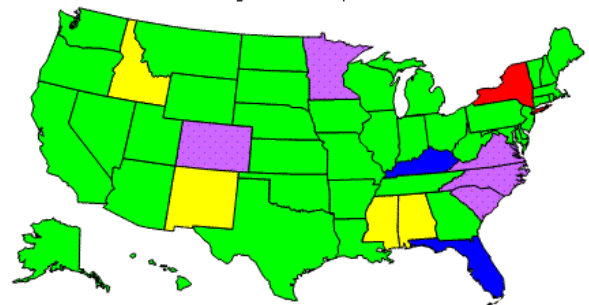
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu is sporadic. 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.



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



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.