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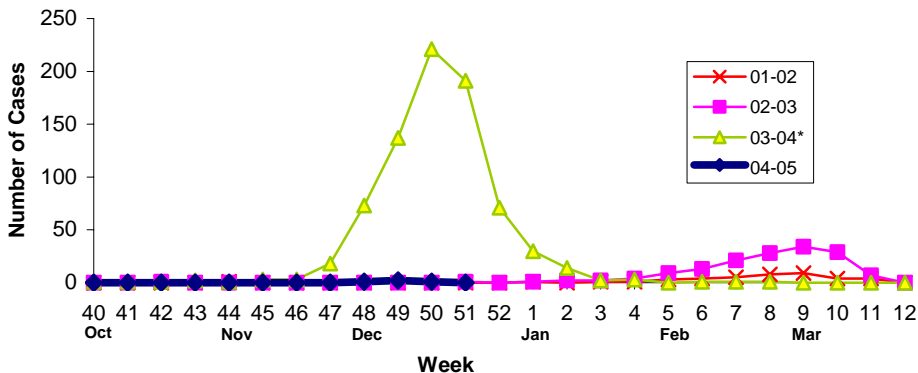


This report includes information through 12/18/04 (CDC Disease Week 50).

- 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*



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!

**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.

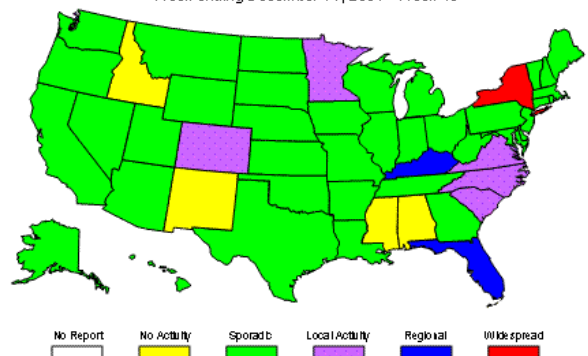
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu 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.



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.

