

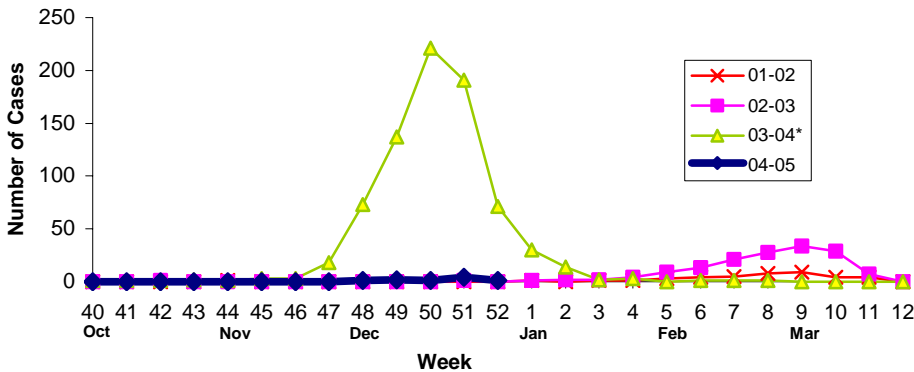


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

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***



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!

**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.

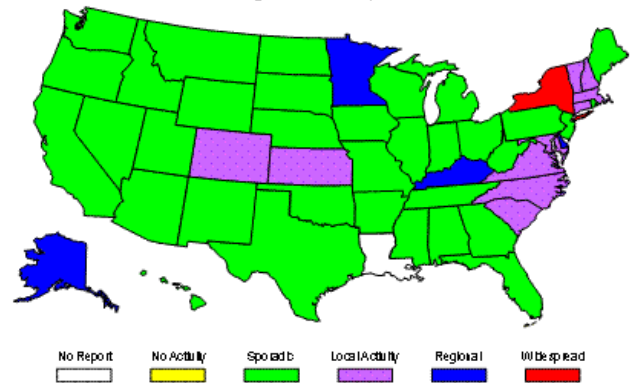
California and USA

- 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.



Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending December 18, 2004 - Week 50



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.