



Eye on Influenza

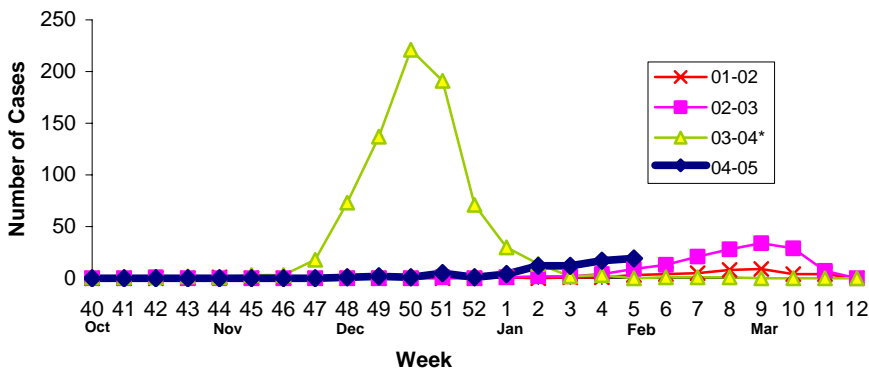
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Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

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.

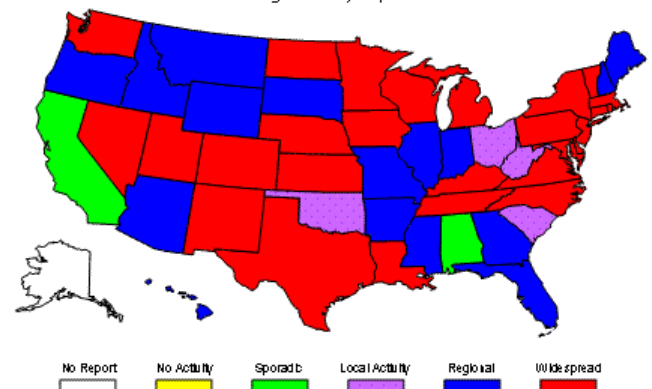
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

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.

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending February 05, 2005 - Week 5



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.