



Eye on Influenza

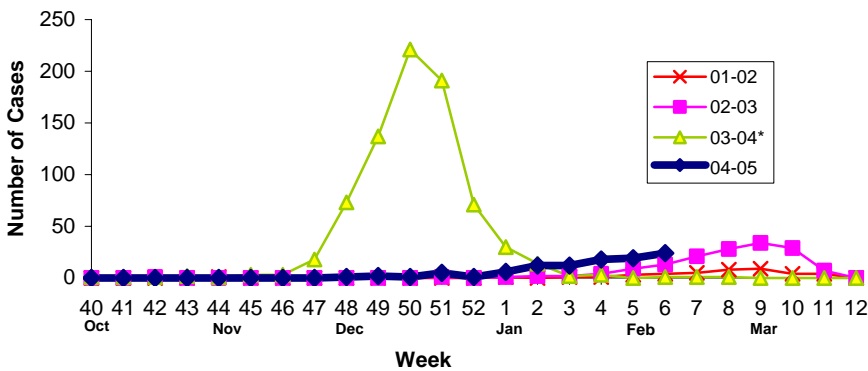
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Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 02/12/05 (CDC Disease Week 6).

- Medicare beneficiaries with flu-like symptoms or exposed to influenza can get assistance to pay for up to 2 prescriptions for antivirals through the Influenza Treatment Demonstration Project. For more information, see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos/flu/> or e-mail flumeddemo@cms.hhs.gov. The Project does not cover medications for general flu prophylactic use.
- NIH & CDC released a statement in response to a recent Archives of Internal Medicine article which concluded that flu vaccination in the elderly may be less effective in preventing death among the elderly than previously assumed, but did not imply that elderly should not be vaccinated. NIH & CDC continue to support immunization of the elderly: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/statementeldmortality.pdf>

**Orange County Influenza Cases
Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



Orange County*

- OC reported 24 cases of influenza last week: 6 flu A, 17 flu B, and 1 flu A/B unspecified.
- To date this season, we have received 101 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (27 flu A, 67 flu B, and 7 flu A/B unspecified).
- 1 flu A was further subtyped as A/Fujian/411/2002(H3N2)-like, and 2 flu B were subtyped as B/Shanghai/361/2002-like. These 2 strains are represented in the 2004-05 influenza vaccine.

*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.

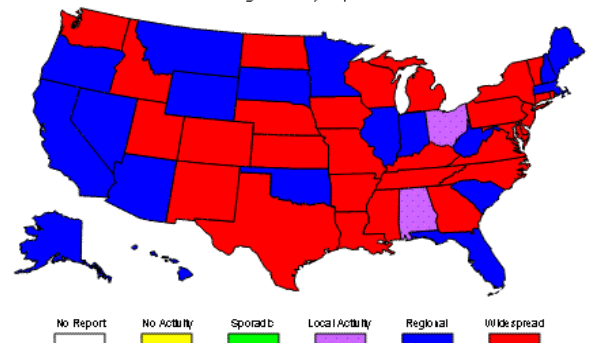
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity is regional, especially in Northern California. 13 severe pediatric (PICU) influenza cases have been reported.
- Flu activity continues to rise in the US. 29 states reported widespread activity, 19 states and New York City reported regional, and 2 states and DC reported local. No states reported sporadic activity.



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending February 12, 2005 - Week 6



Additional Information:

General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dc/dc/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.