



Eye on Influenza

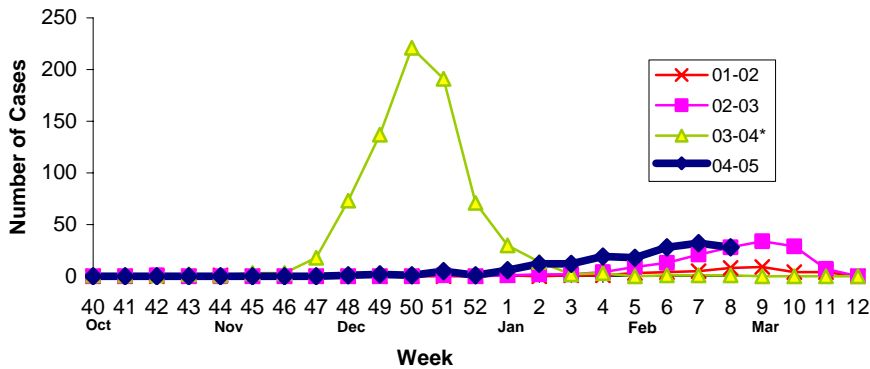
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Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 02/26/05 (CDC Disease Week 8).

- Both flu A and flu B continue to be reported in OC.
- It's still not too late to vaccinate! The CDC stated that this season's vaccine was a good match for the majority of flu strains circulating the US. This season's vaccine may have reduced effectiveness against A/California viruses, but the vaccine should still provide some protection. For more information about vaccination, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/0405vaccination.htm>
- Previous studies have shown that vaccination of health care workers reduces flu infections and absenteeism, prevents mortality in their patients, and was a financial savings to the sponsoring health institutions. An article in this week's MMWR stresses the value of making the flu vaccine convenient and at no cost to HCWs (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5408a2.htm>).

Orange County Influenza Cases Reported by Week and Season, 2001-2005*



Orange County*

- OC reported 28 cases of influenza last week: 8 flu A, 16 flu B, and 4 flu A/B unspecified.
- To date this season, we have received 165 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (46 flu A, 108 flu B, and 11 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Thanks again for your continued support!

*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.

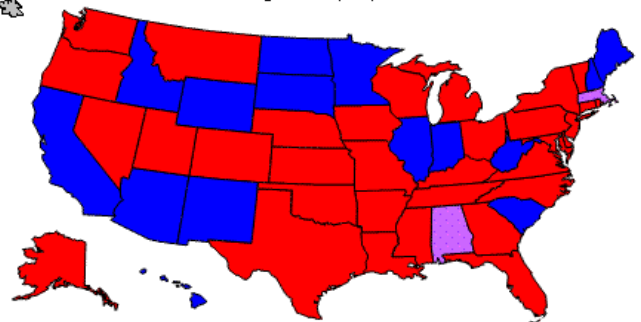
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, influenza activity continues to be regional.
- Nationally, influenza activity has increased steadily since late December. Of the 11,547 positive flu specimens, 84.6% were A and 15.6% were flu B.
- Pneumonia and influenza deaths and influenza-like illnesses were above the national baseline for the week ending 2/19, during which 33 states reported widespread flu activity and 15 regional.



Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists
Week ending February 19, 2005 - Week 7



No Report	No Activity	Sporadic	Local Activity	Regional	Widespread

Additional Information:

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

OC: www.ochca.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.