



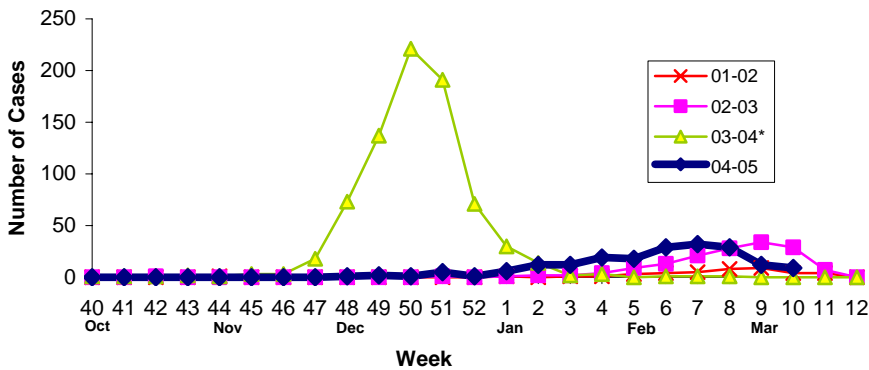
Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 3/12/05 (CDC Disease Week 10).

- Flu activity has decreased in OC and it appears that flu may have peaked. However, some regions in the U.S. are experiencing a 2nd wave of activity from flu B so we may continue to have influenza viruses circulating in OC for several more weeks. It's still not too late to vaccinate!!!
- The Mayo Clinic has updated its fact sheet for patients regarding vaccination and treatment for flu. Please see <http://www.mayoclinic.com/invoke.cfm?id=ID00017>.
- Researchers funded by NIAID are studying a new type of therapy for pandemic flu: inhaled powdered anti-influenza IgG antibodies. Advantages of an inhaled dry powder over injection include stability at room temperature and quick distribution into the lungs. For more information, view <http://www2.niaid.nih.gov/Newsroom/FocusOn/Flu04/cape.htm>.



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



Orange County*

- OC reported 9 cases of influenza last week: 3 flu A and 6 flu B.
- To date this season, we have received 188 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (50 flu A, 127 flu B, and 11 flu A/B unspecified).
- 40% of respiratory specimens submitted by sentinel providers have been positive for influenza. Keep up the good work!

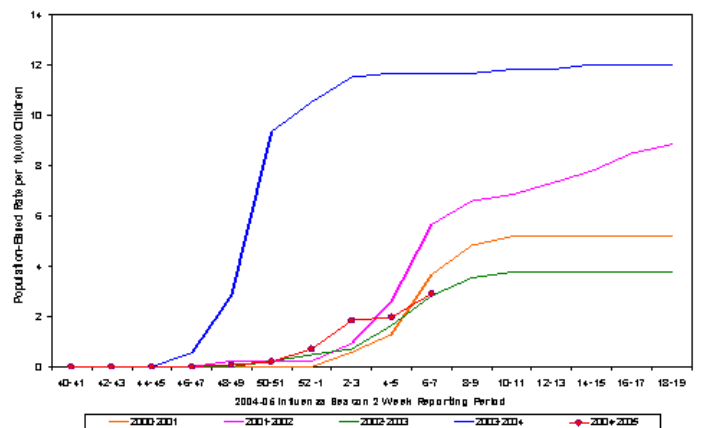
*Note: The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases occurring in OC as not all labs participate, the surveillance programs are not population based, and testing may be influenced by many factors such as public interest. However, the trends in influenza activity are likely 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 was local.
- 23 children hospitalized in pediatric ICU's with laboratory-confirmed flu and 4 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported to the State this season.
- Nationally, the hospitalization rates for laboratory-confirmed flu in children aged 0-4 years this season are much lower than in the 2003-2004 season but similar to previous years, according to the New Vaccine Surveillance Network (NVSN).

NVSN Influenza Laboratory-Confirmed Cumulative Hospitalization Rates for Children 0 - 4 Years, 2004-05 and Previous 4 Seasons



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.