



Eye on Influenza

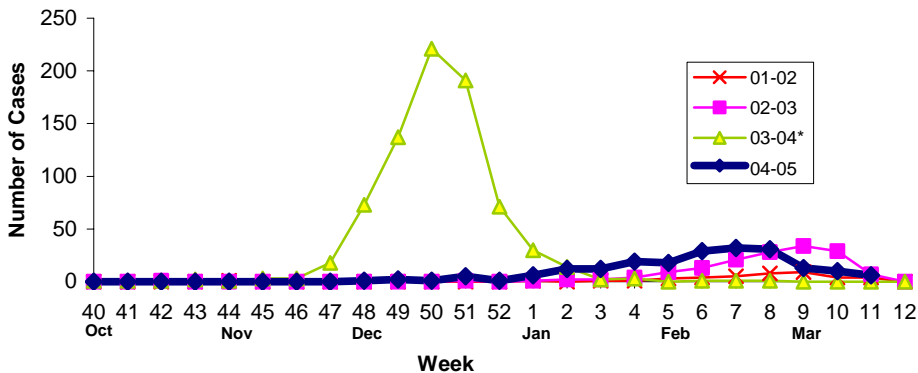
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Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 03/19/05 (CDC Disease Week 11).

- Flu activity continues to decrease in OC and overall seems to have peaked in most areas of the U.S. However, some areas continue to see an increase in influenza B activity.
- The FDA has approved a new preservative-free formulation of Sanofi-Pasteur's pediatric influenza vaccine, Fluzone, which will replace the previously licensed pediatric formulation that contained trace amounts of thimerosal. Sanofi-Pasteur plans to manufacture approximately 8 million doses of the new formulation for the 2005-06 flu season.
- The CDC has updated its avian influenza website, describing how bird flu viruses differ from human subtypes (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/gen-info/facts.htm>). CDC has not recommended that the general public avoid travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1, but provides a list of precautionary measures for travelers at http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_ah5n1_031605.htm.

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



Orange County*

- OC reported 6 cases of influenza last week: 3 flu A and 3 flu B.
- To date this season, we have received 198 reports of influenza detections in OC residents (54 flu A, 133 flu B, and 11 flu A/B unspecified).
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report ILI weekly! Flu is still in the community.

*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.

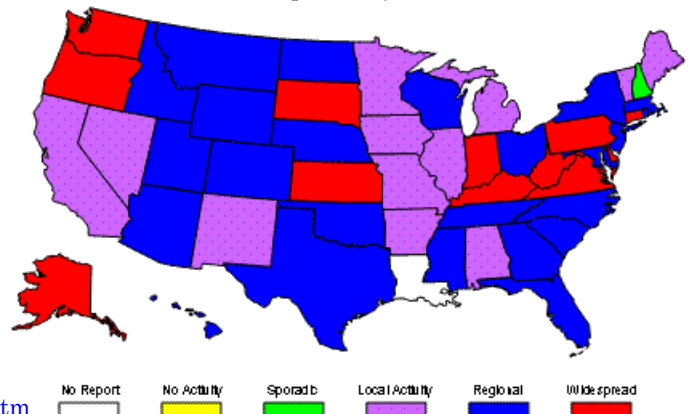
Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity was local.
- As of March 12, 81% of flu viruses typed in the US were type A, with nearly 100% of these H3N2. Of the H3N2, 42% were similar to A/Fujian (the '04-'05 vaccine component) and 58% were similar to the drifted strain A/California (which will be included in the '05-'06 vaccine). Of the B strains, 75% were of the same lineage as the B/Shanghai vaccine strain and 25% were of a different lineage seen previously in the U.S.

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending March 12, 2005 - Week 10



Additional Information:

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

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

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