

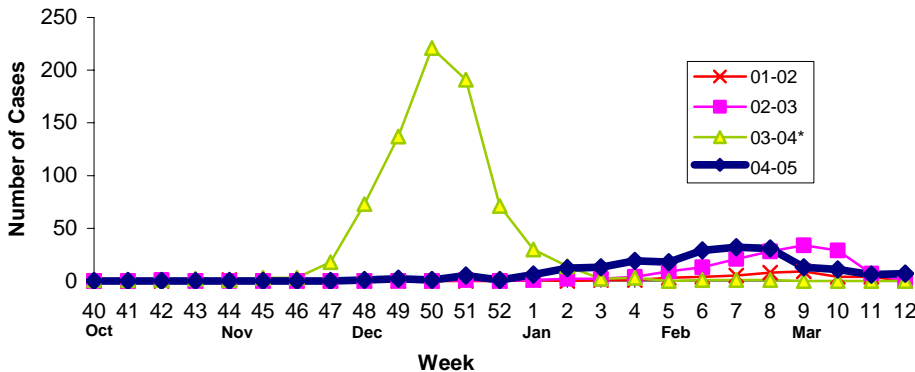


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This report includes information through 03/26/05 (CDC Disease Week 12).

- Flu activity continues to decrease in OC. This is the last issue of *Eye on Influenza* for this flu season, unless an increase in flu activity is seen. Please let us know your comments and suggestions for next year!
- The 2004-2005 flu season was mild. To date, OC Epidemiology has received reports on 207 flu detections (57 (28%) A, 138 (67%) B, and 12 A/B unspecified). In OC, this season's peak was in the latter half of February during Weeks 7 and 8 (weeks ending 2/19/05 and 2/26/05).
- Additional human cases of avian flu were reported from Vietnam and Cambodia. Since January 2004, there have been 74 human cases in Vietnam (55), Thailand (17) and Cambodia (2), with 49 deaths. Clusters of human illness, especially in families, are being investigated, but thus far there has been no evidence of SUSTAINED person-person transmission. On March 27, North Korea reported its first outbreak of avian flu among poultry; no human cases were reported.

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



Orange County*

- OC reported 7 cases of flu last week: 2 flu A and 5 flu B.
- During the flu season, sentinel providers submitted 131 specimens for testing: 38.2% (50) were positive for flu (11 A and 39 B).
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report ILI weekly! Flu is still in the community and it is important to monitor ILI year-round to detect the importation of novel strains or other events.

*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.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu activity is local. California experienced increased flu activity through January and February with no defined peak.
- Nationally, flu activity peaked during February and continues to decline. ILI visits continue to be above baseline, but have declined for the past 4 weeks. Pneumonia & influenza deaths are at the epidemic threshold. 21 pediatric flu-associated deaths were reported to the CDC this season.



West Nile Virus (WNV) on its way

- Dead birds and mosquitoes in OC have tested positive for WNV already this year. Remind your patients to reduce their risk of WNV infection by:
 - Regularly eliminating standing water in their backyards and community
 - Applying mosquito repellent with DEET when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn
 - Repairing doors and screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- For information on WNV, see: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/wnv/index.htm>
- If you have been receiving this newsletter, you will be on our distribution list for WNV updates. Please let us know if you would like to be removed.

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.