

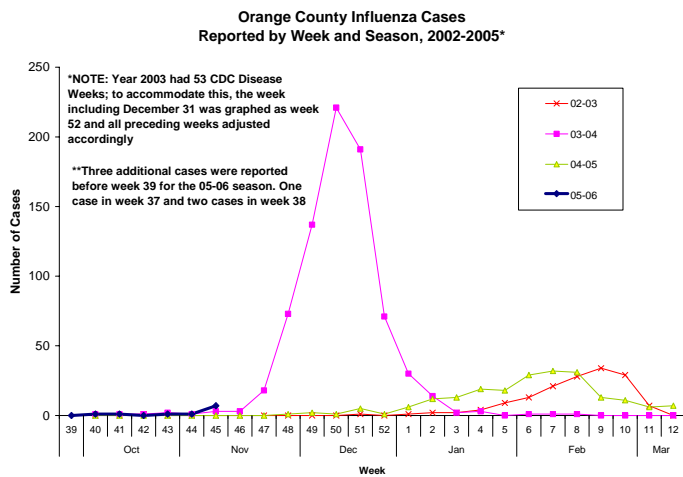


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 11/12/05 (CDC Disease Week 45).

Orange County continues to receive sporadic reports of influenza this season.

- **It's not too late to get vaccinated.** Close contact with others during the holiday season may increase the risk of influenza transmission. Influenza vaccination is the best way for you, your staff, and your patients to reduce your chances of getting influenza. For vaccination locations, visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/locations.htm> and <http://www.findaflushot.com>.
- **Travel to H5N1 avian influenza-affected areas:** CDC has not recommended that the general public avoid travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1. However, guidelines are available for travelers to avian influenza-affected areas to reduce their risk of illness at: http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_influenza_se_asia_2005.htm.
- **Pandemic Influenza:** The W.H.O. defines six pandemic phases. We are currently at Phase 3 (new virus causes human cases, but no or very limited human-to-human transmission). For a table describing the pandemic phases, see http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html.



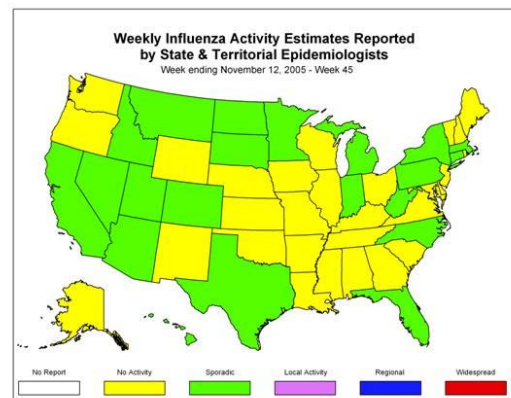
*Note: The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases occurring in OC as not all labs participate, the surveillance programs are not population based, and testing may be influenced by many factors such as public interest. However, the trends in influenza activity are likely to be reflected accurately.

Orange County*

- To date this season, we have received 15 reports of influenza in OC residents. Thirteen have been influenza A and two were A/B unspecified. OC has received one report of a pediatric influenza-associated death.
- We are actively recruiting physicians and other healthcare providers to participate as sentinel providers for influenza surveillance. Incentives include viral isolation on a subset of patients and rapid flu test kits. Contact us at epi@ochca.com or 714-834-8180 for more information.

California and USA

- During week 45 (week ending 11/12/05), influenza activity was low in the United States. Twenty-one states, New York City, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity.



Avian Influenza Update

- As of November 17, 2005, 130 human cases of avian influenza H5N1 and 67 deaths have been reported from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, and China since avian H5N1 outbreaks began in 2003. Additionally, infected birds have been detected in China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Turkey, Mongolia, and Croatia.
- Clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion for influenza A (H5N1) in patients with fever and respiratory symptoms arriving or returning from Asia.
- For recommendations for surveillance, diagnostic evaluation, and infection control precautions, visit http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/af_update2.pdf

Additional Information:

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

OC: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>

California: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/