

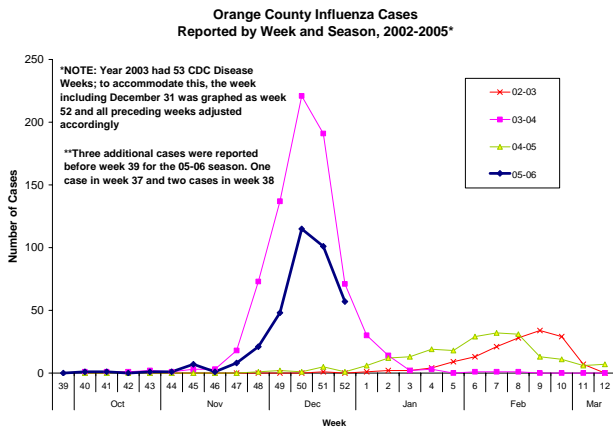


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This report includes information through 1/6/06.

Influenza reports in Orange County appear to have peaked in week 50 (week ending 12/17/05) and have decreased for the past two consecutive weeks. However, influenza activity is still well above baseline and it is too soon to know if cases will continue to decrease, or if a resurgence will occur.

- **Human H5 cases in Turkey:** At least two human cases of H5 influenza have been confirmed in Turkey. These are the first human cases outside of East Asia. For updates on avian influenza activity, see http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/.
- **Travel to Asia for the Lunar New Year (January 29, 2006):** CDC has issued a special Outbreak Notice regarding avian H5N1 (http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_lunar_newyear_2006.htm). Currently, CDC and WHO do not recommend restrictions for travel to any of the countries affected by H5N1, but recommendations are available on how to decrease the risk of infection.
- **2006 Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule** has been released by the CDC, AAP, and AAFP. Please see: http://www.aafp.org/PreBuilt/immunization_child2006_engl.pdf.



*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.

Avian Influenza Update

- As of January 5, 2006, 144 human cases of avian influenza H5N1 and 76 deaths have been reported from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Cambodia and Turkey since winter 2003. H5N1 infected birds have also been detected in Croatia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine.
- Clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion for influenza A (H5N1) in patients with fever and respiratory symptoms arriving or returning from Asia.

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

Orange County*

- To date this season, we have received 395 reports of influenza in OC residents and two influenza-associated deaths. 370 (94%) cases were influenza A; 100% of 58 isolates subtyped were A/H3N2. Four cases have been confirmed as influenza B.
- We have received reports of 11 OC children with severe influenza necessitating intensive care (PICU) admissions.
- Sentinel providers: Please continue to report weekly on influenza-like illnesses (ILI) even in weeks when no patients with ILI are seen!

California and USA

- California is reporting widespread influenza activity. Nationally, 95% of influenza isolates tested by the CDC have been flu A; 99% of those have been A (H3N2). Two (10%) of the 23 A (H3N2) isolates that have been strain-typed have reduced titers to A/California (the strain in the vaccine). One of 3 B isolates strain-typed matched the vaccine strain.

