

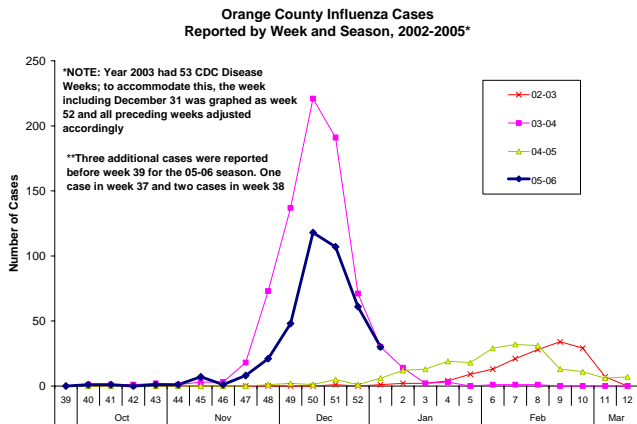


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

This report includes information through 1/17/06.

Influenza reports in Orange County continue to decrease. Outpatient influenza-like illnesses reported from sentinel providers and emergency room diversion hours have also decreased. However, influenza activity is still above baseline and a resurgence of flu activity may still occur.

- **CDC recommends against use of amantadine and rimantidine for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza this season.** 91% of influenza A (H3N2) isolates tested by the CDC this season have been resistant to amantadine and rimantidine. CDC recommends that oseltamivir (Tamiflu) or zanamivir (Relenza) be used if an antiviral is needed for treatment or prophylaxis of influenza. See <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/han011406.htm> for the full report. Annual influenza vaccination remains the primary way to prevent morbidity and mortality from influenza.
- **Recommendations for Travel to Asia for the Lunar New Year (January 29, 2006):** http://www.cdc.gov/travel/other/avian_flu_lunar_newyear_2006.htm.
- **Pandemic influenza:** Planning checklists are available for businesses, individuals and families, and community and faith-based organizations at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.



***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 14, 2006, 148 human cases of avian influenza H5N1 and 79 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. For an up-to-date list of areas affected: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.
- Clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion for influenza A (H5N1) in patients with fever and respiratory symptoms arriving or returning from H5N1 affected areas.

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 423 reports of influenza in OC residents and two flu-associated deaths. 398 (94%) cases were influenza A; 100% of 70 isolates subtyped were A/H3N2. Six cases have been confirmed as influenza B. We have received reports of 12 OC children with severe influenza necessitating intensive care (PICU) admissions.
- Please report any pediatric cases of severe influenza (hospitalized in PICU) or pediatric flu-associated deaths to Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.

California and USA

- During the week ending 1/7/06, seven states reporting widespread influenza (including CA). Eleven states reported regional activity, nine reported local activity and twenty-one states, New York City, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity.

