



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

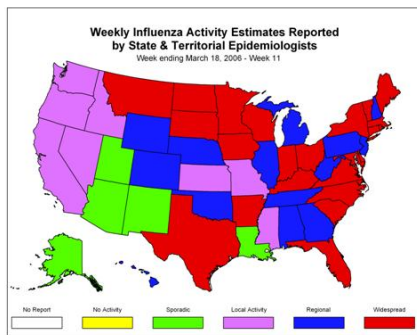
This report includes information through 3/31/06.

We have resumed distribution of our newsletter as Orange County has seen a dramatic increase in influenza B over the past two weeks. The flu B strains identified thus far in OC have been B/Victoria-like (not in this season's vaccine). We will continue to provide this newsletter regularly as many of our readers have requested to continue receiving avian influenza updates.

- **Avian flu vaccine:** Results from a clinical trial published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* demonstrate that high doses of an experimental inactivated subvirion influenza A (H5N1) vaccine can induce antibody responses that typically would be associated with protection against influenza A in 50-60% of healthy adults. For more information: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/354/13/1343>.
- **Pandemic planning:** Schools are encouraged to find alternative ways to teach children in the event of possible school closures due to pandemic influenza. Colleges and universities are also recommended to establish a pandemic response plan for outbreak scenarios that could close their campuses. Planning checklists are available to assist schools and child care, businesses, physicians' offices, home health care agencies, emergency medical services and medical transport organizations at: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab5.html>.
- **Current Pandemic Phase (World Health Organization):** We are presently in the pandemic alert period in phase 3 of 6, indicating that a new influenza subtype is causing disease in humans, but is not yet spreading efficiently and sustainably among humans. Phase 6 would be a pandemic.

National

- During the week ending 3/18/2006, a decrease in national influenza activity was observed. During the past 3 weeks, the percentage of influenza isolates identified as influenza type B viruses has continued to increase.



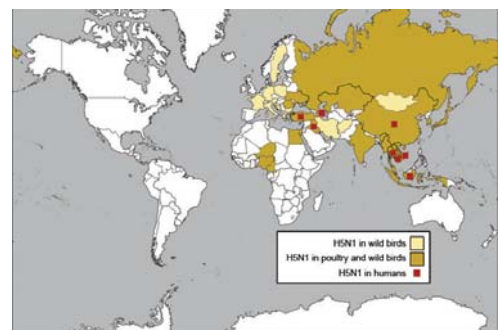
Orange County and California

- To date this season, we have received 503 (440 A/ 36 B /27 unspecified) reports of influenza in OC residents and three flu-associated deaths.
- Several schools in Orange County have noted an increase in febrile respiratory illness over the past three weeks. Please assist us in sending nasopharyngeal swabs for viral culture on students with these symptoms so we can identify viruses circulating in our community.
- For the week ending 3/25/06, influenza activity in California remained local. Most of the cases reported in the past 3 weeks have been due to influenza B.

Avian Influenza Update

- As of March 24, 2006, 186 human H5N1 cases and 105 deaths have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (7), Cambodia (5), China (16), Indonesia (29), Iraq (2), Thailand (22), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (93). Additional human H5N1 cases and deaths have been reported from Egypt but are pending confirmation. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- For an up-to-date list of H5N1-affected countries, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.

Nations with Confirmed Cases
H5N1 Avian Influenza (March 24, 2006)



Recommended Resources:

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/>

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Pamela Roa Hipp or Sandra Nutter at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.