



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

This report includes information through 6/9/2006

World Health Organization Pandemic Influenza Alert Phase: The current situation remains at phase 3 (novel virus able to infect humans with no or very limited person-to-person transmission).

- **Influenza A (H5N1) Testing Recommendations:** Testing for H5N1 should be considered on all patients with fever and respiratory symptoms/disease (or less commonly, neurologic or gastrointestinal symptoms) with history of travel to an H5N1-affected area (see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm> for up-to-date list) or laboratory work with H5N1 in the 10 days prior to onset of symptoms. Please report these patients immediately to Orange County Public Health at (714) 834-8180. We will review the clinical history and exposures and, if indicated, arrange for prompt testing at our public health laboratory of patients with suspect avian influenza. For more information, CDC has issued updated interim guidance available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/>; all recommendations are subject to change as the situation evolves.
- **Specimens for H5N1 testing:** Oropharyngeal swab and lower respiratory tract (e.g. bronchoalveolar lavage or tracheal aspirate) specimens are preferred for H5N1 detection by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Nasopharyngeal specimens are also acceptable. Specimens should be obtained as soon as possible after illness onset, and if possible, serial specimens should be obtained over several days. Viral culture should not be attempted in hospital or private laboratories; however, other laboratory testing and diagnostic work-up should proceed. Commercial rapid influenza antigen tests have low sensitivities and a negative test does not rule out influenza infection; in addition, a positive test does not distinguish avian from human influenza subtypes.



- **Thank you ILI Sentinel Providers!!!** Summary information for the 2005-2006 influenza season will be reported in the coming weeks. Orange County tracks influenza-like illnesses throughout the entire year to aid with surveillance for avian influenza and bioterrorism events. Please continue to report weekly throughout the year! To become a sentinel provider, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.

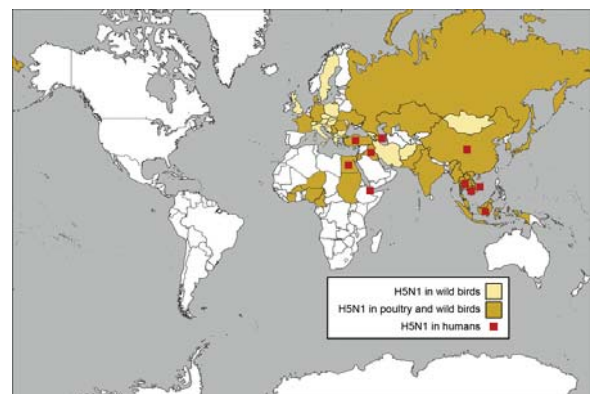
Recommended Resources

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/>

Avian Influenza Update

- As of June 6, 2006, 225 human H5N1 cases and 128 deaths have been confirmed in 10 countries. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Close contact with and de-feathering of infected wild swans is the most plausible source of infection in the H5N1 clusters in the Republic of Azerbaijan. This constitutes the first human cluster in which wild birds were implicated. See <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/em/v11n05/1105-222.asp> for more information. The importation of birds and unprocessed bird products such as feathers from H5N1 affected countries is prohibited. For the list of embargoed countries: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/embargo.htm>.

**Nations with Confirmed Cases
H5N1 Avian Influenza (May 19, 2006)**



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.