



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

World Health Organization (WHO) 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

- **CDC educational materials for the upcoming influenza season:** Updated flyers, posters, sticker templates, and other print materials about influenza and influenza vaccine for patients and providers are now available. Materials are available in color and black & white, English and Spanish at www.cdc.gov/flu/gallery
- **Researchers in China identify specific points in avian influenza virus genomes where mutations may enable them to become human viruses:** Comparisons were made between 306 human and 95 avian influenza A viral genomes to identify areas with significant differences. Fifty-two “species-associated” positions were identified: specific mutations on these points may enable an avian influenza virus to become a human virus. Many of these positions are in the viral ribonucleoprotein genes coding for functional domains that are important for viral replication. Analysis of the genomes of 21 avian influenza viruses that were isolated from humans found 19 that exhibited ≥ 1 “species-associated” residue change, and 7 that exhibited ≥ 2 changes. For details, see *Emerging Infectious Diseases* September 2006, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol12no09/06-0276.htm>.
- **WHO publishes guidance for national authorities on candidate H5N1 vaccine viruses for pre-pandemic production:** The recommended candidate H5N1 vaccine viruses are representative of antigenically and genetically distinct groups of viruses that have infected humans primarily through contact with ill or dead H5N1-infected birds. Prototype strains are available through WHO which have been prepared by reverse genetics and safety tested. For more information, see http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/h5n1virus2006_08_18/en/index.html

Orange County is actively recruiting physicians and other healthcare providers to participate as sentinel providers for influenza-like illnesses for the upcoming influenza season.
For more information, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.



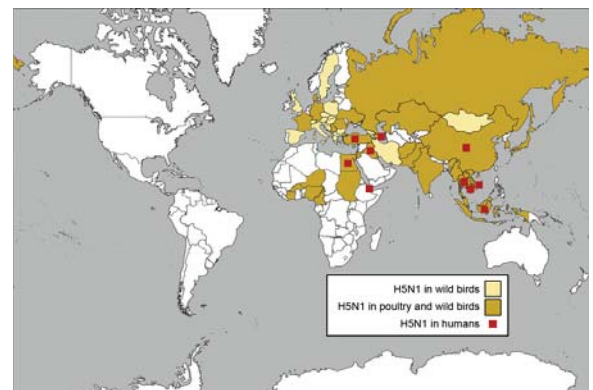
Recommended Resources

- 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>
CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>
HHS: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

Avian Influenza Update

- As of August 23, 2006, 241 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (6), China (21)*, Djibouti (1), Egypt (14), Indonesia (60)*, Iraq (2), Thailand (24), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (93), and have resulted in 141 deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe. **New reported cases since last update (August 9th).*
- For an up-to-date list of H5N1-affected countries, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.
- Patients with fever and respiratory symptoms with history of travel to H5N1-affected countries within 10 days of illness onset should be reported immediately to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.

Nations with Confirmed Cases H5N1 Avian Influenza



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.