



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

National Influenza Vaccination Week is November 27th through December 3rd. Enjoy the holiday season free from influenza...get vaccinated. To find vaccine available for purchase, visit: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16919.html>. To add your clinic to the American Lung Association's Flu Clinic Locator, see: <http://www.lungusa2.org/embargo/flucliniclocator/>.

- **Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) Warning:** The FDA has updated the oseltamivir label to include precautions about neuropsychiatric events. People with influenza, particularly children, may be at increased risk of self-injury and confusion shortly after taking Tamiflu® and should be closely monitored for signs of unusual behavior. For more info: http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2006/Tamiflu_dhcp_letter.pdf.
- **Influenza Testing:** Respiratory illnesses caused by influenza viruses are difficult to distinguish from illnesses caused by other respiratory pathogens on the basis of signs and symptoms alone. Positive influenza testing may prevent unnecessary antibiotic therapy or additional diagnostic testing.
 - **Preferred specimens:** for influenza testing are from the respiratory tract, in particular nasopharyngeal or nasal aspirates, washes, or swabs. Samples should be collected within the first 4 days of illness.
 - **Types of tests:** DFA (direct fluorescent antibody), EIA (enzyme immunoassay), viral culture, and rapid antigen testing (many types) are commonly available and vary in sensitivity and specificity depending on the type of specimen and test. PCR (polymerase chain reaction) is also available in some reference and public health labs. Viral cultures are helpful as rapid testing, DFA, and EIA are neither 100% sensitive nor specific, and for surveillance purposes to identify circulating influenza strains and plan for next season's vaccine. Serological testing for acute influenza infection is not recommended as results from a single serum specimen are not interpretable, acute and convalescent specimens are necessary, and results are not timely enough to help with clinical decision-making. For more info: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/labdiagnosis.htm>.
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance to protect employees against avian influenza.** Information for specific groups, including poultry workers, animal handlers, laboratory personnel, healthcare workers, food handlers, airport personnel, travelers, and Americans living abroad: <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html>.
- **HHS Pandemic Planning Update III:** <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/panflureport3.pdf>.

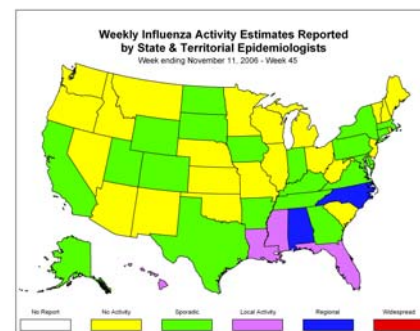


Avian Influenza Update

- 258 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (6), China (21), Djibouti (1), Egypt (15), Indonesia (74)*, Iraq (3), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (93), and have resulted in 153 deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe. For a list of H5N1-affected countries, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.
*New reported case(s) since Nov. 3rd.
- The sensitivity of commercial flu antigen tests for detecting H5N1 has not been established. Please contact OC Epidemiology immediately at 714-834-8180 to report any suspect avian influenza cases and we can assist with the appropriate testing.

Influenza Update

- **Orange County** has reported 1 influenza case this week. A total of 3 cases have been reported this season (1 influenza B / 2 influenza A). A low level of influenza activity was reported in the **US** during week 45. Two states reported regional influenza activity; four states reported local influenza activity; 21 states, including **California**, and the District of Columbia reported sporadic influenza activity.



Recommended Resources

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

OC: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>

CA: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDI/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>

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

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.