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National Influenza Vaccination Week is November 27th through December 3rd. 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/>.

- **Help dispel common myths about the influenza vaccine. The following are common reasons (MYTHS!) why people don't get influenza vaccinations.**
 - *"Influenza isn't a very serious illness or disease."* On average, 36,000 excess deaths and 200,000 hospitalizations occur every year in the U.S. because of influenza. Getting vaccinated against influenza every year is the best protection against serious disease.
 - *"Influenza vaccination is for 'other' people"; "I wasn't aware I needed a flu vaccination"; or "My doctor didn't recommend one."* Influenza vaccine should be recommended to anyone who wants to reduce his/her risk of infection. Getting vaccinated helps to protect others as well.
 - *"I got the flu shot and I got sick thereafter."* Flu shots cannot cause influenza since the virus is completely inactivated. People who get ill with influenza-like symptoms shortly after receiving a flu shot were likely already infected prior to vaccination, or have another illness besides influenza.
 - *"The side effects are worse than the flu."* Most vaccines have some side effects, but they are usually minor. Usually, the worst side effect you can get from the flu shot is a sore arm. The risk of being harmed by the flu vaccine is much lower than the risks associated with influenza infection.
- **Flu Vaccine Facts and Myths flyer:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/flugallery/flyers.htm#ffact>. **Flu vaccine dosage chart:** <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/dosagechart.htm>.
- **NEJM (11/23/06 issue) articles about H5N1 human infections in Eastern Turkey (2006) and three Indonesian clusters (2005).** A wide range of clinical features and outcomes were seen. Initial diagnostic testing for H5N1, was negative in many of the cases and repeat testing was often needed to properly diagnose patients. Both studies found rapid antigen testing to have limited value in diagnosing H5N1 infection. For free access: <http://content.nejm.org/content/vol355/issue21/index.shtml>.
- **HHS buys additional vaccine for potential use in an influenza pandemic:** <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/nov2006/niaid-14.htm>.

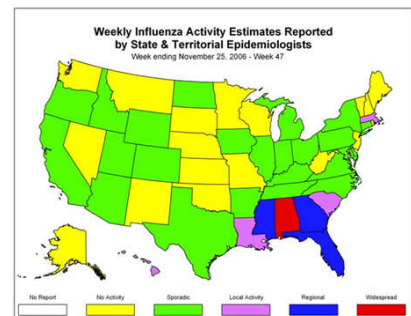


Avian Influenza Update

- South Korea has H5N1 in poultry after 3-year lull: <http://www.oie.int/Messages/061128KOR.htm>
- 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 154 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. 17th.*
- WHO Guidelines for Investigation of Human Cases of H5N1: http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/WHO_CDS_EPR_GIP_2006_4/en/index.html

Influenza Update

- **OC** has no new reported flu cases this week. A total of 3 cases have been reported this season (1 flu B/2 flu A). In the **US**, a low level of flu activity was reported in week 47, with 1 state reporting widespread flu activity; 3 states reporting regional flu activity; 4 states reporting local flu activity; and 24 states (including **CA**), the District of Columbia, and NYC reporting sporadic flu 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/VRDL/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.