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## Influenza activity continues to decrease in Orange County.

- **Japan warns against use of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) in teens.** Concerns about neuropsychiatric symptoms associated with Tamiflu continue after 2 teenagers in Japan fell from buildings to their death after taking Tamiflu. In November 2006, Roche released a warning that people who have influenza, particularly children, might be at increased risk for self-injury and confusion shortly after taking Tamiflu and should be monitored for signs of unusual behavior. The FDA reviewed reports of adverse neuropsychiatric events reported following the use of Tamiflu and concluded that it is unclear whether these adverse events were related to the use of Tamiflu only, influenza infection only, or both. See <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/mar2107tamiflu.html>.
- **Baby in Hong Kong infected with influenza A H9N2 strain.** This strain has caused mild human illnesses 3 times previously in Hong Kong and is also considered capable of evolving into a pandemic strain. H9N2 strains have been reported to be widespread in Eurasian poultry. The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) contracted with Chiron in 2004 to make an H9N2 vaccine; phase I clinical trials last year showed good immune responses to the vaccine.
- **USDA to boost H5N1 prevention efforts in the U.S.** by increasing antismuggling efforts and monitoring of live bird markets, and focusing wild bird sampling on high-risk species and geographic locations. In addition, the USDA is collaborating with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on international efforts. For more information, please visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/mar1507usda.html>.
- **Newly issued FDA Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Strategic Plan** addresses vaccines, antiviral medications, medical devices, food and feed safety, emergency preparedness and response, and enforcement actions against fraudulent or counterfeit products. For more info, see [http://www.fda.gov/oc/op/pandemic/strategicplan03\\_07.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/op/pandemic/strategicplan03_07.html).
- **New Pandemic Planning Checklist for Health Insurers** released by HHS. See <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/healthinsurer.html>.



Reported Influenza Cases by Type & Percent of Visits Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

