



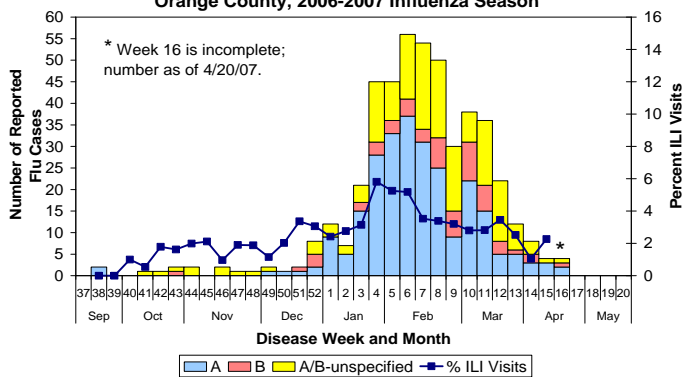
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Influenza activity continues to decrease in Orange County and in the United States.

- **Clinical trial shows that an influenza vaccine grown in insect cells instead of chicken eggs is safe and immunogenic.** Recombinant hemagglutinin, an influenza surface protein, is made in fall armyworm cells by cloning hemagglutinin genes from target flu viruses into baculoviruses and then infecting the insect cells with the baculovirus. Baculoviruses are harmless to humans as they do not grow in mammalian cells. Hemagglutinin is the sole active ingredient in this new vaccine. The advantages to using cell-culture technology are safety (no live viruses are used) and faster production of the vaccine. The manufacturer expects FDA approval before the 2008-09 flu season. See: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/apr1207cell.html>.
- **International network of researchers to study effects of doubling the dose of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) on persons infected with H5N1 or severe seasonal flu.** Tamiflu is the first-line treatment for H5N1 patients and experts suggest that higher doses and/or longer treatment may improve survival. Results of this trial may affect quantities of Tamiflu stockpiled by governments for pandemic planning. See www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/mar2907tamiflu.html.
- **FDA announced the first approval of a human vaccine against H5N1 in the United States.** This inactivated vaccine may provide early limited protection in an H5N1 pandemic while a pandemic strain-specific vaccine is being developed and produced. The vaccine was prepared from a human strain of the virus and is intended for persons ages 18-64 years who could be at increased risk of exposure to the H5N1 virus. The vaccine will not be sold commercially. For more information: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01611.html>.
- **New informational “Keep Bird Flu Out of the U.S.” poster available at www.pandemicflu.gov.**



Reported Influenza Cases by Type & Percent of Visits Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)
Orange County, 2006-2007 Influenza Season



**Note: The number of reported cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases occurring in OC as not all labs participate, the surveillance programs are not population based, and testing may be influenced by many factors such as public interest. However, the trends in influenza activity are likely to be reflected accurately.

Avian Influenza Update

- 291 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (24), Djibouti (1), Egypt (34), Indonesia (81), Iraq (3), Lao People’s Democratic Republic (2), Nigeria (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (93), and have resulted in 172 (59%) deaths. For an up-to-date list of H5N1-affected countries, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.

Orange County**

- Since the last newsletter, there have been 43 new influenza cases (16 A, 7 B & 20 A/B unspecified).
- Of the 471 total reported cases to date: 54% were A, 12% B, and 34% A/B-unspecified.
- Of the 127 subtyped flu A specimens, 54% were H1 and 46% were H3.
- To date, a total of 9 severe pediatric flu (8 flu A & 1 A/B unspecified) cases and 4 deaths (3 pediatric flu-associated) have been reported.
- **Sentinel providers: Please continue reporting year-round.** Tracking of ILI and flu case reports allows us to monitor for importation of new viruses, outbreaks, or other unusual illness activity. Thanks for your participation!

California & the U.S.

- Influenza activity is sporadic in CA but continues widespread in four states: Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and New York.

Recommended Resources

OC: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>;
HHS: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>; General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>;
CA: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>
CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>;

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Alina Burgi or Pamela Roa Hipp at (714) 834-8180.
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