



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

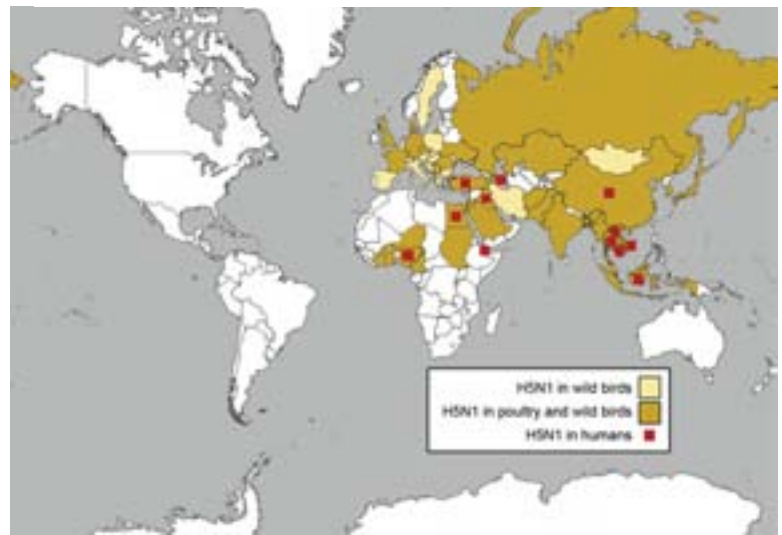
**Influenza season is quickly approaching. Consider influenza in your patients with fever and/or respiratory symptoms. To find available retail clinics for influenza vaccine, see [www.flucliniclocator.org](http://www.flucliniclocator.org).**

- **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. **However, during times of low influenza activity (such as now, early in the season), false-positive rapid tests are more likely to occur than when influenza is more common, so viral culture is helpful for confirmation of influenza.** Viral isolation (culture) is also the only way that the circulating influenza subtypes and strains can be identified and is critical for influenza surveillance. See [www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/labdiagnosis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/labdiagnosis.htm).
- **FDA approves the use of nasal live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV, FluMist) in children ages 2-5 years.** Previously, FluMist was limited to healthy children 5 years of age and older and adults up to 49 years of age. The CDC recommends that all children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years receive an influenza vaccine. The approval of FluMist increases vaccination options in children 2 to 5 years of age. FluMist should not be administered to anyone with asthma or to children under age 5 years with recurrent wheezing because of the potential for increased wheezing after receiving the vaccine. Persons allergic to any of FluMist's components, including eggs or egg products, should also not receive the vaccine. See [www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01705.html](http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01705.html).
- **CDC predicts this year's supply of influenza vaccine will be the largest ever.** Roughly 132 million doses are expected to be available this year, compared to the ~121 million doses last year, of which 18 million went unused. CDC officials state that vaccination coverage rates in the groups recommended to receive annual influenza vaccine have been persistently low; in 2005-06, only 18% of children aged 6 to 23 months were fully immunized (2 doses) against influenza, and the immunization rate for healthcare workers has remained at about 40% over the last decade. See [www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/sep1907vaccine.html](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/sep1907vaccine.html).
- **CDC updates its influenza website ([www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu))** which includes links to free flu materials.

### Avian Influenza Update (as of September 10th)

- 328 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (25), Djibouti (1), Egypt (38), Indonesia (106), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Nigeria (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (100), and have resulted in 200 (61%) deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe. For an up-to-date list of H5N1-affected countries, please visit: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.
- Please report immediately to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 any patients with fever and respiratory symptoms with history of travel to H5N1-affected areas in the 10 days prior to symptom onset.

### Nations with Confirmed H5N1 Avian Influenza Cases (as of September 2007)



**Recommended Resources**  
 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/>; General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

If you have any comments about this flyer, contact Alina Burgi or Pamela Roa Hipp at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at [epi@ochca.com](mailto:epi@ochca.com).