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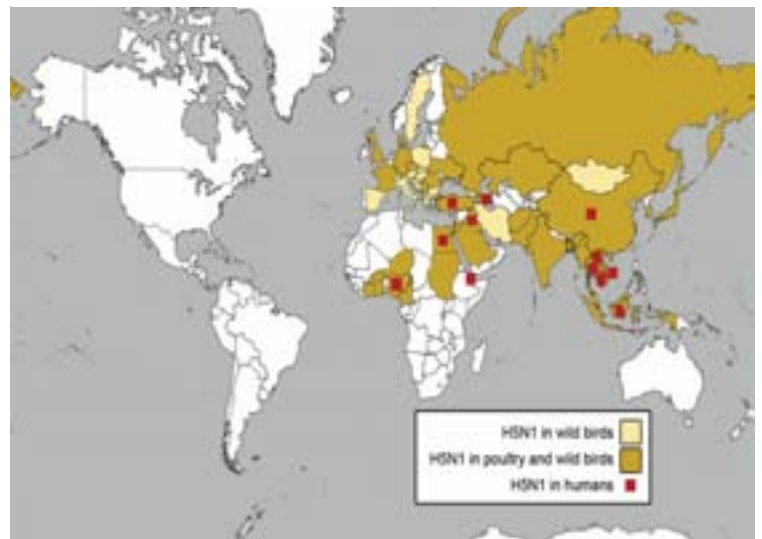
## Influenza season is quickly approaching. Now is the time to start vaccinating! Consider influenza in your patients with fever and/or respiratory symptoms.

- **Influenza vaccine:** The County of Orange Health Care Agency (HCA) will be offering free influenza vaccinations to persons meeting eligibility guidelines (see [ohealthinfo.com/public/flu/index.htm](http://ohealthinfo.com/public/flu/index.htm)) beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through the winter months. A calendar listing the dates and locations of all flu clinic sites should be available at this same website or by calling our Health Referral Line at (800) 564-8448 in mid-October. For retail clinics with available influenza vaccine, see [www.flucliniclocator.org](http://www.flucliniclocator.org).
- **FDA approves sixth U.S.-licensed seasonal influenza vaccine.** This inactivated influenza vaccine, Afluria, is available for use in preservative-free syringes and in multiple-dose vials containing thimerosal for persons 18 years of age and older. Afluria is manufactured in Australia and was approved using the FDA's accelerated approval pathway for serious or life-threatening diseases, which reduces the time for needed medical products to become available to the public. With the approval of this vaccine, the CDC estimates that 132 million doses of flu vaccine will be available this season. See [www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01714.html](http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01714.html).
- **Video podcast explaining influenza vaccine production and distribution process available from the CDC.** This "vodcast" is intended for clinicians, public health partners, and other vaccinators and has a running time of approximately 11 minutes. It is available via video, audio only if you are unable to view the video, and downloadable transcript at [www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=6678](http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=6678).
- **Highly pathogenic avian influenza H7N3 found in commercial poultry in Saskatchewan (Canada).** H7N3 is not normally associated with serious human illness and is NOT the same as the highly pathogenic H5N1 circulating in birds in Asia, Africa, and Europe. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency will be overseeing the slaughtering and removal of the birds, disinfection of the premises and equipment, and investigation into the source of the infection. In general, avian influenza viruses do not pose risks to food safety when poultry and poultry products are properly handled and cooked. See [www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2007/20070927e.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/newcom/2007/20070927e.shtml).

### Avian Influenza Update (as of October 2nd)

- 329 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (25), Djibouti (1), Egypt (38), Indonesia (107), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Nigeria (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (100), and have resulted in 201 (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.ohealthinfo.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 October 2007)



#### Recommended Resources

OC: <http://www.ohealthinfo.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).