



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

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

- **Influenza vaccine:** The County of Orange Health Care Agency is offering free influenza vaccination to persons meeting eligibility criteria; see ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/index.htm for more information. For available retail flu vaccine clinics, see www.flucliniclocator.org.
- **Reminder: California law prohibits administering mercury-containing vaccines to pregnant women or to children under age three.** For more information about the law, see www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/mercury_law.htm. For a list of available influenza vaccine formulations and their mercury content, see www.cdc.gov/flu/about/ga/vaxsupply.htm.
- **FluMist endorsed by CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for healthy 2-4 year olds.** Influenza vaccination is recommended for all children aged 6 months to 5 years. FluMist, which is delivered by nasal spray, was FDA approved for healthy 2-4 year olds in September 2007; prior to that it was only approved for healthy 5-49 year olds. Children with asthma should not receive FluMist but instead should receive the standard flu shot. For more information, see www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/oct2507acip.html.
- **“Pandemic Influenza: Warning, Children at-risk”,** a report issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Trust for America's Health, highlights the importance of considering children in pandemic flu planning efforts. The five sections cover background and introduction of influenza, strategies to contain the spread of pandemic influenza among children, medication interventions, diagnostics, and policy recommendations. See healthyamericans.org/reports/fluchildren/.
- **The Pandemic Vaccine Puzzle,** a seven part series investigating the prospects for development of pandemic vaccines, puts advances in vaccine technology in perspective by illuminating the formidable barriers to producing an effective and widely usable vaccine in a short time frame. See www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/index.html.
- **HHS draft guidance on allocating and targeting pandemic flu vaccine – open for public comment.** For more information, see pandemicflu.gov/vaccine/prioritization.html.

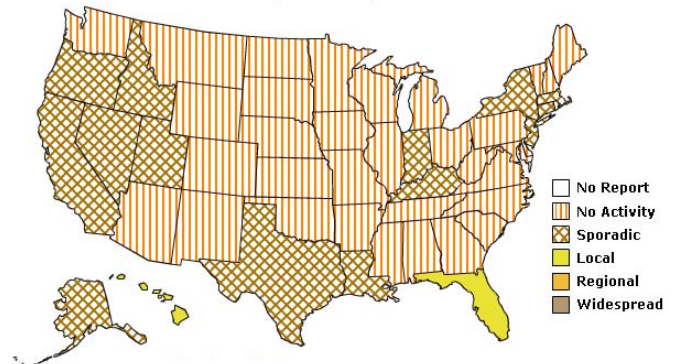
Avian Influenza Update (as of October 31st)

- 333 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (25), Djibouti (1), Egypt (38), Indonesia (111), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Nigeria (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (100), and have resulted in 204 (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: 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.

National Flu Update (Week Ending October 27th)

- A low level of influenza activity has been reported in the United States. Most states reported no or sporadic activity. Florida and Hawaii reported local activity.
- California reported sporadic influenza activity.

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending October 27, 2007 - Week 43



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

Recommended Resources

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

