



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

The Orange County Health Care Agency has confirmed its first two influenza cases (one influenza A & one influenza B) of the 2007-08 season. Consider influenza in your patients with fever and/or respiratory symptoms. All patients with respiratory infections should be handled using Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm>).

- **National Influenza Vaccination Week is scheduled for the week after Thanksgiving, November 27 to December 2**, and is designed to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination and promote greater use of the vaccine through November, December, and beyond. In addition, November 27, 2007, has been reserved as **Children's Flu Vaccination Day** and is intended to raise awareness about the value of vaccinating children, especially high-risk children and their close contacts. For more information on this event including resources, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm>.
- **All-time high supply of flu vaccine.** Although influenza activity remains low compared to last season, health officials are encouraging the public to take advantage of the current vaccine supply (103 million doses distributed so far) and get vaccinated now and through December or later. For more info, see <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/2007/r071109.htm>.
- **Study concludes that treatment with antivirals is associated with a significant reduction in mortality in adults hospitalized with laboratory confirmed influenza.** This was a prospective study where the main outcome evaluated was death within 15 days after symptom onset. The median age of the 327 enrolled adults was 77 years (range, 15-98 years), 75% of whom had underlying chronic illness. Antiviral treatment reduced the risk of death by 79%, but did not reduce the length of hospital stay. The majority of these patients who received antivirals had treatment initiated more than 48 hours after the flu symptoms began. In healthy adults, previous studies reported beneficial effects only when given within the first 48 hours after symptom onset. Researchers concluded that the use of antiviral drugs in hospitalized confirmed influenza cases can be beneficial. For more info, visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/nov1407antiviralrev.html>

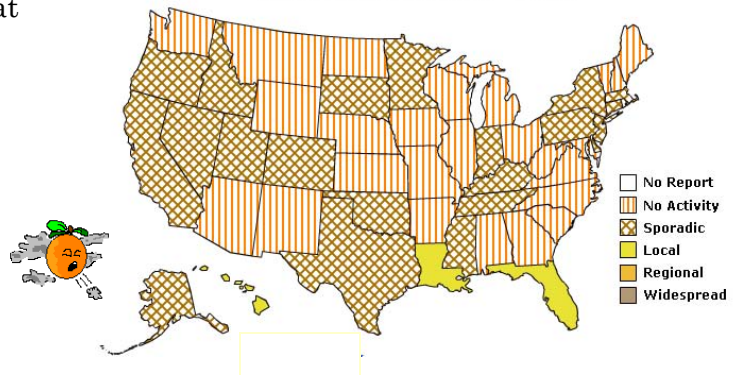
Avian Influenza Update (as of November 12th)

- 335 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (25), Djibouti (1), Egypt (38), Indonesia (113), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Nigeria (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (100), and have resulted in 206 (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 November 10th)

- Influenza activity remains low in the United States. Florida, Hawaii, and Louisiana reported local activity. Twenty-one states (including California) and the District of Columbia reported sporadic influenza activity. Twenty-six states reported no activity.

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending November 10, 2007 - Week 45



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.