

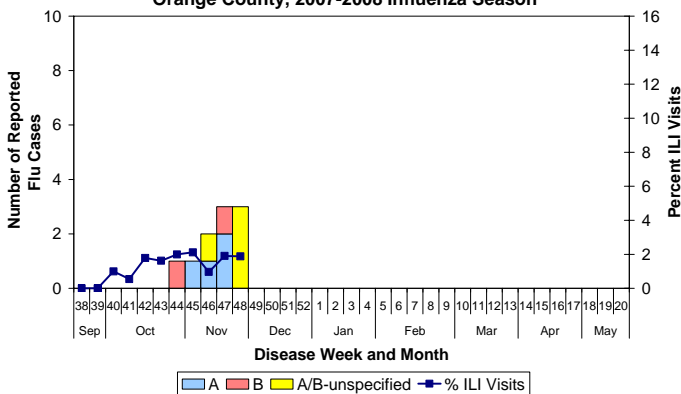


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Influenza activity remains low in Orange County. Now is the time to continue to vaccinate!

- **Breaking from your Comfort Zone - Extending the Influenza Vaccination Season.** The CDC and the National Influenza Vaccine Summit is co-hosting this conference call on Thursday, 12/6 at 9 am Pacific Standard Time, for healthcare providers and immunization partners to explain why it is important to extend the influenza vaccination season through March. For more information, see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/calls/flucall.htm>.
- **Healthcare providers: Need to purchase influenza vaccine for your patients?** See <http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats> and click on the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.
- **FDA Pediatric Advisory Committee recommends stronger warning labels for oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza).** The recommendations were prompted by continued reports of neuropsychiatric adverse events in children and teens in Japan who have taken these medications. Although it is unclear if the two drugs played a role in these neuropsychiatric events, the labeling changes are being recommended by the committee to increase awareness among healthcare providers and encourage them to monitor children closely during medication use. See <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/nov2707tamiflu2.html>.
- **Systemic review of published literature suggests that simple public health measures could be useful in reducing the transmission of respiratory viruses.** Of the studies reviewed, the highest quality cluster randomised controlled studies suggested that spread of respiratory viruses in the community could be prevented by implementing hygiene measures aimed at younger children. In addition, meta-analysis of six case-control studies suggested that physical measures were effective in preventing the spread of SARS; these measures included handwashing more than 10 times per day, wearing masks, and/or gloves, and the combination of handwashing, masks, gloves and gowns. See *BMJ* online publication: <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/bmj.39393.510347.BEv1>.
- **Public invited to participate in a web dialogue on vaccination prioritization for pandemic influenza.** This internet-based discussion will involve citizens, experts, policy makers, and public agencies and will take place from 12/4 through 12/6. For more information and to register, see <http://www.webdialogues.net/cs/panflu-engage-home/view/di/104?x-t=home.view>.

Reported Influenza Cases by Type & Percent of Visits Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)
Orange County, 2007-2008 Influenza Season



Orange County, California, and U.S. **

- To date, there have been 10 total reported flu cases in OC; 4 flu A (3 A/H1), 2 flu B, & 4 A/B unspecified.
- Last week, an OC severe pediatric influenza case (hospitalized in the PICU) was confirmed.
- Influenza activity in CA remains sporadic.
- Overall influenza activity remains low in the U.S. with no states reporting regional or widespread activity.



**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

- No additional human H5N1 cases have been confirmed since the last update. 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.

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.