

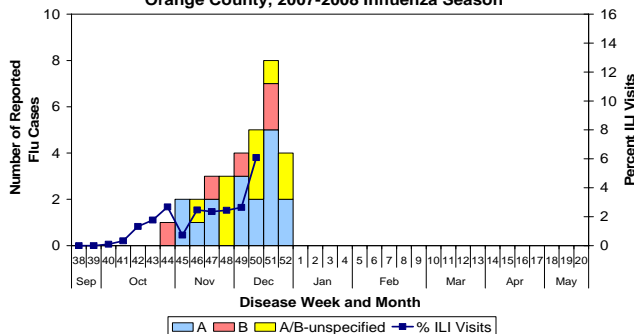


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Influenza activity remains low in Orange County. Stay healthy to welcome 2008 and get vaccinated!

- **Faces of Influenza**, the American Lung Association's Influenza Prevention Program, is an educational website designed to put a face on influenza in the U.S., show firsthand how serious this infectious disease can be, and encourage vaccination. Tools for healthcare providers and educators are included, as well as a link to find the nearest flu clinic (www.flucliniclocator.org).
- **Pandemic Influenza and Pregnant Women.** This article in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* emphasizes that pandemic influenza planning should include considerations specific to pregnant women. Pregnant women are at increased risk for severe influenza-associated complications and death. Maternal influenza infection, associated fever, and therapeutic and/or prophylactic agents may have effects on the fetus, and concerns about adverse effects may influence compliance with public health recommendations during a pandemic. See www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/1/95.htm.
- **Promising Practices for Pandemic Planning: Organization incorporates spiritual support into emergency response.** The current article focuses on the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster's (NVOAD) emotional and spiritual care committee that was founded in 2001, in response to members' experiences in providing spiritual support after September 11. The committee developed a handbook, *Light Our Way*, on spiritual health tools to guide disaster relief workers as they assist victims and as they themselves recover from difficult response efforts. For more info, see www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/dec1707spiritualpp.html. To view the Promising Practices: Pandemic Preparedness Tools website: www.pandemicpractices.org/practices/.
- **WHO releases report on Ethical Considerations in Developing a Public Health Response to Pandemic Influenza** www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CDS_EPR_GIP_2007_2c.pdf.

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 32 total reported influenza cases in OC; 17 A, five B, & ten A/B unspecified.
- Of the 17 influenza A, eight have been subtyped: six A/H1 and two A/H3.
- To date, there have been three laboratory confirmed severe pediatric influenza (PICU) cases in OC.
- Influenza activity is increasing in the U.S. with only eight states reporting no activity in week 51 (week ending 12/22/07). California reported sporadic influenza activity.

Avian Influenza Update (as of Dec. 28th)

- Pakistan has confirmed its first human H5N1 case, bringing the total of countries with confirmed human cases to 14. Additional human cases have been reported in Egypt, Vietnam, and Indonesia since our last update 12/14/07.
- 346 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (27), Djibouti (1), Egypt (41), Indonesia (116), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Myanmar (1), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (101), and have resulted in 213 (62%) deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.

**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.

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 Hipp at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.