



Eye on Influenza

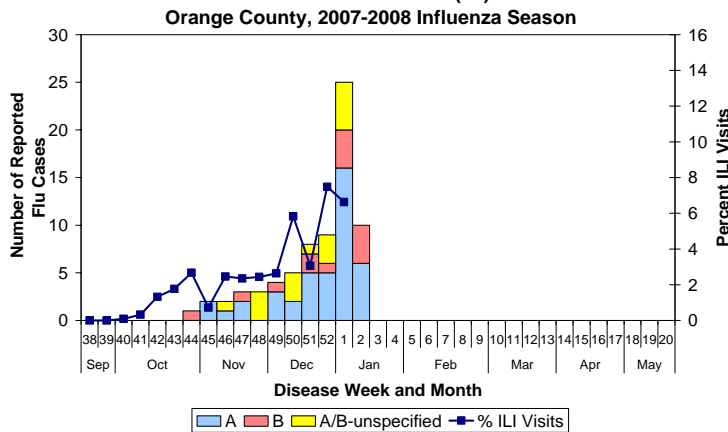
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Influenza activity is increasing in Orange County. Consider influenza in your patients presenting with fever and/or respiratory symptoms. For information on safety precautions for those traveling to Asia for the upcoming Lunar New Year (February 7), see <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentAvianFluAsia.aspx>.

- **FDA approves test that can detect 12 different respiratory viruses, including influenza, from a single sample.** The xTAG Respiratory Viral Panel (RVP) can detect influenza A (and distinguish between H1 and H3 subtypes); influenza B; human metapneumovirus (HMPV); respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) A and B; parainfluenza 1, 2, and 3; rhinovirus, and adenovirus. The test uses polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify viral material in respiratory specimens and color-coded beads tagged with specific viral sequences to identify the viruses. For additional info, see <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/jan0708test.html>.
- **Update on Acambis' universal influenza A vaccine (ACAM-FLU-A):** Results from a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 1 clinical trial involving 79 volunteers who received two doses of one of the following: ACAM-FLU-A alone, the vaccine plus one of two adjuvants, or placebo, revealed that 90% of all subjects seroconverted and the vaccine was well tolerated. ACAM-FLU-A is a recombinant vaccine that targets M2e, a conserved region of all influenza A strains. See <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/jan0408vaccine.html>.
- **Promising Practices for Pandemic Planning: Stay at Home Toolkit for Influenza.** The current article focuses on a home care kit that provides the public with practical guidelines on how to care for ill household members. See http://www.pandemicpractices.org/files/234/234_toolkit.pdf for the toolkit and <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/index.html> for a summary.

Reported Influenza Cases by Type & Percent of Visits Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)



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

- To date, there have been 72 total reported influenza cases in OC; 42 A, 14 B, & 16 A/B unspecified.
- Of the 42 influenza A, 18 have been subtyped: 11 A/H1 and seven A/H3.
- Influenza activity was increasing in the U.S. in week 1 (ending 1/5/08) with Colorado reporting widespread activity and 10 states including CA reporting regional activity. Although a number of influenza A H3 and B strains typed thus far have not matched the 2007-2008 vaccine, it is too early in the season to determine which influenza viruses will predominate or how well the vaccine and circulating strains will match overall.

**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 (as of Jan. 11th)

- 349 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (27), Djibouti (1), Egypt (43), Indonesia (117), 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 216 (62%) deaths. Infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Consider avian influenza in travelers with fever and respiratory symptoms returning from endemic areas and report suspect cases to Epidemiology.

Recommended Resources
 CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>;
 OC: <http://www.ohealthinfo.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.

