



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

Influenza activity continues to increase in Orange County and in the U.S. It's not too late to vaccinate!

- **CDC releases Health Advisory about Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality and *Staphylococcus aureus* co-infection.** To access, see www2a.cdc.gov/HAN/ArchiveSys/. Key points include:
 - 73 influenza-associated deaths in children were reported to CDC between 10/1/06-9/30/07.
 - Of the 30 children that had a documented bacterial co-infection recorded, 22 (73%) were infected with *Staphylococcus aureus*. This is an increase from the 2005-2006 season when 3 (6.5%) *S. aureus* co-infections among 46 pediatric influenza-associated deaths were identified, and from the 2004-2005 season when one (2.1%) among 47 deaths was identified.
 - Fifteen (65%) of the 22 pediatric influenza-associated deaths with *S. aureus* co-infections had methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA).

Recommendations:

- Healthcare providers should test persons hospitalized with respiratory illness, including those with community-acquired pneumonia, for influenza.
- Healthcare providers should consider the possibility of bacterial co-infection among patients with influenza and request bacterial cultures on those who are severely ill or who have community-acquired pneumonia.
- Healthcare providers should consider the prevalence of MRSA in their communities when choosing empiric therapy for patients with suspected influenza-related pneumonia.
- **Resistance to oseltamivir (Tamiflu) reported in seasonal influenza A H1N1.** Thirteen percent of 148 H1N1 viruses tested in Europe from November and December were resistant to Tamiflu. In the U.S., 5.5% of the 109 H1N1 viruses tested by the CDC so far this season were resistant. The CDC is continuing to monitor resistance patterns and at this time, there are no changes in recommendations for the treatment of seasonal influenza. Current recommendations are available at www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm.

Physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants are needed to be sentinel providers for influenza surveillance. It takes just a few minutes a week and viral testing on respiratory specimens and rapid test kits are provided. For more information, email mcheung@ochca.com.

Orange County, California, & U.S.

- To date, there have been 277 total reported influenza cases in OC: 170 A, 35 B, & 72 A/B unspecified. Of the 170 influenza A, 70 have been subtyped: 41 A/H1 and 29 A/H3.
- Please report any severe pediatric influenza cases (hospitalized in the ICU) or deaths to Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.
- Influenza activity during week 4 (ending 1/26/08) was reported as widespread in 11 states (AK, CO, HI, KS, MA, MI, NM, NY, PA, TX, VA) and regional in 26 states including California.



Avian Influenza Update (as of Feb. 1st)

- 357 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (27), Djibouti (1), Egypt (43), Indonesia (124), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Myanmar (1), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (102), and have resulted in 225 (63%) 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 at 714-834-8180.

Recommended Resources

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/;
 OC: www.ochcahealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm;
 CA: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdcd/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm;
 HHS: www.pandemicflu.gov/; General: www.cdc.gov/flu

For information on safety precautions for those traveling to Asia for the upcoming Lunar New Year (February 7), see www.cdc.gov/travel/content/AvianFluAsia.aspx