

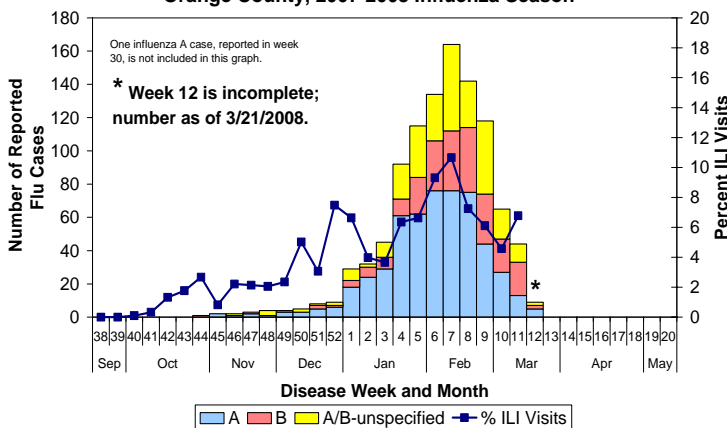


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Influenza reports in Orange County appear to have peaked during week 7 (week ending 2/16/08) and are decreasing. However, influenza is still circulating and second peaks late in the season are not uncommon, especially with influenza B.

- **Hong Kong school officials close all primary schools for two weeks to curb seasonal influenza epidemic.** There have been no signs that the circulating influenza strains are any more virulent than usual, but outbreaks affecting hundreds of people at several schools had already been reported and at least three deaths in children had occurred. The school closure affects nearly 560,000 children and will be in effect until March 28th. This closure is unrelated to avian influenza H5N1. For more information: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/mar1308hongkong.html>.
- **Indonesia's avian influenza situation remains a critical concern,** the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations said. Spread of avian influenza continues, with 31 of 33 provinces affected. <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000813/index.html>.
- **HHS Pandemic Update V released.** Since the last update, milestones included stakeholder collaboration on issues such as vaccine allocation and stockpiling of medical countermeasures including vaccines. For more information, visit <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/panflureport5.html>.
- **Federal guidance issued to assist State governments in improving and maintaining their pandemic influenza operating plans:** <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/guidance031108.pdf>.
- **HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt blogs about pandemic influenza communication exercise.** His comments underline the importance of the blog world in the management of information during a crisis: http://secretarysblog.hhs.gov/my_weblog/2008/03/pandemic-exerci.html.

**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 1,028 total reported influenza cases in OC; 534 A, 232 B, & 262 A/B unspecified. Of the 534 influenza A, 160 have been subtyped: 61 A/H1 and 99 A/H3.
- To date, there have been 22 reported severe pediatric influenza cases in OC, including one death; 15 tested positive for flu A and 7 B.
- National influenza activity continues to decrease since week 8 (week ending 2/23/08). However, 32 states are still reporting widespread activity, including CA.

****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 Mar. 18th)

- 373 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (30), Djibouti (1), Egypt (47), Indonesia (129), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Myanmar (1), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (106), and have resulted in 236 (63%) deaths. Infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Report any suspect avian influenza cases to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.

Recommended Resources
 CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>;
 OC: <http://www.ochca.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>;
 CA: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcd/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.