

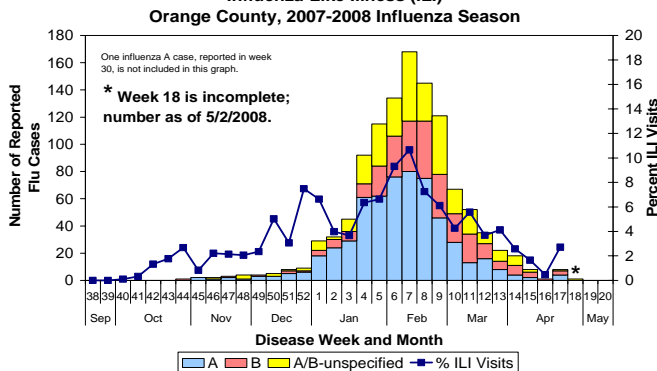


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Although influenza activity continues to decrease in Orange County, influenza viruses are still circulating.

- **HHS webcast series on pandemic planning – third webinar addresses school closures during an influenza pandemic.** Many public health experts, including at the CDC, believe that school closures (preferred term is “school dismissal”) may reduce the impact of a pandemic. HHS recommendations for school dismissal are available at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/community/commitigation.html>. The webinar discussed the need for school officials to become actively involved in their community pandemic planning, continuity of education using distance learning, alternate ways to provide care to children at home, and work absenteeism due to parents needing to care for children at home. Regarding children who depend on school food programs for breakfast and lunch, the USDA stated that during a pandemic it would likely replace the programs with a disaster food stamp program. Use of schools as healthcare sites or morgues was also discussed. See <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may0108schools.html>. **HHS's next pandemic planning webinar (June 4) will address workforce preparedness.** See http://www.pandemicflu.gov/news/panflu_webinar.html for more information.
- **HHS adds variant H5N1 vaccine to stockpile.** A vaccine for the variant H5N1 clade 2.2, which resulted in outbreaks in more than 60 countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa, has been added to the Strategic National Stockpile, which already contains supplies of vaccine based on three other H5N1 variants (clades 1, 2.1, and 2.3). Currently, the stockpile contains enough H5N1 vaccine to cover about 12 to 13 million people, assuming two 90-microgram doses per person. HHS expects to reach its goal of enough vaccine for 20 million people by fall 2008. For more info, see <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/apr2908sanofi.html>.
- **Institute of Medicine makes recommendations to the U.S. government regarding antiviral use during an influenza pandemic.** Key recommendations include the need for clarification of goals for antiviral use (e.g., treatment and/or prophylaxis) during a pandemic, expansion of stockpile based on these goals, development of a prioritization plan for antiviral use, and development of agreements between public and private sectors to coordinate use of antivirals. See <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/2955.aspx>.

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 1,132 total reported influenza cases in OC; 570 A, 270 B, & 292 A/B unspecified. Of the 570 influenza A, 227 have been subtyped: 73 A/H1 and 154 A/H3. Of the nine strain-typed isolates, three were A/Solomon Islands/3/2006-like (H1N1) and six were of the B/Yamagata lineage.***
- National influenza activity continues to decrease since February.

**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 Apr. 30th)

- 382 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in 14 countries and have resulted in 241 (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/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>;
 HHS: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>; General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

***Note: 2007-2008 influenza vaccine components included A/Solomon/3/2006-like (H1N1), A/Wisconsin/67/2005-like (H3N2), and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like (B/Victoria lineage). FDA has recommended that all three components be changed for 2008-2009, to A/Brisbane/59/2007-like (H1N1), A/Brisbane/10/2007-like (H3N2) and B/Florida/04/2006-like (B/Yamagata lineage).

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.

