

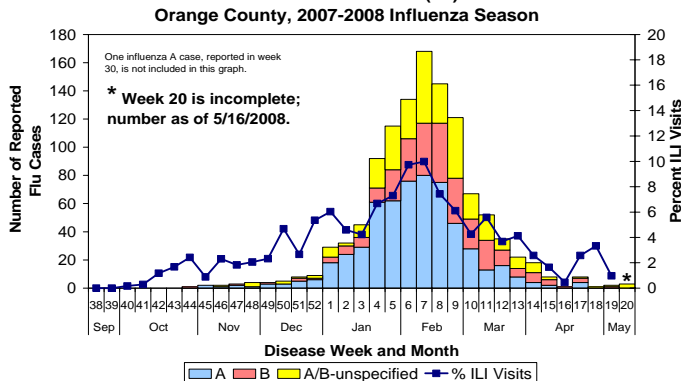


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Although flu season is coming to an end, influenza viruses are still circulating. We are especially interested in specimens from patients with influenza-like illness late in the season to look for changes in the circulating viruses.

- **Influenza vaccine manufacturers expect record quantities of vaccine for the 2008-2009 season.** Representatives from 5 companies selling flu vaccine collectively expect to deliver 143 to 146 million doses of vaccine next season. Discussions at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit this week explored the challenges of leftover unused vaccine each year and providing better population coverage. See <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/may1308fluvax.html>.
- **OSHA releases proposed workplace guidance on stockpiling respirators and facemasks for an influenza pandemic for public comment.** This guidance will serve as an appendix to the Department of Labor and HHS jointly issued *Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic* (February 2007), and encourages employers in the public and private sector to purchase and stockpile facemasks and respirators in advance of a pandemic, depending on risk of exposure of their employees. The guidance describes the levels of risk, advantages and disadvantages of facemasks and different types of respirators, along with cost, estimated usage and stockpiling estimates for different occupational settings. See <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/stockpiling-facemasks-respirators.html>.
- **Critical care task force publishes series of 5 articles in *Chest* journal on current capabilities, surge capacity and allocation of resources in a mass critical care setting.** The assessment of current US and Canadian capabilities for critical care during a disaster suggest that there will be shortages in many areas, including equipment, oxygen, supplies, staff and space. One article attempted to define a level of essential but limited critical care, or “emergency mass critical care”, during an overwhelming disaster. Another article suggests a plan to assist in rationing critical care resources during a disaster. To access the articles: http://www.chestjournal.org/content/vol133/5_suppl/. For a summary: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may1308chest.html>.
- **WHO officials meet to begin revisions on pandemic guidance.** The new guidance will reflect important advances since the last guidance in 2005 and will incorporate new information on human H5N1 vaccines, treatment of H5N1 infected patients, and International Health Regulations regarding responses to influenza pandemic threats, disease control, surveillance and communications. See <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/influenza/en/index.html>.

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 1,137 total reported influenza cases in OC; 570 A, 271 B, & 296 A/B unspecified. Of the 570 influenza A, 229 have been subtyped: 73 A/H1 and 156 A/H3.
- National influenza activity continues to decrease. Outpatient visits for influenza-like illness and acute respiratory illness are below the national baseline, although deaths for pneumonia and influenza remain above the epidemic threshold.

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.

**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/dc/dc/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.