

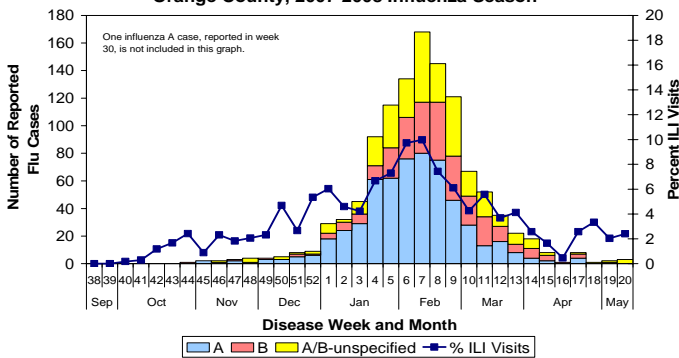


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Although official influenza season has ended, influenza viruses may still be circulating. Surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) continues year-round to monitor for novel strains of influenza and other respiratory viruses in the community.

- **Response to school closures during influenza B outbreak, North Carolina (NC).** Ninety-one (91) percent of 220 households with school-age children in a small rural NC county surveyed during an influenza B outbreak considered school closure appropriate. No adults missed work solely to provide childcare during the 10 day school closure and only 10% of households required special childcare arrangements. However, 89% of children visited at least one public location during the closure despite public health recommendations to avoid large gatherings. Although the response to school closure may vary in different populations and settings, or during an actual pandemic, planning for a pandemic should incorporate issues learned from seasonal influenza and address the potential for transmission in public areas during school closure. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/7/pdfs/08-0096.pdf>.
- **WHO confirms first human case of H5N1 avian influenza in Bangladesh.** Bangladesh is now the 15th country to report a confirmed human case of H5N1. The case was identified retrospectively as part of seasonal surveillance activities in Bangladesh and had exposure to live and slaughtered chickens in his home. See http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_05_28/en/index.html.
- **Some North American avian influenza H7 viruses may be improving their capacity to infect humans.** Scientists have found that certain H7 avian influenza viruses are becoming more like human flu viruses in their preference in binding human-type receptors. These findings reinforce that influenza viruses are constantly changing and that potential pandemic viruses other than H5N1 may be emerging. See <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/105/21/7558>.

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 1,141 total reported influenza cases in OC; 570 A, 273 B, & 298 A/B unspecified. Of the 570 influenza A, 237 have been subtyped: 74 A/H1 and 163 A/H3.
- National influenza activity continues to decrease. Twenty-three states, including California, reported only sporadic influenza activity, while 26 states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity in week 20 (week ending 5/20/08).

Avian Influenza Update (as of May 28th)

- 383 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in 15 countries (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam) and have resulted in 241 (63%) deaths. Infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Please report to OC Epidemiology (714-834-8180) any persons with fever and respiratory symptoms who traveled to H5N1-endemic areas within the 10 days prior to onset.

**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.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>

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.

