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Although traditional influenza season is over in the U.S., consider influenza in returning travelers with fever and respiratory symptoms and report any suspect avian influenza to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.

- **FDA approves flu vaccines from six manufacturers for the upcoming 2008-09 season.** This will be the first year in which all three flu strains used in the previous season's vaccine have been replaced. In most recent years, only one to two vaccine strains have been changed. The decision to change all three strains for this upcoming season has generated some concerns regarding production delays or low yields as viruses are grown in eggs. However, the six vaccine manufacturers reported no major production problems and at least three have already begun shipment of the vaccine to distributors and healthcare providers. Manufacturers estimate that 143-146 million doses of flu vaccine will be produced for the U.S. market this year (140 million doses were produced last year). This year, an additional 30 million people (school-aged children) have been added to the list of persons for whom vaccine is recommended by the CDC, making the total number of those targeted roughly 258 million (approximately 84% of the U.S. population). To read more, visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/aug0608fluvax.html>.
- **New second-generation antiviral drug may be as effective at treating influenza as oseltamivir (Tamiflu).** The Australian pharmaceutical company Biota, in a joint partnership with Japan-based Daiichi-Sankyo, is developing a second-generation version of the inhaled neuraminidase inhibitor zanamivir (Relenza). A potential benefit of the new drug, named CS-8958, is its long-acting nature which might allow for less frequent dosing which could reduce the storage space needed to stockpile antivirals for a pandemic. In a double-blind phase 2 trial, inhaled CS-8958 administered once was as effective as a course of oseltamivir (75 mg given twice a day for five days). Biota stated that in preclinical studies, CS-8958 demonstrated efficacy against H5N1 avian influenza, as well as influenza A and B. See <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/aug0108antiviral-ms.html>.

Orange County Influenza Summary*

- Last season (2007-2008), there were 1,142 total reported influenza cases in OC; 570 A, 274 B, & 298 A/B unspecified. Of the 570 influenza A, 237 were subtyped: 75 A/H1 and 165 A/H3.
- Fifteen isolates were sent to the State Viral and Rickettsial Disease Lab for strain-typing. The results are as follows:
 - Four A/Solomon Islands/03/06 (H1)-like (H1 component of 2007-08 vaccine),
 - Two A/Brisbane/10/07 (H3)-like,
 - Seven B/Florida/04/07 (Yamagata lineage), and
 - Two B/Yamagata lineage
- Influenza A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/07 (H3)-like, and B/Florida/04/07 (Yamagata lineage) are the recommended strains to be included in the flu vaccine for the upcoming influenza season (2008-09).

Avian Influenza Update (as of Jun. 19th)

- No new cases have been reported by the WHO since June 19th. 385 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in 15 countries, resulting in 243 (63%) deaths. Infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.

*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.

<p align="center">Recommended Resources</p> <p align="center">CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/; OC: http://www.ochalthinfo.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</p>
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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.

