



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

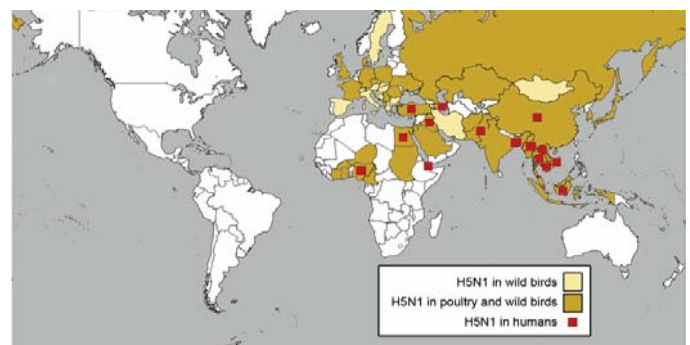
Although traditional influenza season has not yet started in the U.S., consider influenza in returning travelers with fever and respiratory symptoms. Please report any suspect avian influenza to OC Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.

- **Seasonal influenza H1N1 with increasing resistance to Tamiflu.** The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 31% (242 of 788) of A/H1N1 isolates from 16 countries that were tested in recent months carried a mutation associated with oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistance. The resistant strain has been found in 35 countries worldwide, mostly in the northern hemisphere, including in 12% of tested U.S. isolates and 26% of tested Canadian isolates. There have been no reports of resistance to Tamiflu in A/H3N2 and B isolates, and no reports of resistance to zanamivir (Relenza), another neuraminidase inhibitor. Recently a death in an immunocompromised Dutch patient with oseltamivir-resistant H1N1 influenza was reported, suggesting that these resistant strains may be able to cause disease at least in a compromised host. See www.cidrap.umn.edu/8/25/08 and 9/5/08 news articles.
- **Nonprofit health groups and local health agencies organize immunization clinics at or near polling locations.** The Vote and Vax program is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration (SPARC) which provides health agencies with technical expertise to set up and market flu-vaccination clinics. According to the organizers, offering flu vaccinations on Election Day is a way to target seniors, who typically vote in large numbers, and may attract other vulnerable populations who might otherwise be difficult to reach. Survey results from the 2006 Election Day immunization clinics revealed that more than 80% of the adults who were vaccinated were in the CDC's flu-immunization priority groups. See www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/aug2208votevax.html.
- **GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) joins Roche in offering program to facilitate business stockpiling of antivirals for pandemic preparedness.** The GSK program allows two options: (1) a preferred pricing plan to buy zanamivir (Relenza) at discounted prices that include free storage, and (2) a reservation plan to reserve and store drug for the life of the contract for an annual fee of \$6 per treatment course, which is similar to the Roche plan for stockpiling Tamiflu. HHS' preliminary guidance on antiviral use and stockpiling recommends essential services consider prophylaxis for critical workers. Experts recommend that stockpiles not rely on one drug alone because of the possibility of resistance developing. See www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/sep0308relenza.html.
- **Promising Practices for Pandemic Planning:** UC Berkeley students teach young children good hand hygiene habits through a 15-minute classroom skit. See www.pandemicpractices.org/practices/.

Avian Influenza Update

- No new human H5N1 cases have been reported by the WHO since June 19th. For the latest WHO H5N1 updates, see www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/.
- **Low pathogenic avian influenza H5N8 outbreak in Idaho game farm.** Birds from that farm that were shipped to California for a bird dog event were quarantined and culled, and the farm is currently quarantined. However, it is not unusual to find low pathogenic avian influenza viruses in the U.S. See www.cidrap.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/sep0508idaho.html.

Nations with Confirmed H5N1 Avian Influenza Cases (as of September, 2008)



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/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.