

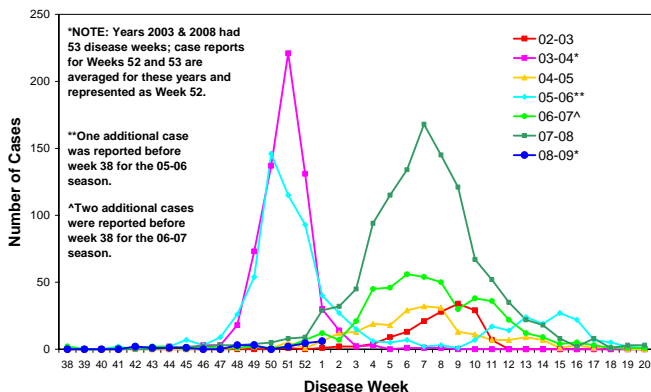


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**Influenza activity remains sporadic in Orange County; consider influenza in your patients with fever and/or respiratory symptoms and test for influenza. The Orange County Health Care Agency is offering free flu vaccines for eligible groups: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/Public/flu/index.htm>.**

- **Interim recommendations about influenza antiviral use and resistance available as Podcast at <http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=10652>.** For more comprehensive review, see CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) conference call slides, available at <http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>.
- **Norwegian study examines epidemiologic and clinical characteristics of oseltamivir-resistant influenza A/H1N1 viruses, 2007-08 season.** Clinical presentation and hospitalization rates were not statistically different for patients with oseltamivir (Tamiflu®)-resistant viruses compared to susceptible viruses after adjusting for age, gender, and predisposing disease. The emergence of resistant viruses was not associated with prior oseltamivir use in Norway. The study shows that resistant influenza viruses are capable of persistent spread among humans, even when antiviral medications are not widely used. See <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/15/2/pdfs/08-1031.pdf> or Feb. 2009 issue of *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/index.html>).
- **Uncommon avian influenza human infection detected in Hong Kong, but virus is unlikely to spread easily among humans.** A 2-month-old baby from China tested positive while in Hong Kong for avian influenza A/H9N2, which is one of the subtypes thought to have the potential to evolve into a pandemic strain. DNA sequencing, however, shows that this case's virus contained only avian genes and had not reassorted with human influenza viruses, indicating it is not likely to spread easily among humans. Hong Kong's last human case of H9N2 was in 2007; only five cases have been reported there since 1999. Hong Kong public health press release: <http://www.dh.gov.hk/english/press/2009/090107-2.html>. News report of infection: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/dec3008influenza.html>.
- **HHS releases Pandemic Update VI** summarizing progress made in vaccine development including cell-based vaccines, point-of-care testing to distinguish pandemic from seasonal influenza, stockpiling of pre-pandemic H5N1 vaccine, antivirals, personal protective equipment, and other supplies, and global surveillance. See <http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/panflureport6.html>.

Reported Influenza Cases by Week and Season, Orange County, 2002-2009



### Orange County, California, and U.S. \*\*

- To date this season, 27 influenza reports have been received in OC: 52% flu A (36% subtyped as A/H1N1, 64% not subtyped), 22% flu B, and 26% flu A/B unspecified.
- Influenza activity in California remains sporadic. Overall influenza activity remains low in the U.S. Because of the low activity, only a few viruses have been characterized; it is too early to predict whether circulating strains will match the vaccine strains or how prevalent antiviral resistance will be.

\*\*Note: The number of reported cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases occurring in OC as not all hospitals/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

- Two new human H5N1 cases have been reported in China (1, death) and Vietnam (1) since the last update. The cumulative number of cases for 2003-08 is 393, with a mortality rate of 63%. For the latest WHO H5N1 updates, see [www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/).

**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 Pamela Roa Hipp or Steve Klish at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at [epi@ochca.com](mailto:epi@ochca.com).