



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

Influenza activity is increasing in the United States. In December, there has been an increase in the reporting of regional or widespread influenza activity (from 4 states in week 49 to 17 states in week 51), mainly in the southern and southeastern states. For the second consecutive week, the percentage of outpatient influenza-like illness visits reported by sentinel providers was above baseline.

- **New Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) infection control standard effective January 1, 2007.** This new JCAHO standard requires accredited organizations to provide influenza vaccine to staff, including volunteers and independent practitioners with close patient contact, as part of an influenza vaccination program. In addition, a **new California hospital influenza law in effect as of July 1, 2007** will require general acute care facilities to offer influenza vaccine to employees at no cost, require employees to be vaccinated or sign a declination, institute respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette and isolation protocols, and develop a pandemic influenza plan. For more info: http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/shared/hospital_influenza_law.htm
- **Guidance for Prioritization for Pre-Pandemic and Pandemic Influenza Vaccine.** The Department of Health and Human Services is seeking input from the public on considerations for prioritization of limited supplies of influenza vaccine in the event of an influenza pandemic. For more info: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/PIV/RFI/>
- **Three new human cases of H5N1 infection.** The Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population has informed WHO of three new cases of H5N1 infection, all from one extended family in Gharbiyah province (80 kilometers northwest of Cairo). All three patients died; the most recent death occurred on December 27, 2006. The cases reportedly had contact with sick ducks. For more info: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2006_12_27a/en/index.html
- **New H5N1 outbreaks in poultry in Vietnam.** Vietnam reported major H5N1 outbreaks at two poultry farms in the southern Mekong Delta (Ca Mau and Bac Lieu provinces); these were the first major outbreaks reported since last year. The source of infection is unknown. For more info: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/dec2006vietnam.html>
- **CHDS surveillance guidelines for human cases of avian influenza in California:** <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/vrdl/html/flu/h5n1/surveillance%20guidelines.htm>
- **CDHS Immunization Branch: Protect Yourself Against Flu and Pandemic Flu Brochure:** <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/pdf/IMM-853.pdf>

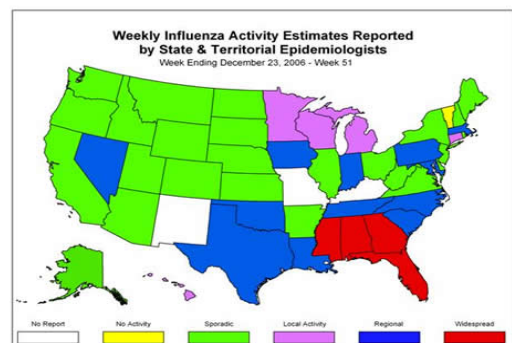


Avian Influenza Update

- 261 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (6), China (21), Djibouti (1), Egypt (18)*, Indonesia (74), Iraq (3), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (93), and have resulted in 157 deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe. For a list of H5N1-affected countries, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.
**New reported case(s) since Dec. 15th*
- The sensitivity of commercial flu antigen tests for detecting H5N1 has not been established. Please contact OC Epidemiology immediately at 714-834-8180 to report any suspect avian influenza cases and we can assist with the appropriate testing.

Seasonal Influenza Update

- **Orange County** has reported 3 influenza cases (2 A & 1 B) in the last 2 weeks. A total of 7 cases have been reported this season (5 flu A / 2 flu B). In the **US**, four states reported widespread influenza activity, 12 regional and five local activity during week 51 (week ending 12/23/06). **CA** reported sporadic activity.



Recommended Resources

General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

OC: <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/surveillance.htm>

CA: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/vrdl/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; HHS: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Pamela Roa Hipp or Alina Burgi at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.