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On average, 200,000 excess hospitalizations and 36,000 excess deaths occur annually in the United States due to influenza. Reduce the risk to yourself and others...get a flu vaccine.

- **First do no harm....Protect patients by making sure all staff receive yearly influenza vaccine.** Unvaccinated healthcare providers (HCP) contribute to flu outbreaks and staffing shortages in health-care facilities. JCAHO has included influenza vaccination of HCP in accreditation requirements beginning January 1, 2007. For more information, see www.jointcommission.org/newsroom/newsreleases/nr_06_13_06. The CDC recommendations for influenza vaccination of HCP include:
 - **Educate HCP** regarding the benefits of influenza vaccination and the potential health consequences of influenza illness for themselves and their patients. For screening questionnaires: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4066.pdf> (injectable vaccine) & <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4067.pdf> (intranasal vaccine).
 - **Offer influenza vaccine annually** to all eligible HCP. Use of either inactivated (TIV) or live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) is recommended for eligible persons.
 - **Provide influenza vaccination to HCP at the work site and at no cost.** For posters encouraging HCW vaccination: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/izgroup/pdf/imm801es.pdf>.
 - **Obtain a signed declination from HCP who decline influenza vaccination.** For a sample declination form, see <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4068.pdf>.
 - **Monitor HCP influenza vaccination coverage and declination at regular intervals**
 - **Use the level of HCP influenza vaccination coverage as one measure of a patient-safety quality program.**



For more information see Influenza Vaccination of Health-Care Personnel (2/24/06 MMWR Recommendations and Reports): at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5502.pdf.

- **Flu shots are now available** through the County's annual influenza vaccination program and through private physicians, pharmacies and other retail businesses. Call 1-800-564-8448 or visit <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/> & <http://findaflushot.com> for more details.
- Interim Guidance on Planning for the **Use of Surgical Masks and Respirators in Health Care Settings** during an Influenza Pandemic can be found at: <http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/maskguidancehc.html>.

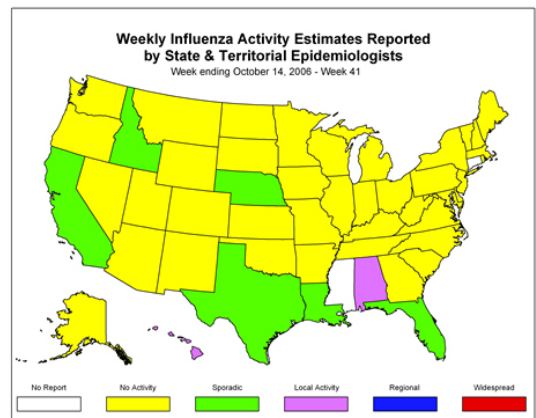
Avian Influenza Update

- 256 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (6), China (21), Djibouti (1), Egypt (15)*, Indonesia (72)*, Iraq (3), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (93), and have resulted in 151 deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe.
**New reported case(s) since Oct. 10th.*
- For an up-to-date list of H5N1-affected countries, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm>.
- Patients with fever and respiratory symptoms should be asked about travel to H5N1-affected countries within 10 days of symptom onset.

Influenza Update

- In the **United States** a low level of influenza activity was reported during week 41 (week ending 10/14). Two states reported local influenza activity; six states reported sporadic influenza 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 Sandra Nutter at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.