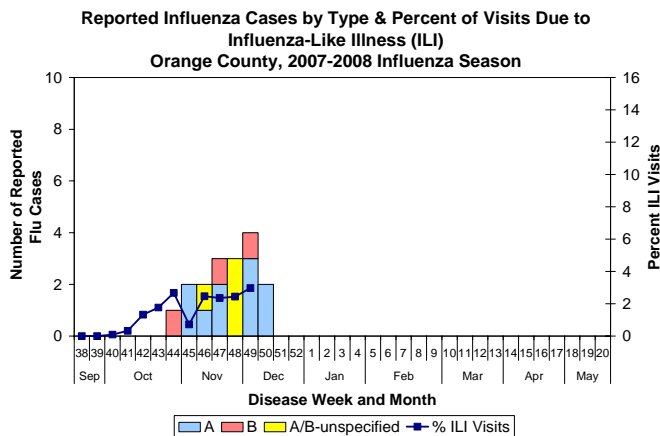




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Influenza activity remains low in Orange County. Keep the holidays healthy: vaccinate!

- **CDC and the National Influenza Vaccine Summit urge healthcare providers to extend influenza vaccination efforts through March 2008.** During a teleconference held on 12/6, experts emphasized that vaccination should not end in December as flu season continues into early spring. In addition, experts noted that physicians have the ability to educate patients that refuse vaccine and to ensure that clinic staff are vaccinated, not only to protect themselves and patients but also to help debunk myths regarding the vaccine. For more information and to obtain a copy of the presentation, visit <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/dec0607vaccination.html>.
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services releases toolkit to promote local pandemic preparedness.** The toolkit materials were developed based on input received from community leaders and CDC during a 5-week blog series and leadership forum held earlier this year. These materials are intended for community groups such as churches and businesses, healthcare and civic organizations, and can be adapted to meet the needs of each entity. The toolkit includes templates for publicizing campaigns to stockpile food, checklists, fact sheets, sample e-mails, and sample newsletter articles and provides ideas about incentives for attending pandemic planning meetings and related activities. To access the toolkit, see <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/takethelead/index.html>.
- **Public offers ideas to revise draft pandemic vaccine allocation plan.** During a three-day web dialogue with pandemic experts and federal and county public health partners, public participants offered suggestions to fine-tune the plan, including prioritization of families of first responders and key healthcare workers, and elevating the priority of critical infrastructure workers, such as those that maintain the electric power grid. For more information, see <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/dec1207priority.html>.



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

- To date, there have been 17 total reported influenza cases in OC; ten A, three B, & four A/B unspecified.
- Of the ten influenza A, five have been subtyped; four A/H1 and one A/H3.
- A low level of influenza activity has been reported in the United States. Most states reported no or sporadic activity.
- California reported sporadic influenza activity while Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Virginia reported local activity and Texas reported regional activity.

****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.

Avian Influenza Update (as of Dec. 14th)

- Myanmar has confirmed its first human H5N1 case, bringing the total of countries with confirmed human cases to 13.
- 340 human H5N1 cases have been confirmed in Azerbaijan (8), Cambodia (7), China (27), Djibouti (1), Egypt (38), Indonesia (115), Iraq (3), Lao People's Democratic Republic (2), Myanmar (1), Nigeria (1), Thailand (25), Turkey (12), and Vietnam (100), and have resulted in 208 (61%) deaths. H5N1-infected birds have been reported in multiple areas in Asia, Africa and Europe. See www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/index.htm.

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/dede/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.