



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

Influenza is on the rise! It's not too late to vaccinate. Influenza vaccine is available throughout the County. For publicly funded vaccine clinics, see www.ochealthinfo.com/flu. For retail locations, see the Flu Vaccine Finder at <http://flushot.healthmap.org/>

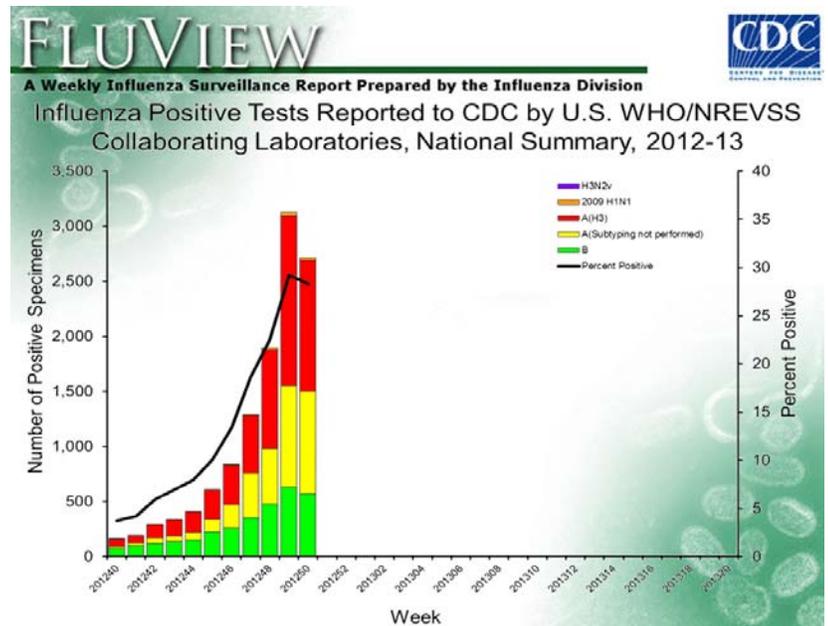


• **Influenza - Orange County:**

- **Flu Activity:** The first confirmed case of severe influenza this season was reported last week. This case is a child with influenza B who had an underlying condition that may have increased the risk for complications from influenza. The patient has recovered and was discharged home. Influenza detections in Orange County remain low but have been increasing in recent weeks, with flu A/H3 and B being the predominant types so far this season. Visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) remain low.
- **Disease Reporting:** Please report the following to OC Epidemiology by phone or fax:
 - All Health Care Providers:
 - Severe influenza: deaths in persons 0 to 64 years of age (mandatory reporting) and influenza in persons 0 to 64 year requiring intensive care (voluntary reporting).
 - Respiratory outbreaks with or without know etiology (mandatory reporting)\Suspect cases of novel influenza (mandatory reporting).
 - Sentinel Providers: Report weekly on number of patients seen with ILI and submit specimens.
 - Influenza Surveillance Project Hospital Laboratories: Submit reports and specimens on influenza-positive patients.

• **Influenza – California and United States:**

- In California, influenza activity remained sporadic during Week 50 (ending Dec 15). The number of influenza detections remained low, with 3.3% of submitted specimens testing positive for flu during Week 50. The proportion of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections increased in Week 50 to 22.1% (from 16.4% in Week 49). Visits to sentinel providers for ILI remain below baseline levels.
- Flu activity continues to increase across the United States, with high levels of activity concentrated in the south central and southeastern regions. During Week 50, 28.3% of specimens were positive for influenza and the percent of ILI visits was above the national baseline.



- **FDA expands oseltamivir’s (Tamiflu®) use to treat children younger than 1 year:** Oseltamivir is now approved to treat children as young as 2 weeks old who have shown symptoms of flu for no longer than two days. Dosing for children younger than 1 year must be calculated based on exact weight and requires a different dispenser than what is currently co-packaged with the medication. Oseltamivir is not approved for use for prophylaxis in this age group. For more information, see: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm333205.htm>

- **FDA approves egg-free flu vaccine:** The new vaccine, Flucelvax, is the first in U.S. to be produced using cultured mammalian cells instead of fertilized chicken eggs and is approved for adults 18 years and older. Cell culture is another alternative to the egg-based influenza vaccine technology and has the potential benefit of faster start-up time for vaccine production during a pandemic. See: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm328982.htm>.

If you have any comments about this flyer, contact Sandra Okubo, MPH or Michele Cheung, MD at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.