

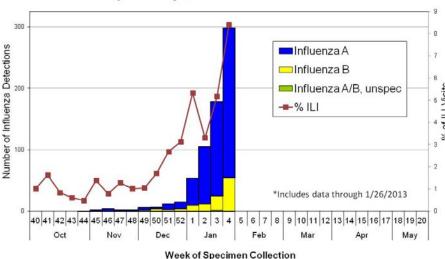


Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Influenza activity continues to increase in Orange County! It's not too late to vaccinate. Influenza is expected to circulate over the next few weeks to months.

- In Orange County: Seven new severe flu cases (ICU/deaths) in persons less than 65 years of age were reported in Week 4 (January 20-26), for a total of 23 severe cases so far this season, including 4 deaths. Influenza detections continue to increase and the percent of visits to sentinel providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) is the highest of the season at 8.4%.
- In California: Influenza activity remained widespread during Week 4. Increases in influenza-like illness, laboratory detections of influenza, and influenza-associated outbreaks were reported in multiple regions statewide. Current trends in influenza activity are

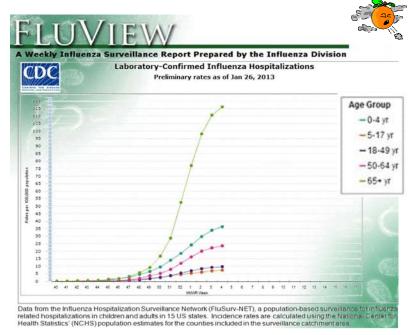
Reported Influenza Detections by Type & Percent of Visits to Sentinel Providers for Influenza-like Illness County of Orange, 2012 - 2013 Influenza Season*



**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.

comparable to the range of patterns seen at this time in California during the 2007–2008 influenza season, which was considered moderately severe. Most influenza-positive specimens identified in California during the 2012–2013 influenza season are influenza A; of the influenza A viruses subtyped, most are influenza A (H3) viruses. Of the specimens strain-typed this season nationwide, the majority match the 2012–2013 influenza vaccine.

- In the United States: During Week 4, influenza activity remained elevated in the U.S., but decreased in some areas. Outpatient visits for ILI was 4.2%; above the national baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold. From October 1, 2012 to January 26, 2013, the rate of laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations was 25.9 per 100,000 population. Those 65 years and older accounted for more than 50% of the reported cases.
- Updated information for geriatricians and other clinicians caring for people 65 and older:



http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/2012-2013-guidance-geriatricians.htm.