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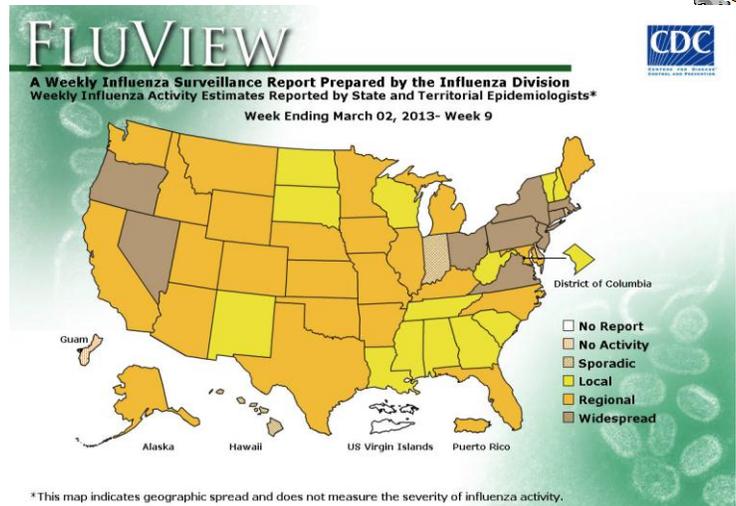
Influenza activity is decreasing in Orange County but remains elevated. Persons with influenza-like illness (ILI) should stay home from work or school for at least 24 hours after fever subsides, in the absence of use of fever reducing medications.

- **In Orange County:** Two new cases of severe influenza (ICU/death) in persons less than 65 years of age have been reported in the past week, including one death. So far this season, 32 severe cases, including six deaths have been reported. Laboratory detections have decreased each week since peak activity in Week 5 (ending Feb 2), with an increased proportion of influenza type B recently. Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are also on a downward trend, with the percent of visits currently at 2.4%. Respiratory outbreaks in schools continue to be reported.

Note: Distribution of this newsletter will no longer be on a weekly basis now that flu activity has peaked in Orange County. Distribution will continue throughout the influenza season but will move to every 2-3 weeks as needed.



- **In CA & the U.S.:** Influenza activity in California continues to be reported as regional* during Week 9 and is widespread in only nine states. In California, 25% of specimens were positive for influenza and influenza-associated outbreaks were reported in several regions, but overall activity decreased statewide. Approximately 60% of positive influenza specimens were influenza A, with A/H3 being the predominant strain. Thus far this season, no strains tested have been found to have antiviral resistance. Nationally, 99% of type A and 71% of type B viruses characterized thus far have matched the vaccine strains. [** Regional Activity: Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in at least two but less than half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in those regions.*]



Other viruses: In California, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections decreased in Week 9 to 14.2%, compared to 16.2% in Week 8. Parainfluenza virus, human metapneumovirus, and adenovirus continue to be reported in both northern and southern California, but in decreasing proportions.

- **New study reports influenza vaccination substantially reduced the risk of influenza-associated hospitalizations in adults during the 2011-2012 season.** Researchers at Vanderbilt University, in collaboration with the CDC, found a 71.4% reduction in the risk of flu-associated hospitalization among vaccinated adults of all ages and a 76.8% reduction for vaccinated adults aged 50 years and older. See the 2/28/13 issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases* at <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/> or a summary on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/flu-vaccination-older-adults.htm>.
- **Composition of the 2013-2014 Influenza Vaccine For the Northern Hemisphere:** The World Health Organization and Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee has made the following recommendations for the 2013-2014 Northern Hemisphere vaccine strains:

- H1N1: A/California/7/2009-like (2009 H1N1);
- H3N2: A/Victoria/361/2011-like (A/Texas/50/2012); and
- B: B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like (B/Yamagata lineage).

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines contain a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus in addition to the viruses recommended for the trivalent vaccines.