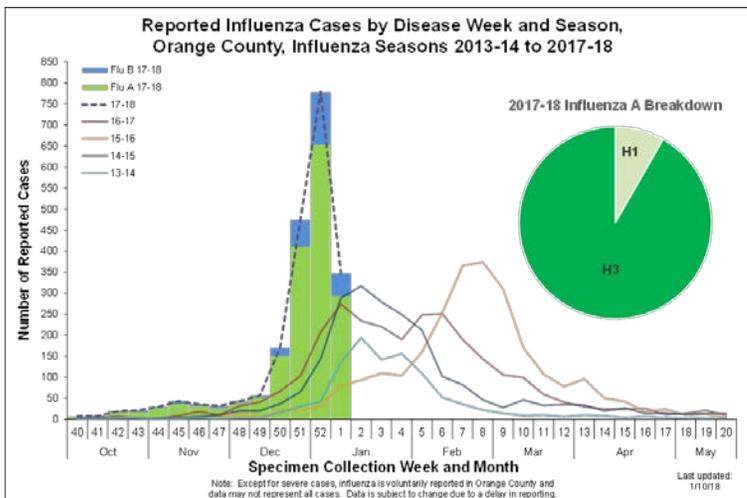


Influenza Activity Continues at High Levels in Orange County

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Orange County continues to receive large numbers of influenza reports, outbreaks in long term care facilities and other group settings, and severe cases (less than 65 years of age hospitalized in intensive care or who died). **Key points:**

- **It's not too late to vaccinate!** Influenza vaccine is readily available at numerous locations throughout the county; see www.ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/family/flu.
- **Antivirals should be started as soon as possible** in people with symptoms of influenza who are hospitalized, have severe progressive disease, or who are at increased risk of complications of influenza.
 - Per the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), there is currently no state or national shortage of antivirals, though multiple local pharmacies have reported delays in supply from wholesalers. CDPH recommends that pharmacies having difficulties locating antivirals in a timely manner should consider contacting their wholesaler's customer service desk to request drop shipments from the manufacturer. For updates on antiviral supply and manufacturer availability: www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/supply.htm.
 - For clinical antiviral recommendations see: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00409.asp>.
- **Patients with influenza should be cared for using droplet precautions in healthcare settings, including hospitals and long-term care facilities.** The CDC recommends that "patients under droplet precautions should be discharged from medical care when clinically appropriate, not based on the period of potential virus shedding or the recommended duration of droplet precautions. Before discharge, communicate the patient's diagnosis and current precautions with post-hospital care providers (e.g., home-healthcare agencies, long-term care facilities) as well as transporting personnel." (See [All Facilities Letter AFL 18-08](#) and CDC's [Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings](#).)



Current Situation: Influenza reports, predominantly A H3, continued to increase in Orange County through week 52 (week ending 12/30), but may be showing signs of decreasing in the past week. The recent numbers of reports have been higher than any flu season in the past 5 years. Twenty-eight (28) severe cases, including 12 children and six deaths have been reported this season.

It's not too late to vaccinate. CDC reports that although influenza may be peaking currently, there are still many more weeks/months of flu season to go and other strains (e.g., H1N1 and B) are also likely to circulate. Even in years with lower effectiveness, vaccination prevents millions of illnesses and medical visits and thousands of hospitalizations from influenza. Patients are more likely to be vaccinated if their health care provider both recommends and offers influenza vaccine during their medical visit.

the benefits of flu vaccination 2015-2016

The estimated number of flu **illnesses prevented** by flu vaccination during the 2015-2016 season:

5 million

as many people use Denver International Airport in one month



The estimated number of flu **medical visits prevented** by vaccination during the 2015-2016 season:

2.5 million

equal to the population of Portland, Oregon



The estimated number of flu **hospitalizations prevented** by vaccination during the 2015-2016 season:

71,000

enough to fill every registered hospital bed in the state of Texas



CDC Influenza Division program impact report 2015-2016, <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/impact/2015-16>

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get **vaccinated**
www.cdc.gov/flu