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Orange County has reported its first influenza-associated death of the season in a person less than 65 years of age. Flu activity is widespread in California and continues to be elevated in Orange County. We expect influenza to continue to circulate for at least a few more months. It's not too late to vaccinate!

- **Influenza activity in Orange County.**

- As of week 4 (week ending 1/28/2017), influenza activity continues to be elevated in Orange County.
- Influenza A/H3 continues to be the most frequently identified influenza virus by Orange County Public Health Laboratory thus far in the season. Very few detections of influenza A/(H1N1)pdm2009 and influenza B have been reported.



- **Cases of severe influenza (persons under the age of 65 admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) or who died) continue to be reported in Orange County.**

- To date, Orange County has received 18 reports of severe influenza, including one death.
 - Four PICU cases have been reported in children under the age of 18 years.
 - Fourteen ICU cases have been reported in adults aged 18 to 64 years.
 - The one influenza-associated death reported was in a 54 year old male who tested positive for influenza A/H3.

- **Influenza activity in California.**

- Influenza activity continues to be widespread throughout California.
- To date, California Department of Public Health has received 31 reports of laboratory confirmed influenza-associated deaths among patients under age 65 years.
- The percentage of visits for influenza-like illness during week 4 (week ending 1/28/2017) was 3.0%, which exceeds the epidemic threshold for this time of the year.

- **Influenza activity most often peaks in February but can last into May. It is not too late to vaccinate!**

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the winter season is the time for influenza, but the exact timing and duration of influenza seasons vary.
- While seasonal influenza infections can happen as early as October, influenza activity normally peaks between January and February. However, activity can last as late as May and second peaks of activity may be seen in the spring.

- **Avian influenza A/H7N2 detected in cats in New York animal shelters.**

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported an outbreak of avian influenza A/H7N2 amongst cats in a New York City animal shelter, with one reported human infection.
- The human case had prolonged, unprotected exposure to respiratory secretions from sick cats. Illness was reported to be mild. No person-person transmission has been reported.
- Avian influenza infection in cats is rare. For more information on this outbreak, see <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/avian-influenza-cats.htm>.