



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY ■ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ■
DISEASE CONTROL BRANCH

January 18, 2006

CDC Recommends against the Use of Amantadine and Rimantadine for the Treatment or Prophylaxis of Influenza in the United States during the 2005–06 Influenza Season.

Recent evidence indicates that a high proportion of currently circulating Influenza A viruses in this country are resistant to amantadine and rimantadine. To address this concern the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert with interim recommendations for treating seasonal influenza.

For the 2005–06 season, 120 influenza A (H3N2) viruses isolated from patients in 23 states have been tested at CDC through January 12, 2006; 109 of the isolates (91%) contain an amino acid change at position 31 of the M2 protein, which confers resistance to amantadine and rimantadine. Three influenza A (H1N1) viruses have been tested and demonstrated susceptibility to these drugs. All influenza viruses from the United States that have been screened for antiviral resistance at CDC have demonstrated susceptibility to the neuraminidase inhibitors.

On the basis of available antiviral testing results, CDC is providing an interim recommendation that neither amantadine nor rimantadine be used for the treatment or prophylaxis of influenza A in the United States for the remainder of the 2005–06 influenza season. During this period, oseltamivir or zanamivir should be selected if an antiviral medication is used for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza. Testing of influenza isolates for resistance to antivirals will continue throughout the 2005–06 influenza season, and recommendations will be updated as needed. Annual influenza vaccination remains the primary means of preventing morbidity and mortality associated with influenza.

Additional information about the prevention and control of influenza is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>. <<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>> Specific information regarding the use of the neuraminidase inhibitors is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/antiviral/index.htm> <<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/antiviral/index.htm%20>>. These websites will be updated as new information becomes available.

Clinicians are reminded of the importance of reporting influenza outbreaks, severe pediatric influenza and pediatric influenza associated deaths to Disease Control at (951) 358-5107 or fax (951) 358-5102. Although there is no current avian influenza activity in the United States, suspect cases should also be immediately reported to Disease Control. Please call (951) 782-2974 to report cases during non-business hours.