Virological Surveillance Summary

In weeks 10 and 11 2015, Influenza A(H3) and influenza B (lineage not determined) viruses predominated in the Western Pacific Region (Figure 1). Countries currently providing virological data from the Western Pacific Region include Australia, Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao, Mongolia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Viet Nam.

During weeks 1 to 9 of 2015, 95% of influenza specimens were from China (n=129,399). For weeks 10 to 12 of 2015, 30% of specimens were from Singapore (n=536) and 28% from Australia (n=505).

Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient sentinel surveillance systems. Case definitions, populations under surveillance and data formats differ among these countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries where routine surveillance is conducted and information is available from syndromic surveillance systems for Influenza-like-illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI).

The WHO surveillance case definition for ILI is an acute respiratory infection with a measured fever of ≥ 38 °C and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days. For SARI, it is an acute respiratory infection with a history of fever or measured fever of ≥ 38 °C and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days and requires hospitalization.
Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI activity in most reporting followed seasonal patterns. ILI activity in the Republic of Korea has increased, displaying a different trend to the seasonal patterns seen in previous years.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 12 2015, the proportion of ILI cases among all consultations at national sentinel hospitals in north China was 2.7%, higher than the previous week and the same week of 2011 and 2013 (2.6%, 2.3% and 2.6% respectively), but lower than the same week in 2012 (3%) and 2014 (3%) (Figure 2).

Mongolia

In week 12, 2015, ILI activity in Mongolia continued to follow the known seasonal pattern, remaining within the upper and lower 90% tolerance limits for the country (Figure 3).

Republic of Korea

In week 12, 2015, the proportion of patients visiting sentinel physicians for ILI was 36%. This is higher than the previous week (week 11, 30%) but is lower than the seasonal peak in week 7 of 42% (Figure 4).
Hospital influenza surveillance

Japan
In Japan, the number of influenza cases reported weekly per hospital sentinel site is following the known seasonal trend, with case numbers continuing to decrease (Figure 5).

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

In week 12 of 2015, the overall ILI and SARI activity decreased in countries/areas in the tropical zone, following previously seen seasonal patterns.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

Hong Kong (China)
The overall ILI activity in Hong Kong continued to decrease during week 11 and 12 of 2015, but is still above the baseline. In week 11, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics decreased to 4.5 per 1,000 consultations. In week 12, rates increased to 5.7 per 1,000 consultations (Figure 6). In weeks 11 and 12 of 2015, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors decreased to 38.6 and 34.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations respectively (Figure 7).

China (South)
During week 12 of 2015, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in south China was 2.7 %, higher than the previous week and the same reporting week in 2011 and 2013 (2.5%, 2.5% and 2.5% respectively), but lower than the same week in 2012 and 2014 (3.2%, and 3% respectively)(Figure 8).
Outpatient ARI surveillance

Singapore

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for acute respiratory infections decreased from 2,513 (over 5.5 working days) in week 10 to 2,288 (over 5.5 working days) in week 11 of 2015 (Figure 9).
Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In Australia and New Zealand, the influenza season has ended. Reporting from these Member States in the Influenza Situation Update will commence during the beginning of the next influenza season.

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs)

In the PICs, ILL activity was variable with an increasing trend observed in a number of islands, particularly in French Polynesia, Tonga, and Tuvalu (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Cases of influenza-like illness, diarrhoea and prolonged fever by week, Pacific Island Countries and Areas 2014-2015
(Source: The Pacific Syndromic Surveillance Network)
Global influenza situation updates:

Epidemiological update:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/

Virological update:
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport