Virological Surveillance Summary

In the Western Pacific Region, the following influenza viruses were predominated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Predominant viruses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>A (H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>B (Yamagata lineage), B (lineage not determined)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-19</td>
<td>B (Yamagata lineage), A (H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-22</td>
<td>A (H3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Countries currently providing specimens for FluNet reporting from the Western Pacific Region include Australia, China, Mongolia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, and Viet Nam. From week 1 to week 23 of 2015, 93.3% of influenza specimens provided to FluNet were from China (n=274,713), 2.1% from Australia (n=6,127) and 1.8% from Republic of Korea (n=5,352).

![Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype](Source: FluNet [www.who.int/flunet](http://www.who.int/flunet) Accessed 24 June 2015)

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](http://www.who.int) 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 most countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI and influenza activity reporting followed seasonal patterns.

**Outpatient ILI Surveillance**

**China (North)**
During week 24, ILI% at national sentinel hospitals in north China was 2.6%, higher than the last week (2.5%), and the same week of 2011 (2.5%) and 2014 (2.5%), but lower than the same week of 2012 (2.7%) and 2013 (2.9%) (Figure 2).

**Mongolia**
In week 24, 2015, ILI activity in Mongolia continued to decline following the known seasonal pattern, remaining within the upper and lower 90% tolerance limits for the country (Figure 3).

**Republic of Korea**
In week 24, 2015, the proportion of patients visiting sentinel physicians for ILI was 5.1% which is lower than last week (5.8%) and below the baseline of 12.2% (Figure 4).

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Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals, 2010-2015 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Figure 3: Proportion of outpatients that were ILI (per 10,000 people), 2013-2015 (Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

Figure 4: Weekly proportion of ILI visits per 1,000 patients 2011-2015 (Source: Korean Centre for Disease Control and Prevention)
**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).

![Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per sentinel hospital site, Japan 2005-2015](Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

**Countries/areas in the tropical zone**

In week 24 of 2015, the overall ILI and SARI activity increased in countries/areas in the tropical zone, following previously seen seasonal patterns.

**Outpatient Surveillance**

**Hong Kong (China)- ILI Surveillance**

In week 24, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness among sentinel general outpatient clinics increased to 10.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations from 6.2 recorded in the previous week (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors increased to 58.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations from 45.8 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

**China (South)- ILI Surveillance**

During week 24, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in south China was 4.1%, the same as the last week (4.1%) and higher than the same week of 2011–2014 (2.7%, 3.2%, 3.3% and 3.5%), (Figure 8).

**Singapore – ARI Surveillance**

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI increased from 2,844 (over 4.5 working days) in E-week 22 to 2,637 (over 5.5 working days) in E-week 23 (Figure 9).
Influenza Situation Update

China (South) - ILI Surveillance

Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in South China, 2010-2015 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Singapore - ARI Surveillance

Figure 9: Average daily policlinic attendances for Acute Respiratory Infection, Singapore 2014-2015 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

Influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in most of the reporting countries in the southern hemisphere.

Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza

As of 5 June 2015 there were 9,449 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza reported, with 1,013 notifications reported in the most recent fortnight. While influenza notifications are higher than at this point last year, they are still at low levels (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Australian notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza (Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)
**New Zealand – Influenza like Illness**

ILI through sentinel surveillance was reported from 18 out of 20 District Health Boards with a national consultation rate of 16.5 per 100,000 (52 ILI consultations). This is below the seasonal threshold (Figure 11).

![Figure 11: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2010–2015](image)

**Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) – ILI Surveillance**

In the PICs, ILI activity was variable with an increasing trend observed in a number of islands, particularly in American Samoa and Tonga (Figure 12).

![Figure 12: Cases of influenza-like illness, diarrhea and prolonged fever by week, Pacific Island Countries and Areas, 2014-2015 (Source the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance Network)](image)
Global influenza situation updates

Epidemiological update:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/2015_06_01_surveillance_update_238.pdf?ua=1

Virological update: