Virological Surveillance Summary

In the Western Pacific Region, the following influenza viruses 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>20-32</td>
<td>A (H3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Countries providing specimens for FluNet reporting from the Western Pacific Region include Australia, China, Fiji, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Viet Nam. From week 1 to week 31 of 2015, 92.0% of influenza specimens provided to FluNet were from China (n=359,175), 2.96% from Australia (n=11,559) and 1.76% from Republic of Korea (n=6,891).

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 syndemic 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 $\geq 38$ °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 $\geq 38$ °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 remained at low levels.

**Outpatient ILI Surveillance**

**China (North)**
During week 31, ILI activity is remained low and consistent with the seasonal trend of previous years (2011 – 2014). ILI% at national sentinel hospitals in north China was 2.4%, which was as same as the last week. (Figure 2).

**Mongolia**
In week 32, 2015, ILI activity in Mongolia remained low and has been following the seasonal trend. (Figure 3).

**Republic of Korea**
In week 32, 2015, the proportion of patients visiting sentinel physicians for ILI (4.4/1,000 outpatients) remained low and follows the seasonal trend of previous years (2011-2014), which was below the baseline (Figure 4).

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**China (North)**
![Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals, 2010-2015 (Source: China National Influenza Center)](image1)

**Mongolia**
![Figure 3: Proportion of outpatients that were ILI (per 10,000 people), 2013-2015 (Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)](image2)

**Republic of Korea**
![Figure 4: Weekly proportion of ILI visits per 1,000 patients 2011-2015 (Source: Korean Centre for Disease Control and Prevention)](image3)
**Hospital influenza surveillance**

**Japan**

In Japan, the number of influenza cases reported weekly per hospital sentinel site follows the known seasonal trend (2005 – 2014), with case numbers remaining low (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 31-32 of 2015, increased ILI or Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) activity was reported in countries/areas in the tropical zone.

**Outpatient Surveillance**

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

The summer influenza season had already ended and the overall influenza activity in the past week remained at a low level. In week 32, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 5.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which decreased from 8.0 reported in the previous week (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors increased to 36.0 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations from 31.4 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

**China (South)- ILI Surveillance**

During week 31, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in south China was 3.8%, higher than the last week (3.6%) and same week of 2011-2014 (2.7%, 3.4%, 2.8% and 3.5%) (Figure 8).

**Singapore – ARI Surveillance**

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI increased from 2,392 (over 5.5 working days) in E-week 30 to 2,475 (over 4.5 working days) in E-week 31. (Figure 9).
Influenza Situation Update

Hong Kong (China) - ILI Surveillance

Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong 2011-2015 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong 2011-2015 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

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 or ILI activity is increased in most of the reporting countries in the southern hemisphere and surpassed country-specific threshold level for Australia and New Zealand.

Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza

Influenza activity continued to increase nationally this fortnight. Across jurisdictions activity varied, suggesting that the season may be close to peaking in some areas but may continue to increase in others. As of 31 July 2015, there were 26,285 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza, with 6,721 reported in the most recent fortnight (Figure 10).
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 120.0 per 100,000 (396 ILI consultations). The current rate of ILI is above the seasonal threshold and following that of 2010 and 2012 (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2010–2015
**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 the Solomon Islands, Nauru, Tokelau, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu the number of ILI cases have been increasing. (Figure 12).

![Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System](image)

*Figure 12: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in PICs, 2014–2015*

**Global influenza situation updates**

Epidemiological update:


Virological update: