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>20-37</td>
<td>A (H3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38-42</td>
<td>A (H3), B (lineage not determined)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43-44</td>
<td>Influenza virus activity is low in all subtypes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Countries providing specimens for FluNet reporting from the Western Pacific Region include Australia, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Viet Nam. From week 1 to week 44, 89.7% of influenza specimens provided to FluNet were from China (n=474,255), 3.4% from Australia (n=18,048), 2.7% from New Zealand (n=14,379) and 1.7% from the Republic of Korea (n=9,161).

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 $\geq 38 \, ^\circ C$ 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 $\geq 38 \, ^\circ C$ 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 44, ILI activity remained low and consistent with the seasonal trend of previous years (2011–2014). ILI% at national sentinel hospitals in north China was 2.5%, the same as the previous week (2.5%) (Figure 2). Influenza A (H3N2) was dominant during week 44.

**Mongolia**

In week 43-44, 2015, ILI activity in Mongolia has decreased after an increase in week 41-42 and is close to the lower tolerance limit (Figure 3).

**Republic of Korea**

In week 44, 2015, the proportion of patients visiting sentinel physicians for ILI (3.8/1,000 outpatients) followed the seasonal trend of previous years (2011-2014) and was below baseline (Figure 4).

---

**Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals, 2011-2015 (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 2012-2015 (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 follows the known seasonal trend (2005–2014), with case numbers remaining low (Figure 5).

Countries/areas in the tropical zone
In week 42-44 of 2015, ILI or Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) activity followed previous seasonal trends in countries/areas in the tropical zone.

Outpatient Surveillance

Hong Kong (China) - ILI Surveillance
During week 44, the overall influenza activity in the past week remained low and the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 3.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 4.0 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations recorded in the previous week (Figure 6).

The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 34.1 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than the 42.4 cases recorded in the previous week (Figure 7). The percentage of respiratory specimens which tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses in the week 44 was 1.17%. Of the positive results, the proportions of influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B viruses in the week 44 were 44.1% and 11.8%, respectively, compared to 50.0% and 34.6% in the previous week.

China (South) - ILI Surveillance
During week 44, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in south China was 2.5%, the same as the previous week (2.5%) (Figure 8). The level of influenza A (51.1%) and influenza B (48.9%) activity remained unchanged compared to the previous week.

Singapore – ARI Surveillance
In week 42-43, the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI decreased from 2,612 (over 5.5 working days) in week 42 to 2,588 (over 5.5 working days) in week 43 (Figure 9).
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, 2011-2015 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Singapore - ARI Surveillance

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

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza

New Zealand – Influenza like Illness

Due to the low influenza activity, surveillance data in Australia and New Zealand have not been updated in their website.
**Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs)- ILI Surveillance**

- In the PICs, ILI activity was variable with an increasing trend in ILI activity observed in a number of islands, in particular Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau and Samoa (Figure 13).
- The number of cases is above the threshold of 90% of historical values in Nauru and Tonga.

![Figure 13: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in PICs, 2014–2015](image)

**Global influenza situation updates**

Epidemiological update:  

Virological update:  

Global update:  
Others:
Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2016 southern hemisphere influenza season

Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines
http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/characteristics_virus_vaccines/en/

4th WHO Informal Consultation on Improving Influenza Vaccine Virus Selection
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport

Video on influenza on WHO’s YouTube Channel
  Arabic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxW6Pg1Anwl
  Chinese: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW9gDKEPltQ
  English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhhJfT86Bgg
  French: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mo8rWWJZkc
  Russian: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQO6nbKUWQ
  Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXr75cKxwTY