Virological Surveillance Summary

In the Western Pacific Region, from week 1 to week 9 of 2015, Influenza A(H3) predominated, while from week 10 to week 16 of 2015, Influenza B (lineage not determined) and Influenza B (Yamagata lineage) viruses and from week 17 to week 19 of 2015 Influenza B (lineage not determined) predominated (Figure 1). 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 19 of 2015, 93.3% of influenza specimens provided to FluNet were from China (n=214,701), 2.0% from Republic of Korea (n=4,689) and 2.1% from Australia (n=4,881).

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 reporting followed seasonal patterns.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)
During week 20, ILI% at national sentinel hospitals in north China was 2.4%, higher than the last week and the same week of 2011 (2.3% and 2.3%), lower than the same week of 2012–2014 (2.6, 2.8% and 2.5%) (Figure 2).

Mongolia
In week 19, 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 20, 2015, the proportion of patients visiting sentinel physicians for ILI was 6.6% which is below the baseline of 12.2% (Figure 4).

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)](image)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone
In week 19 of 2015, the overall ILI and SARI activity decreased in countries/areas in the tropical zone, following previously seen seasonal patterns.

Outpatient Surveillance
Hong Kong (China)- ILI Surveillance
In week 20, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics increased to 4.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations from 4.1 recorded in the previous week (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 43.1 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was similar to 43.3 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

China (South)- ILI Surveillance
During week 20, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI (ILI %) at national sentinel hospitals in south China was 3.1%, higher than the last week and the same week of 2011 (2.9% and 2.8%), lower than the same week of 2012 (3.2%), and same as the same week of 2013–2014 (3.1% and 3.1%) (Figure 8).
**Singapore – ARI Surveillance**

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI decreased from 2,882 (over 5.5 working days) in E-week 18 to 2,757 (over 5.5 working days) in E-week 19 (Figure 9).

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

![Graph of ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong 2011-2015](image)

*Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection*

**China (South) - ILI Surveillance**

![Graph of ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong 2011-2015](image)

*Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection*

**Singapore - ARI Surveillance**

![Graph of Average daily polyclinic attendances for Acute Respiratory Infection, Singapore 2014-2015](image)

*Source: Singapore Ministry of Health*

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Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong 2011-2015

Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong 2011-2015

Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in South China, 2010-2015

Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for Acute Respiratory Infection, Singapore 2014-2015
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**

For week ending 8 May 2015, ILI activity in the inter-seasonal period for influenza, with overall influenza activity at low levels (Figure 10).

![Australian notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza](source)

**New Zealand –Influenza like Illness**

ILI through sentinel surveillance was reported from 17 out of 20 District Health Boards (DHB) with a national consultation rate of 15.4 per 100 000 (46 ILI consultations) which is below the seasonal threshold (Figure 11).

![Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand, 2010–2015](source)
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 Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Wallis & Futuna and Vanuatu (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)

Global influenza situation updates:

Epidemiological update:

http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/2015_05_18_surveillance_update_237.pdf?ua=1

Virological update: