Virological Surveillance Summary

The number of specimens reported to FluNet by the Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 39, and the number of Influenza positive specimens are presented in the table below. Influenza A (H3) is reported to be the predominantly circulating subtype currently (Figure 1).

Table 1: Countries and areas reporting data to FluNet, Western Pacific Region, weeks 1 to 39, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (most recent week)</th>
<th>Total number of specimens processed</th>
<th>Total number of influenza positive specimens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (week 39)</td>
<td>32,115</td>
<td>5,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (week 39)</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (week 38)</td>
<td>417,401</td>
<td>66,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji (week 38)</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (week 38)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>7,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People's Democratic Republic (week 38)</td>
<td>3,784</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (week 30)</td>
<td>2,461</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia (week 38)</td>
<td>2,802</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia (week 38)</td>
<td>1,320</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand (week 34)</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea (week 39)</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (week 38)</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (week 38)</td>
<td>7,907</td>
<td>1,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (week 39)</td>
<td>2,092</td>
<td>1,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (week 32)</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Number of influenza positive specimens by subtype and week, Western Pacific Region, 2015-16 (accessed 11 October 2016)
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 (ARI) 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 remained at low levels.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 38, the percentage of ILI visits at national sentinel hospitals in Northern China was 2.4%. This is lower than the previous week of 2016 (2.7%) and higher than the same week of 2015 (2.3%) (Figure 2).

Mongolia

There has been an increase in ILI activity in Mongolia since week 30 until week 38 (Figure 3).

Republic of Korea

In week 40, overall weekly ILI rate was 4.2/1,000 outpatients, which is higher than 3.9 recorded in the previous week. The national baseline is 11.3/1,000 outpatients (Figure 4).

Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals, 2012-2016 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Figure 3: Proportion of outpatient ILI visits (per 10,000 people), 2014-2016 (Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)
Republic of Korea

Figure 4: Weekly proportion of ILI visits per 1,000 patients 2012-2016
(Source: Korean Centre for Disease Control and Prevention)

Sentinel influenza surveillance

Japan
As of 28 September 2016, influenza activity is low and following seasonal trends (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2006-2016 (Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)
Countries/areas in the tropical zone

In weeks 1 to 40 of 2016, ILI or ARI activity followed previous seasonal trends in countries/areas in the tropical zone.

**Outpatient Surveillance**

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

As of week 40, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics was 4.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 5.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations recorded in the previous week (Figure 6).

The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 56.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than 53.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

The percentage of respiratory specimens in week 40 which tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses was 12.4%. This is lower than 14.2% recorded in the previous week. Influenza A (H3) was the predominant circulating subtype comprising 98.8% of positive respiratory specimens. Other viruses detected were influenza B (1.0%) and influenza A (H1) (0.2%).

**China (South) - ILI Surveillance**

During week 38, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in southern China was 2.8%. This is lower than the previous week of 2016 (2.9%) and higher than the same week of 2015 (2.7%) (Figure 8).

**Singapore – ARI Surveillance**

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI was 2,384 (over 5.5 working days) in week 39, decreased from previous week of 2,449 in week 38 (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with ILI among the polyclinic attendances for ARI remained low at 1.3%. The overall influenza virus positivity of ILI samples (n=103) in the community was 31.1% in the past 4 weeks. Of the specimens tested positive for influenza virus in August 2016, 85.0% were positive for influenza A(H3N2), 13.1% for influenza B and 1.9% for influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

Hong Kong (China) - ILI Surveillance

Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong 2012-2016 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong 2012-2016 (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, 2012-2016 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Singapore - ARI Surveillance

Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI, Singapore 2015-2016 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)
Influenza Situation Update

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity followed seasonal trends, declining in Australia and remaining at low levels in New Zealand.

Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza (no update)

As of 16 September 2016, a total of 66,648 notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza were reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (Figure 10). Ninety percent of notifications were influenza A (71% A(unsubtyped), 7% influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 11% influenza A (H3N2), 10% were influenza B and less than 1% were influenza C, influenza A&B co-infections or untyped. Source: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm/$File/Australian-Influenza-Surveillance-Report.pdf

New Zealand – Influenza like Illness

In week 39, ending 2 October 2016, 24 patients with ILI consulted sentinel general practices in 20 District Health Boards. The weekly ILI incidence was 4.4 per 100 000 patient population. Of the 14 tested ILI cases, 4 were positive for influenza viruses. This gives an ILI related influenza incidence (adjusted) of 1.3 per 100 000 patient population.

Figure 10: Australian notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza
(Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

Figure 11: Weekly resident ILI and influenza incidence since (Week 18) 2 May 2016 in New Zealand
(Source: Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR), New Zealand)
Influenza Situation Update

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, in week 39, the number of ILI cases reported in Guam, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Vanuatu were reported above the threshold of 90% historical value (Figure 12).

**Figure 12: Reported cases of influenza-like illness (red line) in Pacific Island Countries, 2015–2016**

Global influenza situation updates


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

Video on influenza on WHO’s YouTube Channel
   Arabic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxW6Pg1Anwl
   Chinese: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW9gDKEPitQ
   English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhhJfT86Bgg
   French: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mo8rWWJZkc
   Russian: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQO6nbkKUWQ
   Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXr75cKxwTY