Virological Surveillance Summary

The number of specimens reported to FluNet by the Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 26, and the number of influenza positive specimens, are presented in the table below. Influenza A(H3) is currently the predominant circulating subtype (Figure 1).

Table 1: Countries and areas reporting data to FluNet, Western Pacific Region, weeks 1 to 26, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (most recent week of report)</th>
<th>Total number of specimens processed</th>
<th>Total number of influenza positive specimens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (week 25)</td>
<td>15976</td>
<td>772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (week 23)</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (week 25)</td>
<td>313613</td>
<td>38307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji (week 24)</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (week 24)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People's Democratic Republic (week 25)</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (week 17)</td>
<td>1848</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia (week 26)</td>
<td>2136</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia (week 20)</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand (week 18-25)</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea (week 25)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (week 25)</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (week 26)</td>
<td>6421</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (week 24)</td>
<td>1137</td>
<td>652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (week 22)</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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 are consistent with seasonal trends but indicate an earlier start to the influenza season compared to the 2015-2016 season.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During weeks 24 and 25, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in northern China was 2.5% and 2.6% of total visits. The ILI activity is similar to same weeks of 2014-2016 (2.4% ~ 2.6%) (Figure 2).
Mongolia
ILI activity remained at expected tolerance levels during week 23 of 2017 compared to the previous week and seasons. The most recent peak in ILI activity occurred in week 4 of 2017 (Figure 3).

Republic of Korea
In week 24, 2017, there were 5.6 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was higher than 5.1 per 1000 in the previous week. ILI activity remained stable and below the baseline (8.9 per 1000) (Figure 4).
Sentinel influenza surveillance

**Japan**
As of week 24 2017, influenza activity in Japan shows a similar seasonal pattern to previous years with few influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital. (Figure 5).

![Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2007-2017](Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

**Countries/areas in the tropical zone**
In weeks 1 to 25 of 2017, ILI and ARI activity followed previous seasonal trends in countries/areas in the tropical zone.

**Outpatient Surveillance**

**Hong Kong (China) - ILI Surveillance**
Surveillance data indicate an increase in local influenza activity in recent weeks, consistent with the summer influenza season. In weeks 24 and 25 of 2017, the consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics was 6.3 and 7.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations respectively. The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 51.5 and 57.3 ILI cases per 1000 consultations in week 24 and 25 (Figure 6 & Figure 7).

**China (South) - ILI Surveillance**
During weeks 24 and 25, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in southern China was 3.5% and 3.8% respectively, which was similar to previous seasons (Figure 8).

**Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance**
The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for acute respiratory infection increased from 2,476(over 5.5 working days) in week 24 to 2,374 (over 5.5 working days) in week 25. (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with ILI among polyclinic attendances for ARI remained low at 3.8%.
In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity followed seasonal trends.

**Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza**

As of 9 June 2017, a total of 14,568 notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza were reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (Figure 10). Eighty percent of notifications were influenza A (68% A(unsubtyped), 10% influenza A(H3N2) and 2% influenza A(H1N1)pdm09), 20% were influenza B and less than 1% were influenza C, influenza A&B co-infections or untyped. Australia publishes influenza surveillance reports on a fortnightly basis during the influenza season, typically between May and October. For more information: [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm/$File/ozflu-surveil-no02-2017.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm/$File/ozflu-surveil-no02-2017.pdf)
New Zealand – Influenza like Illness

In week 25, influenza activity was low among consultation-seeking patients nationwide, but increased slightly as per normal seasonal trends; 179 patients with ILI consulted sentinel general practices in 20 District Health Boards. The weekly ILI incidence was 43.5 ILI cases per 100 000 patients (Figure 11).
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, in week 25, the number of ILI cases reported in Solomon Islands and French Polynesia increased compared to previous weeks (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2017
Global influenza situation updates


Global update: http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/

Others:


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/


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=XQO6nbkJUWQ
Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXr75cKvwTY

Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2017-2018 northern hemisphere influenza season
http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/201703_recommendation.pdf?ua=1