Virological Surveillance Summary

The number of specimens reported to FluNet by the Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 27, 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>
<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 27)</td>
<td>18520</td>
<td>1028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (week 27)</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (week 27)</td>
<td>331689</td>
<td>40839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji (week 24)</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (week 26)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic (week 27)</td>
<td>2287</td>
<td>225</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 18-27)</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea (week 25)</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (week 27)</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (week 27)</td>
<td>6613</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (week 27)</td>
<td>1283</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (week 22)</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Influenza Situation Update | 1
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 week 27, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in northern China was 2.5 % of total visits. The ILI activity was approximately the same during the same week of 2014-2016 (2.3% - 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 26, 2017, there were 5.3 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was lower than 5.7 per 1,000 in the previous week. ILI activity remained stable and below the baseline (8.9 per 1,000 outpatient visits) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4:** Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1000 patients, 2013-2017 (Source: Korean Centre for Disease Control and Prevention)

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China (North) | Mongolia

**Figure 2:** Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in north China, 2014-2017 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

**Figure 3:** Proportion of outpatient ILI visits (per 10,000 people), 2014-2017 (Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

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Republic of Korea

**Figure 4:** Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1000 patients, 2013-2017 (Source: Korean Centre for Disease Control and Prevention)
Sentinel influenza surveillance

**Japan**
As of week 26 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

Countries /areas in the tropical zone are observing increased ILI and ARI activity in recent weeks in 2017.

**Outpatient Surveillance**

**Hong Kong (China) - ILI Surveillance**
Surveillance data indicate an increase in local influenza activity in recent weeks. In weeks 26 and 27 of 2017, the consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics was 10.6 and 9.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations respectively. The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 67.3 and 59.8 ILI cases per 1000 consultations in week 26 and 27 (Figure 6 & Figure 7). Since the activation of enhanced surveillance for severe influenza infection on May 5, 2017, a total of 236 severe cases including 157 deaths) were recorded cumulatively (as of July 12). The majority (223/236) of the severe cases were adults above the age of 18 years. Of the 223 fatal cases 189 (84.8%) cases were positive for A(H3N2). Of 155 fatal cases, 63 (40.6%)were known to have received the influenza vaccine.

**China (South) - ILI Surveillance**
During week 27, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in southern China was 4.2%, which was higher than previous seasons (Figure 8).

**Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance**
The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in polyclinics for acute respiratory infection increased from 475 per working day in week 25, to 621 per working day in week 26. (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with ILI among polyclinic attendances for ARI remained low at 3.1%.
In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity followed seasonal trends.

**Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza**

As of 23 June 2017, a total of 17,978 notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza were reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (Figure 10). Seventy-seven percent of notifications were influenza A (66% A(unsubtyped), 8% influenza A(H3N2) and 2% influenza A(H1N1)pdm09), 23% 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:

**New Zealand – Influenza like Illness**

During week 27, 213 patients with influenza-like illness consulted sentinel general practices in 20 DHBs. The weekly ILLI incidence was 51.8 per 100,000 patient population. Of the 153 tested ILLI cases, 90 were positive for influenza viruses. This gives an ILLI related influenza incidence (adjusted) of 30.5 per 100,000 patient population.
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, in week 27, the number of ILI cases reported in Kiribati and Tonga increased compared to previous weeks (Figure 12).

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

Epidemiological update

Virological update:

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

Others:
Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2017 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/


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=XQQ6nbKUWQ
  Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXr75cKxwTY

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