

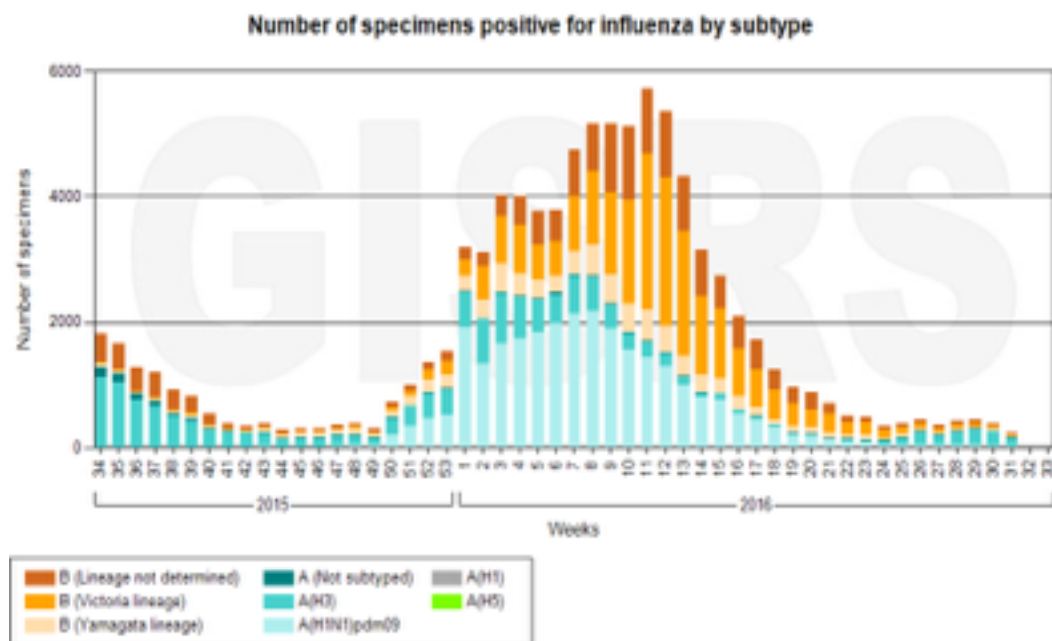
Virological Surveillance Summary

The number of specimens provided to FluNet by each of the Western Pacific Region countries and areas that reported between week 1 and week 31, and proportion of all specimens contributed by each country is presented in the table below.

Table 1: Countries and areas reporting data to FluNet, Western Pacific Region, weeks 1 to 31, 2016

Country	Total (%)
China	391,048 (95.6)
Republic of Korea	6,634 (1.6)
Mongolia	2,688 (0.7)
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2,209 (0.5)
Malaysia	1,648 (0.4)
Singapore	1,438 (0.4)
Australia	901 (0.2)
New Caledonia	810 (0.2)
Philippines	645 (0.2)
Viet Nam	584 (0.1)
Papua New Guinea	360 (0.1)

Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype and week, Western Pacific Region, 2015-16 (accessed 15 August 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 $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ 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 $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ 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 31, 2016, the percentage (%) of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in north China was 2.5%, same as last week and the same week of 2014 (both 2.5%), higher than the same week of 2015 (2.4%) (Figure 2).

[Mongolia](#)

In week 31, 2016, ILI activity in Mongolia continued to decrease (Figure 3).

[Republic of Korea](#)

In week 31, 2016, the rate of ILI patient visits to sentinel physicians was 4.7/1,000 outpatients which is below the national baseline of 11.3/ 1,000 (Figure 4).

China (North)

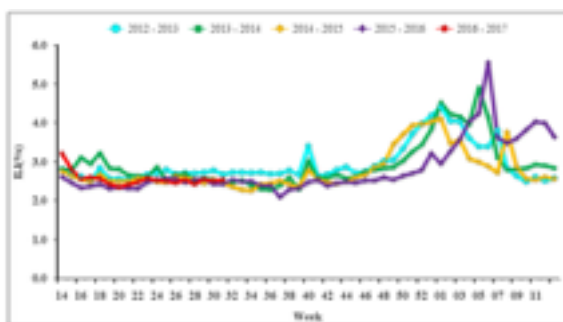


Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals, 2012-2016 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Mongolia

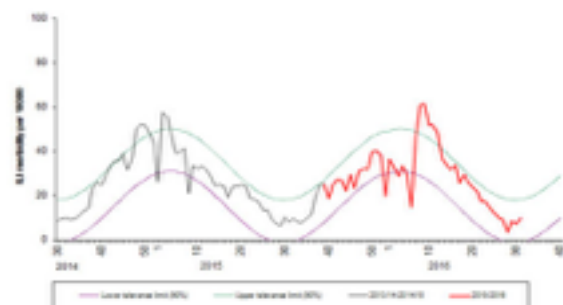


Figure 3: Proportion of outpatients that were ILI (per 10,000 people), 2014-2016 (Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea

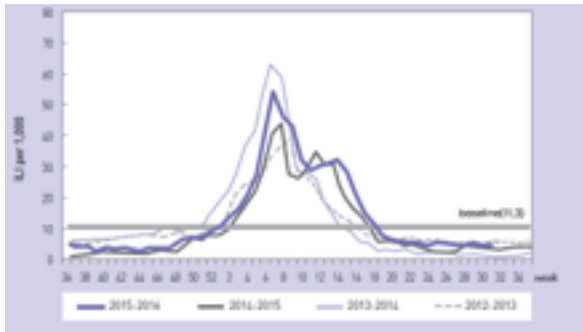


Figure 4: Weekly proportion of ILI visits per 1,000 patients 2012-2016 (Source: Korean Centre for Disease Control and Prevention)

Sentinel influenza surveillance

[Japan](#)

As of 10 August 2016, the number of influenza cases reported weekly was 0.02 per sentinel hospital sites. This follows the seasonal pattern (Figure 5).

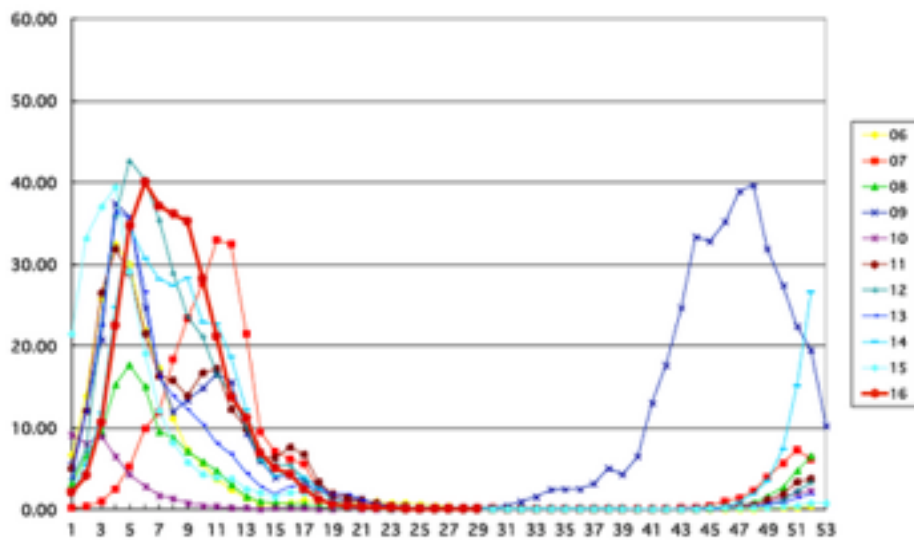


Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per sentinel hospital site, Japan 2006-2016 (Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

In weeks 1 to 31 of 2016, 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 31, the latest surveillance data showed that local influenza activity remained at a low level. The average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics was 3.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 4.1 recorded in the previous week (Figure 6).

The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 49.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 54.1 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

The percentage of respiratory specimens in week 31 which tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses was 4.11%, which was higher to the record of 3.99% in the previous week. Of all respiratory specimens tested in week 31, 127 (4.11%) tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 5 (0.16%) influenza A (H1), 102 (3.30%) influenza A (H3), 15 (0.49%) influenza B and 5 (0.16%) influenza C.

[China \(South\) - ILI Surveillance](#)

During week 31, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI (ILI%) at national sentinel hospitals in south China was 2.8%, lower than last week (3.1%), and lower than the same week of 2014 and 2015 (3.4% and 3.8%) (Figure 8).

[Singapore – ARI Surveillance](#)

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in polyclinics for ARI increased from 3,566 (over 5.5 working days) in week 30 to 3,499 (over 5.5 working days) in week 29 (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with ILI among the polyclinic attendances for ARI remained low at 2.1%. The overall prevalence of influenza among ILI samples (n=481) in the community was 57.4% in the past 4 weeks. Of specimens that tested positive for influenza in June 2016, 8.1% were positive for influenza B, 3.2% for influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, and 88.7% for influenza A(H3N2).

Hong Kong (China) - ILI Surveillance

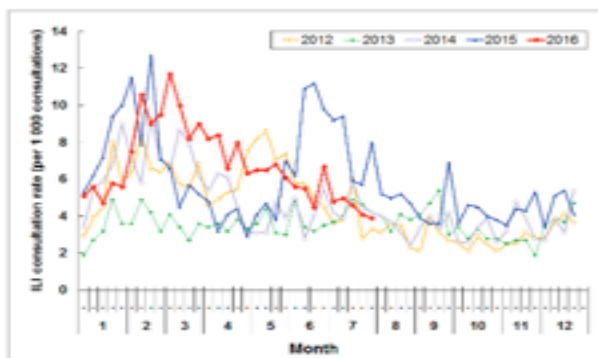


Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong 2012-2016 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

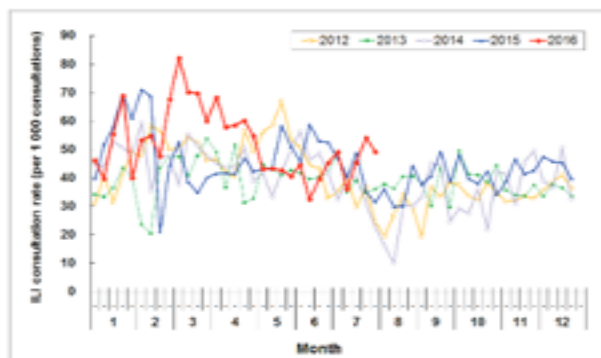


Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong 2012-2016 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

China (South) - ILI Surveillance

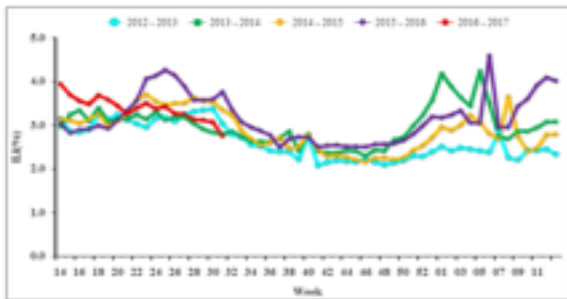


Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in South China, 2012-2016 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Singapore - ARI Surveillance

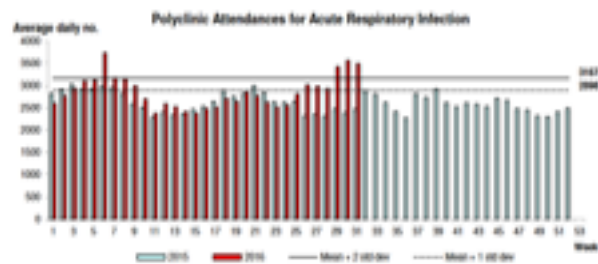


Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for Acute Respiratory Infection, Singapore 2015-2016 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

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

As of 22 July 2016, a total of 17,830 notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza were reported (Figure 10). In the most recent fortnight, 90% of notifications were influenza A (57% A(untypeded), 12% influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 21% influenza A (H3N2)), 10% were influenza B and less than 1% were influenza A and B co-infections or untyped.

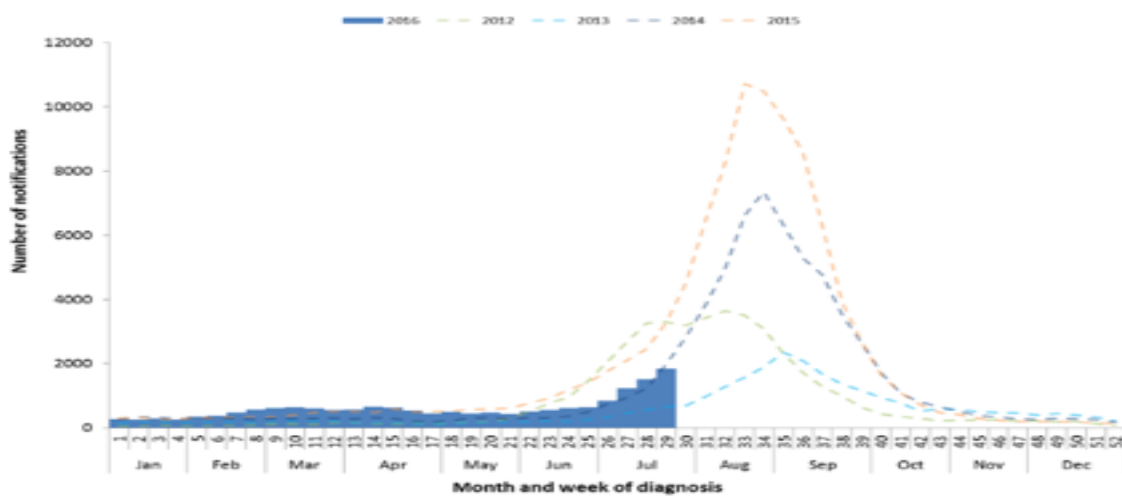


Figure 10: Australian notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza (Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

New Zealand – Influenza like Illness

In week 31, 95 patients were reported with ILI through sentinel surveillance in 20 District Health Boards, with a weekly ILI incidence rate of 18.0 ILI cases per 100,000 residents (Figure 11). Of the 29 tested ILI cases, 13 were positive for influenza virus, giving an ILI associated influenza incidence (adjusted) of 6.7 per 100,000 patient population.

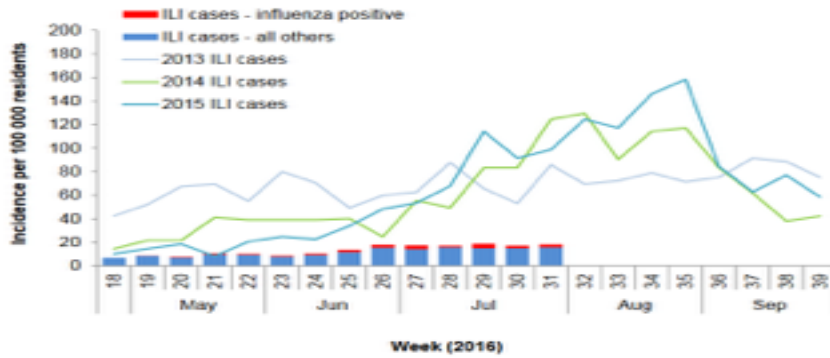


Figure 11: Weekly resident ILI and influenza incidence since (Week 18) 2 May 2016 in New Zealand (Source: Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR), New Zealand)

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs)- ILI Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, in week 31 the number of ILI cases reported was higher than the previous week in American Samoa and Fiji . The number of ILI cases in Guam, Tonga, Vanuatu and Palau decreased from the previous week (Figure 12).

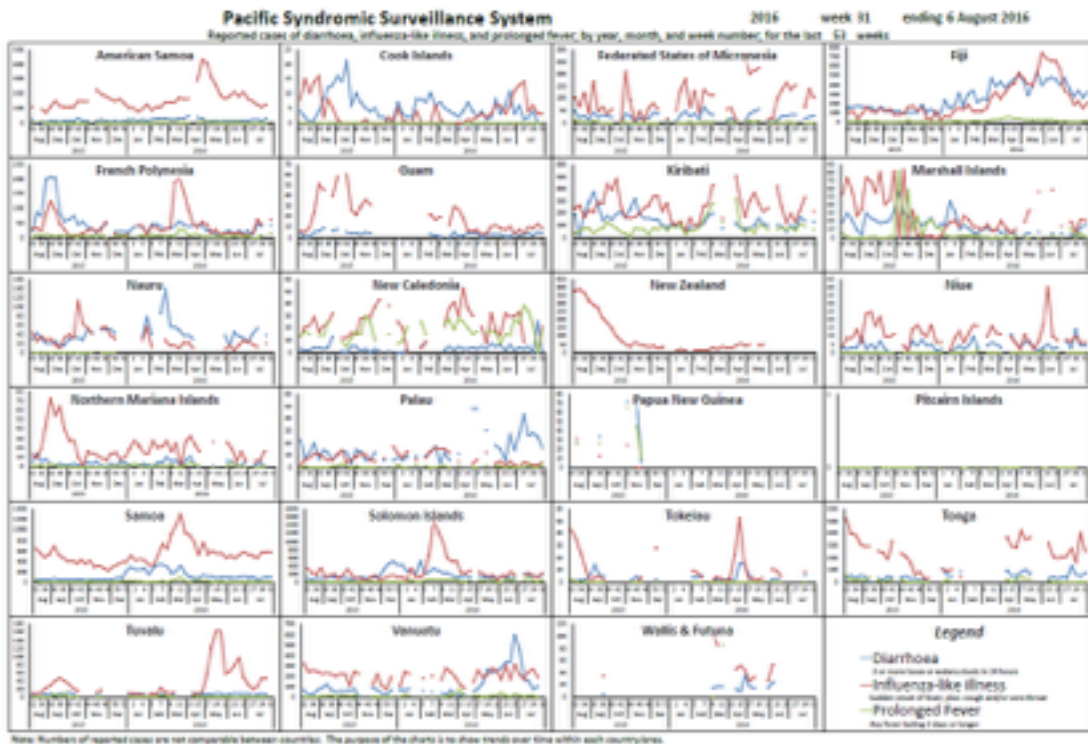


Figure 12: Reported cases of influenza-like illness (red line) in Pacific Island Countries, 2015–2016

Global influenza situation updates

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

Virological update: http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport/en/

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 2016 southern hemisphere influenza season: http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2016_south/en/

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/vaccines/virus/4thmtg_improve_vaccine_virus_selection/en/

Video on influenza on WHO's YouTube Channel

Arabic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxW6Pg1AnwI>

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>