

Virological Surveillance Summary

The total number of specimens and number of positive specimens reported to FluNet by Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 11 are presented in the table below. Influenza A, specifically A(H1N1)pdm09, predominated throughout the 20182019 influenza season but in recent weeks the proportion of influenza B(Victoria lineage) and A(H3) has increased (Figure 1).

Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, weeks 1 to 11, 2019

Country (most recent week of report)	Total number of specimens processed	Total number of influenza positive specimens
Australia (week 11)	9047	1124
Cambodia (week 8)	178	21
China (week 11)	195351	59073
Japan (week 10)	-	3335
Lao People's Democratic Republic (week 10)	741	128
Mongolia (week 10)	2000	664
Philippines (week 11)	314	113
Republic of Korea (week 11)	2451	502
Singapore (week 9)	584	165

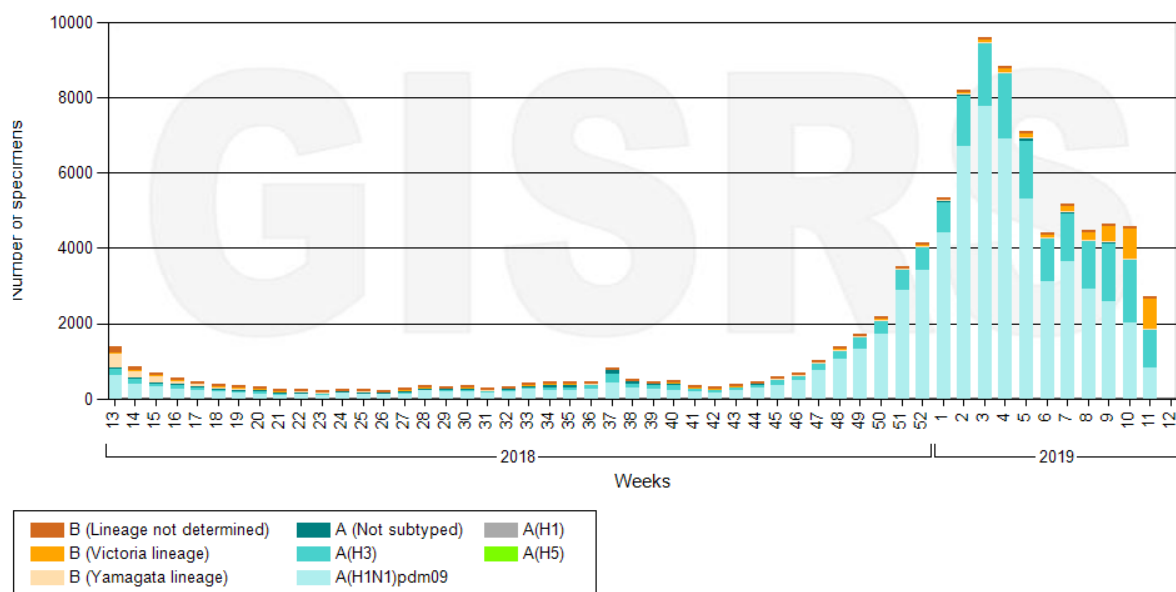


Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region weeks 1 to 11 2019 (Source: [WHO FLUNET](#))

Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient sentinel indicator based surveillance (IBS) systems, as well as event-based surveillance. Case definitions, population groups included, and data formats differ among countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries and areas where routine IBS is conducted and information is available.

The [WHO surveillance case definition](#) for influenza-like illness (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 (ARI) with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ and cough, with symptom onset within 10 days that requires hospitalization. Sentinel site data should be interpreted with caution since the number of sites reporting may vary between weeks.

Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In most countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI and influenza activity is low and similar to the corresponding period from previous years.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

[China \(North\)](#)

During week 11, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Northern China was 3.3%, which is higher than the last week (2.5%) and the same week in 2017 and 2018 (2.8% and 2.6% (Figure 2).

[Mongolia](#)

During week 11, ILI activity in Mongolia decreased from the previous week, and was below the upper tolerance limits (Figure 3).

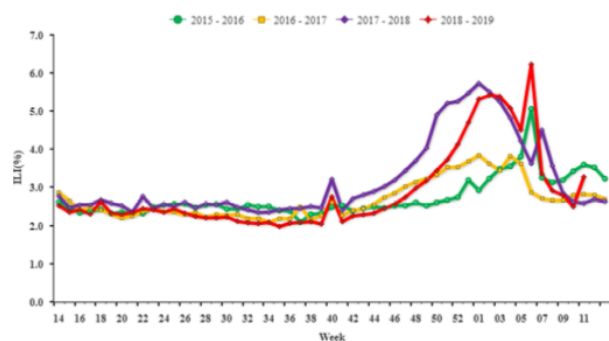


Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in Northern China, 2015-2019

([Source](#): China National Influenza Center)

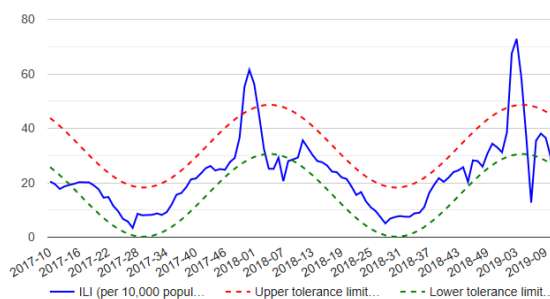


Figure 3: Proportion of outpatient ILI visits per 10,000 people, 2016-2019

([Source](#): Mongolia National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea

In week 11, overall weekly ILI rate was 12.1 ILI cases per 1000 outpatient visits, higher than last weeks but show a similar trend observed during the same period in 2016-2017.

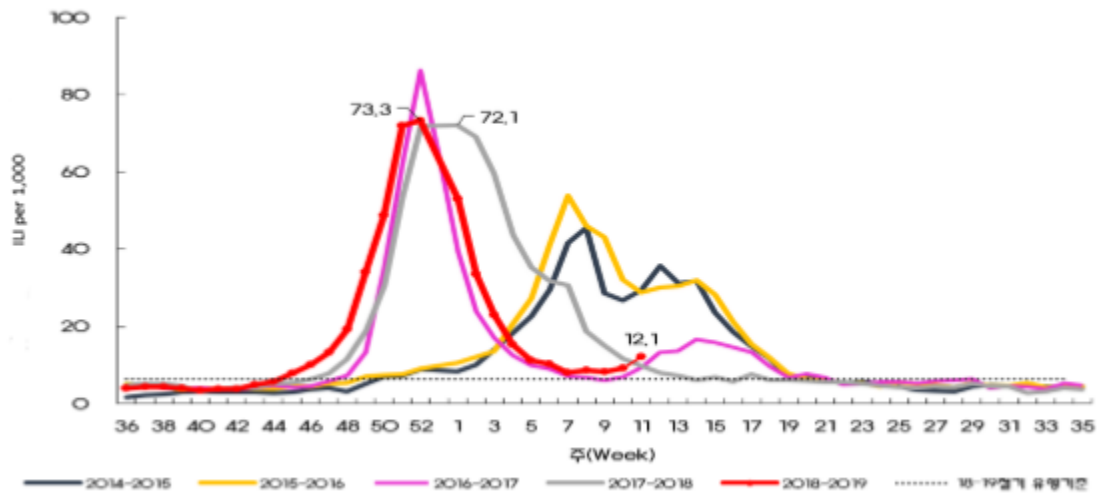


Figure 4: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1000 consultations, 2014-2019, Republic of Korea

(Source: Korean Centres for Disease Control and Prevention)

Sentinel influenza surveillance

Japan

In week 10 of 2019, influenza activity in Japan continues to decrease from 5.93 cases per sentinel hospital in week 9 to 4.12, and it is lower than the same period in 2017 and 2018.

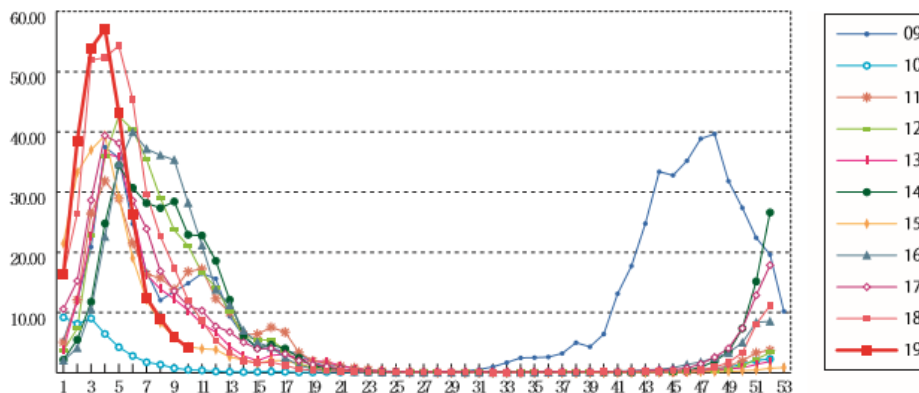


Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2008-2018

(Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

Countries and areas in the tropical zone are observing influenza activity that is consistent with previous seasons.

Surveillance

Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance

In week 11, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics was 4.6 ILI cases per 1000 consultations, which was the same as the rate recorded in the previous week and showing a similar trend to 2018 (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioners was 39.5 ILI cases per 1000 consultations, which was lower than 42.8 recorded in the previous week. (Figure 7).

Hong Kong SAR (China) ILI Surveillance

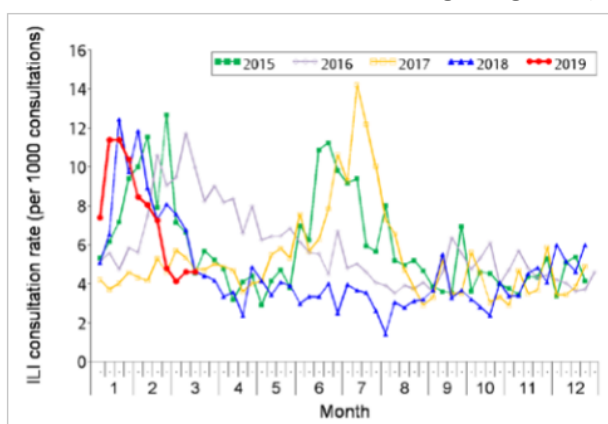


Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2014-2019
([Source](#): Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

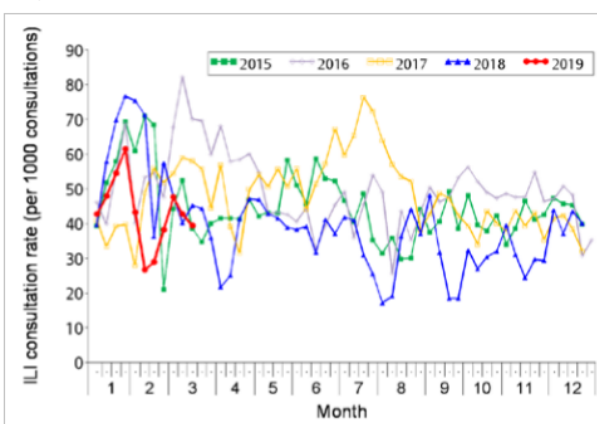


Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong SAR 2014-2019
([Source](#): Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

China (South) - ILI Surveillance

During week 11, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China was 4.1%, same as the last week (4.1%) but higher than the same week of 2016–2018 (3.9%, 3.0%, 3.6%) (Figure 8).

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance

In week 11, the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI was 2881, similar to the previous week. The proportion of patients with ILI among the polyclinic attendances for ARI was 1.7% (Figure 9).

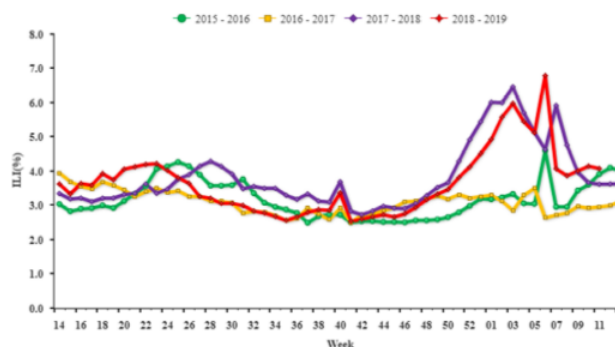


Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China, 2015-2019
 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

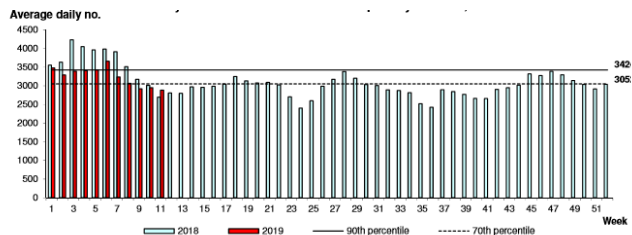


Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2017-2019
 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

Lao PDR

In week 11, ILI activity decreased compared to the previous week and remain lower than the previous years. The trend is similar to previous years (Figure 10).

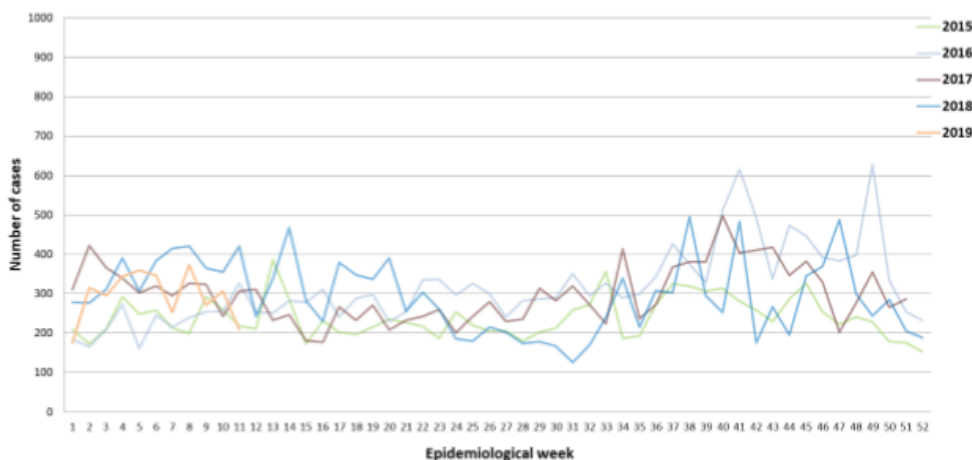


Figure 10: Weekly number of ILI presentations at sentinel sites, 2015-2019, Lao PDR
 (Source: Lao National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity is reported during the influenza season usually starting in May. Influenza activity in the temperate zone tends to remain at low inter-seasonal levels.

Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza and ILI (last update 16 Nov 2018)

The numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases and presentations of ILI to general practitioners in week 43 are low and within historical range. There were 5.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations at sentinel general practitioners which was lower than the five year average for the same period (11.8 per 1000 consultations) and year to date there have been 48,276 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (Figure 11). Australia publishes influenza surveillance reports on a fortnightly basis during the influenza season, typically between May and October.

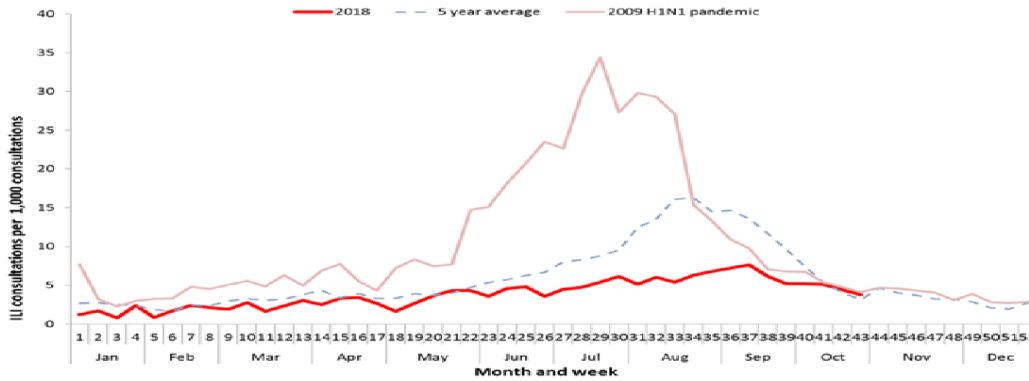


Figure 11: Australian notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza
 (Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

New Zealand – Influenza like Illness

As expected for this time of year, across all district Health Boards, rates of GP visits for ILI have remained low over the months as expected. The historical average is based on 2000-2017 seasons (excluding pandemic seasons: 2009).

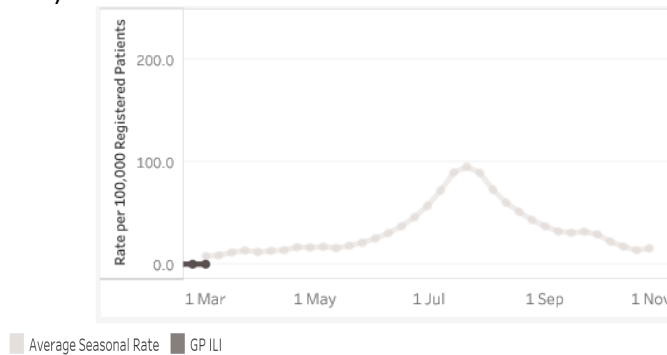
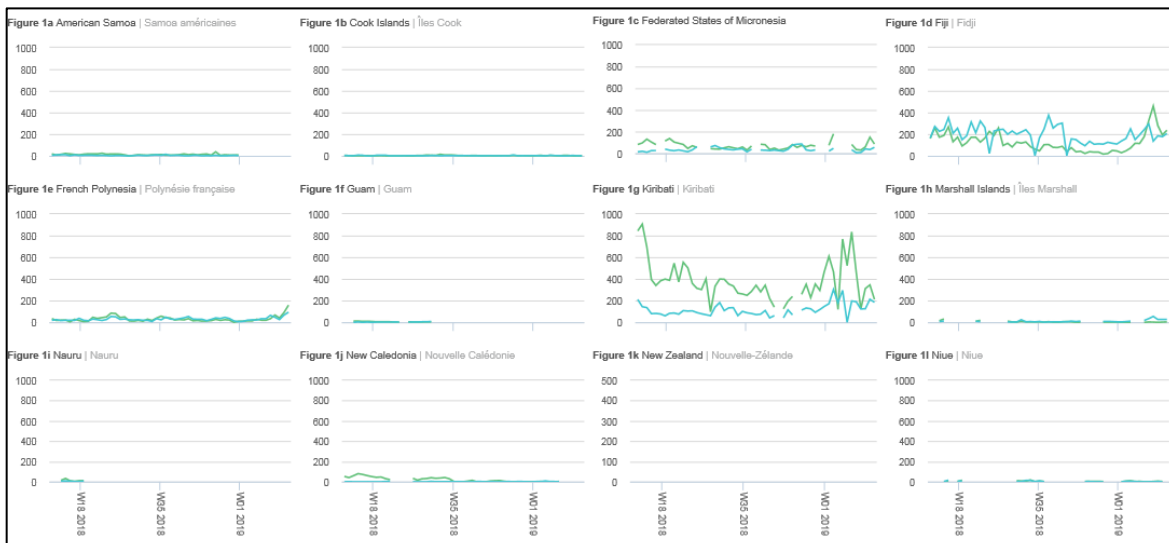


Figure 12: Weekly General Practice ILI Rates in New Zealand
 (Source: Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR), New Zealand)

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, in week 11, the number of ILI cases reported increased in Solomon Islands, French Polynesia, Samoa, and Vanuatu (Figure 13).



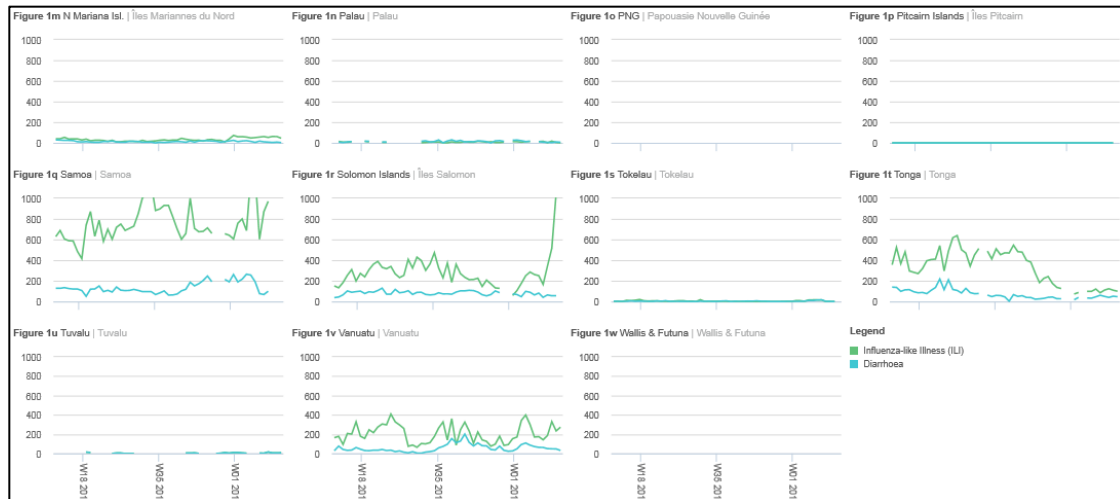


Figure 13: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries
(Source: PacNet bulletin)

Global influenza situation updates

[Virological update](#)

[Global update](#)

Others:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2018 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2019-2020 northern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines [Link](#)
- 4th WHO Informal Consultation on Improving Influenza Vaccine Virus Selection [Link](#)

WHO's YouTube Channel: film exploring a number of key aspects of the constant evolution of influenza viruses and associated impacts on public health. [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)