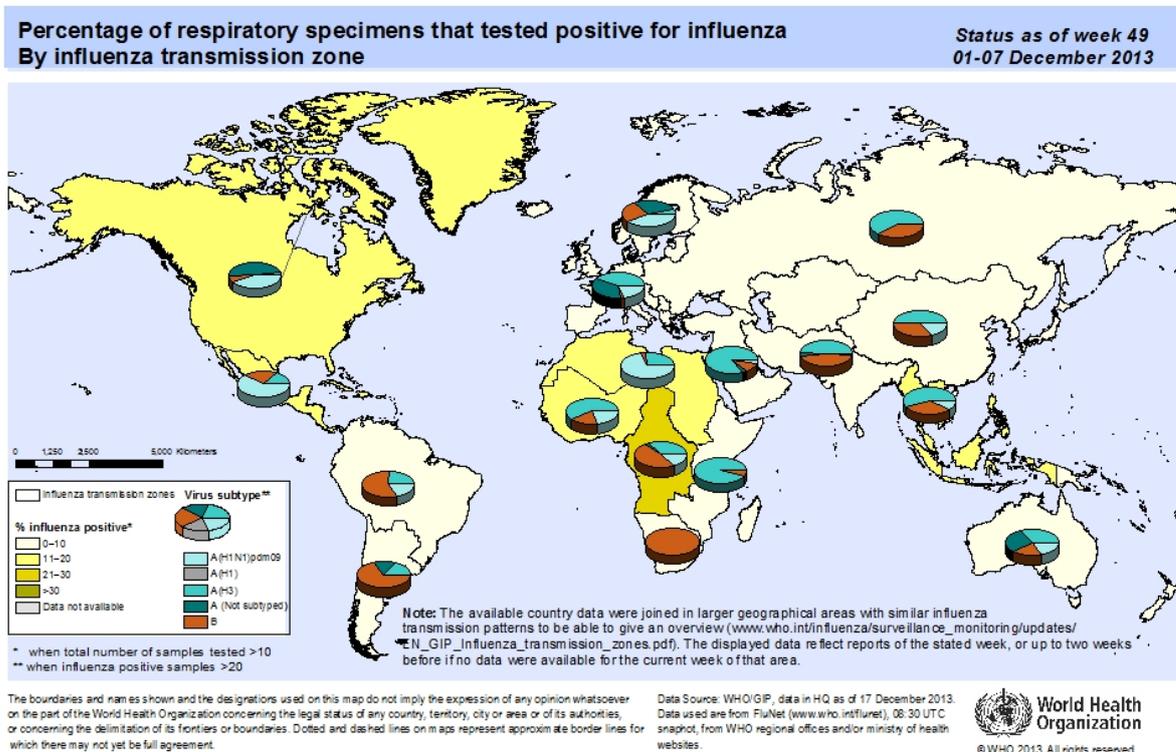


Influenza Update N° 201

20 December 2013

Summary

- In North America the influenza season has started. The predominant subtype of influenza viruses detected was influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
- For the rest of the northern hemisphere as well as in the southern hemisphere influenza activity remained low.
- In countries of tropical areas variable influenza activity was reported.
- Based on FluNet reporting (as of 19 December 2013, 07:15 UTC), during weeks 48 to 49 (24 November 2013 to 7 December 2013), National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 89 countries, areas or territories reported influenza surveillance data. The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 42 360 specimens. 3304 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 2816 (85.3%) were typed as seasonal influenza A and 487 (14.7%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed seasonal influenza A viruses, 1166 (66.4%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 591 (33.6%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 39 (70.9%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 16 (29.1%) to the B-Victoria lineage.
- For updates on human infections with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus see the WHO website (<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/> and http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/)



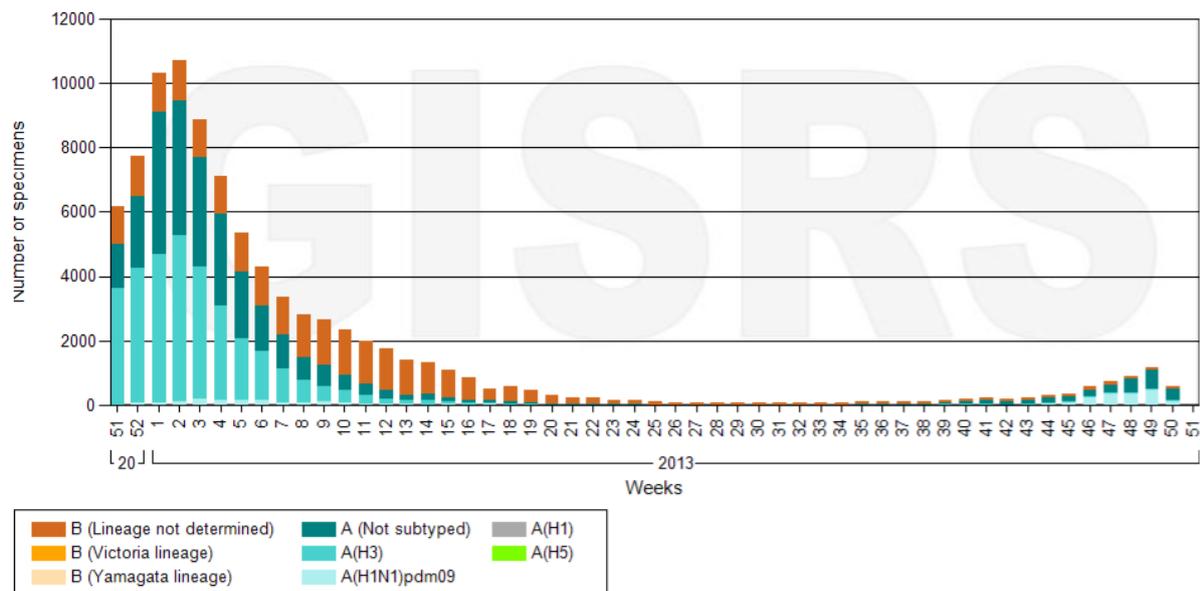
Note: Global epidemiology and surveillance updates are periodically collected from data reported by National authorities or organizations responsible for reporting this data. For further information on specific influenza virus activity in the world and scientific literature for practitioners and other professionals in the field, please visit the links provided at the end of this document.

Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America

Overall influenza activity in North America has increased indicating the start of the season, with A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominant. In Canada influenza-like illness (ILI) and detections of influenza had increased. In the United States of America, the proportion of visits for influenza-like illness reached the 2% national threshold for the start of the season and the number of samples testing positive for influenza increased to 17%.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the North America Transmission Zone



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/fluNet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 19/12/2013

Europe

Low levels of influenza activity continued. All three influenza subtypes were detected but in low numbers. The number of hospitalizations due to severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) remained at interseasonal level.

Northern Africa and the Western and Central Asia region

Influenza activity was low in the northern African and western and central Asia. Egypt and Jordan reported increased circulation of A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses.

Northern Asia

Influenza activity in the northern region of Asia remained low. In northern China, influenza detections continued to increase but stayed at interseasonal level. In Mongolia, clinical respiratory illness activity has increased since mid-August though with no influenza viruses detected.

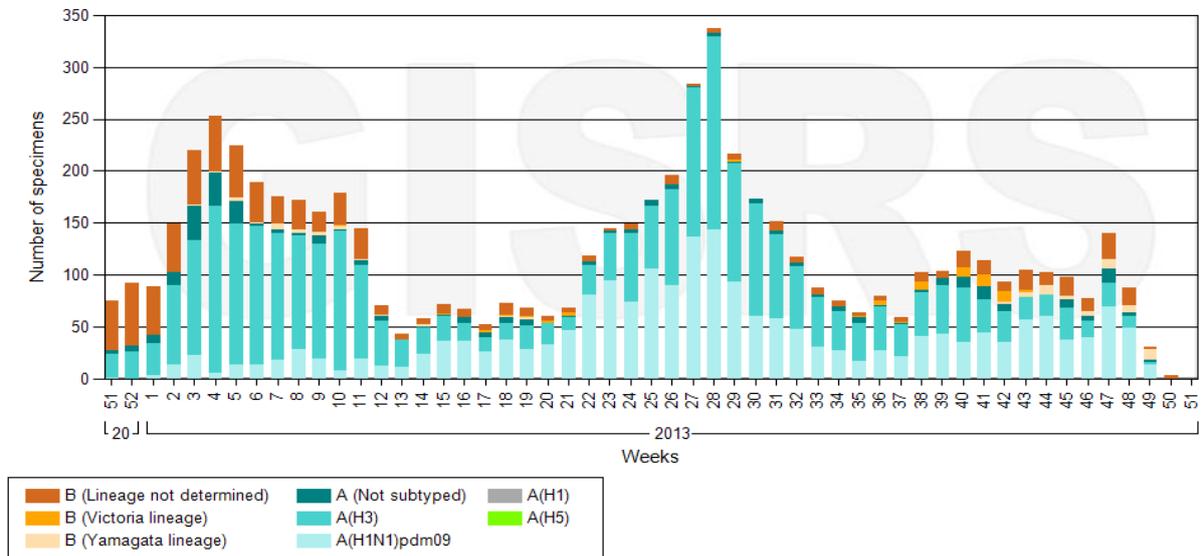
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of the Americas/Central America and the Caribbean

Overall influenza activity in the Caribbean, Central America and tropical areas of South America was at low levels. Generally influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 circulated throughout. In Honduras although ILI

activity and SARI-associated hospitalizations decreased, the proportion of SARI-associated deaths increased and of 209 samples tested during weeks 42 to 45, 30.1% were positive for influenza.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Central America Transmission Zone

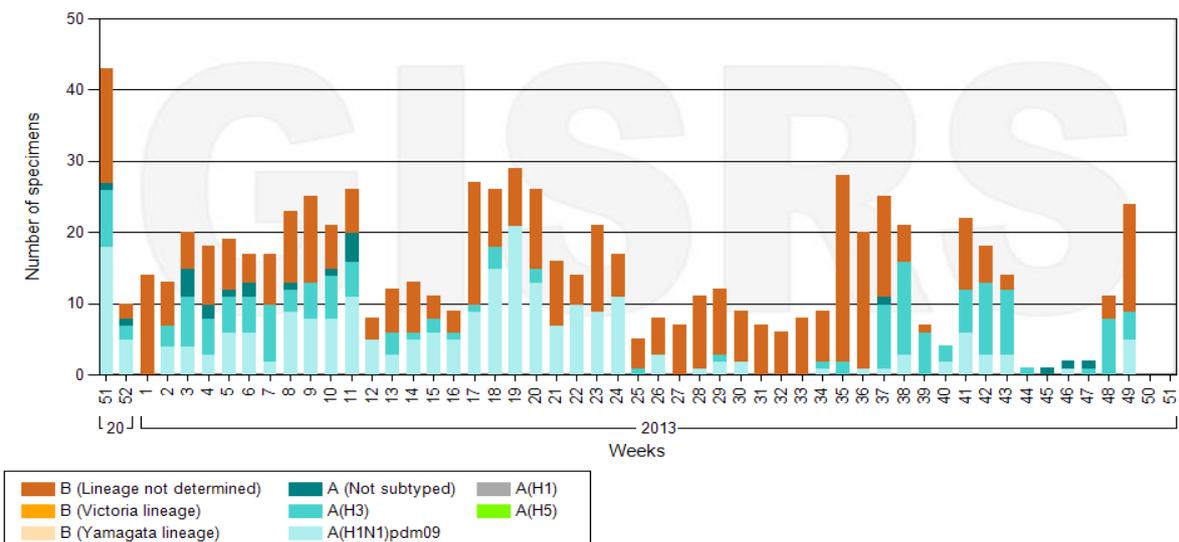


Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/fluinet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 19/12/2013

Central African tropical region

In the African tropical region, influenza activity was reported from the central and western regions. In Cameroon 29% of the samples were positive for influenza with mainly influenza B. Cameroon also reported a high number of SARI cases in recent weeks. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana reported increased detections of A(H3N2). Madagascar reported increased ILI activity associated with non-influenza respiratory viruses.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the Central Africa Transmission Zone



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/fluinet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 19/12/2013

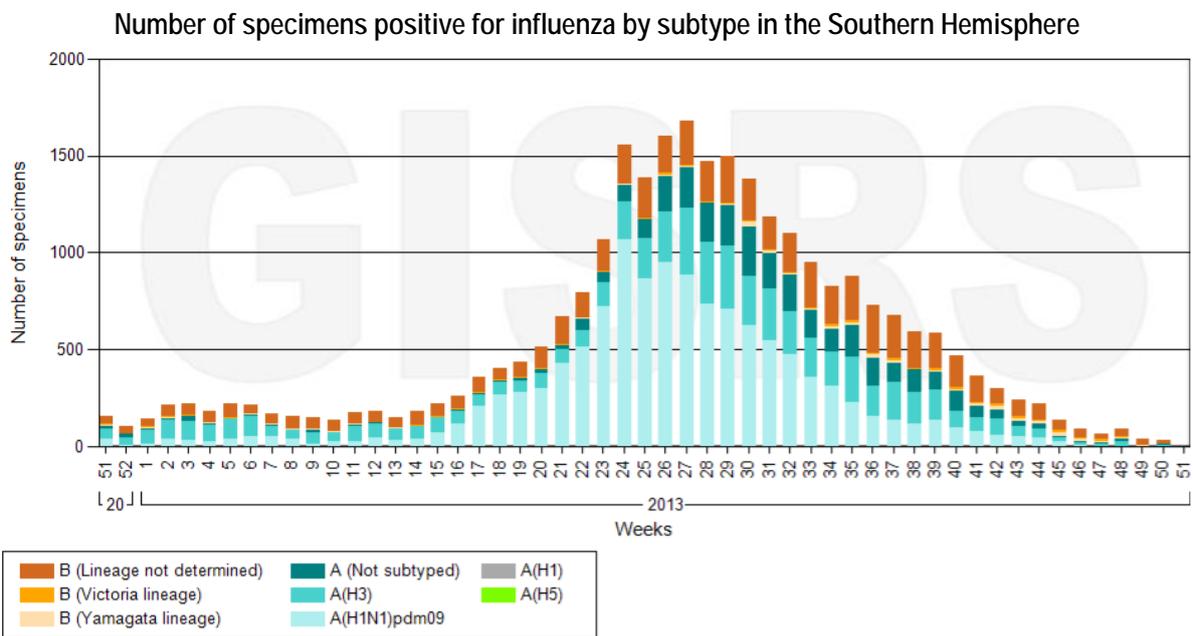
Tropical Asia

Influenza activity in southern Asia was generally low but increased in some areas. Influenza A(H3N2) virus was the main subtype reported, but A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B viruses were also detected in low numbers. In southern China, influenza activity continued to increase. In the Islamic Republic of Iran influenza activity increased since mid-November.

Influenza activity in South-East Asia varied among countries but overall remained at moderate levels with A(H3N2) virus predominant. Activity increased in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand, remained moderate in Viet Nam, and decreased slightly in Cambodia.

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the southern hemisphere the season is over and all indicators are at interseasonal level.



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/fluNet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 19/12/2013

Source of data

The Global Influenza Programme monitors influenza activity worldwide and publishes an update every two weeks.

The updates are based on available epidemiological and virological data sources, including FluNet (reported by the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System) and influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices and Member States. Completeness can vary among updates due to availability and quality of data available at the time when the update is developed.

Link to web pages

Influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices:

AMRO: http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1239&Itemid=2291

EURO: <http://www.euroflu.org/>

WPRO: http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/

Epidemiological Influenza updates:

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

Epidemiological Influenza updates archives 2012:

http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/GIP_surveillance_2012_archives

Virological surveillance updates :

http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport

Virological surveillance updates archives :

http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/

Contact

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