Influenza Update N° 283

20 February 2017, based on data up to 05 February, 2017
Details of Influenza Transmission Zones available at:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/EN_GIP_Influenza_transmission_zones.pdf

Summary

Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere continued to be elevated. Many countries especially in East Asia and Europe appeared to have already peaked and were reporting decreasing trends. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) virus was predominant. The majority of influenza viruses characterized so far were similar antigenically to the reference viruses contained in vaccines for use in the 2016-2017 northern hemisphere influenza season. Nearly all tested viruses collected recently for antiviral sensitivity were susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications.

- In North America, influenza activity with A(H3N2) virus predominating increased in the United States of America and Mexico, whereas in Canada influenza activity continued to decrease.
- In Europe, influenza activity remained elevated with influenza A (H3N2) virus being the most prominent subtype. Most of the countries reported stable or decreasing trends compared with previous weeks. Persons aged over 65 years were most frequently associated with severe disease from influenza infection.
- In East Asia, influenza activity appeared to be decreasing with influenza A(H3N2) virus predominant.
- In Western Asia, influenza activity was decreasing with influenza A(H3N2) predominant in the region. Low levels of influenza B viruses were also detected.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity sharply increased in India and Sri Lanka, with mainly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 reported followed by influenza B and A(H3N2).
- In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low.
- In Northern Africa, influenza activity seemed to have peaked; influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B virus detections were reported.
- In West Africa, influenza B continued to be detected in Ghana.
- In the Caribbean countries and Central America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low in general, except in Puerto Rico where influenza activity remained above the seasonal threshold with influenza A(H3N2) predominating.
- In tropical South America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low, although RSV activity remained elevated in Colombia.
- In the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity was at inter-seasonal levels.
- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 83 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 23 January 2017 to 05 February 2017 (data as of 2017-02-17 11:53:23 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 154949 specimens during that time period. 40292 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 36922 (91.6%) were typed as influenza A and 3370 (8.4%) as influenza B. Of the subtype influenza A viruses, 418 (2.9%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 14024 (97.1%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 332 (62.8%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 197 (37.2%) to the B-Victoria lineage.
Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America
For more information see:

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in North America

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flu). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 16/02/17
Europe
For more information see: https://flunewseurope.org/

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Northern Europe

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 16/02/17

Northern Africa
In Northern Africa, influenza activity seemed to be declining; detections were reported in Morocco and Tunisia, with influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses dominating, while in Egypt the most frequently detected virus was influenza A(H3N2).

Central Asia
For more information see: https://flunewseurope.org/

Eastern Asia
In East Asia, influenza activity appeared to be decreasing with influenza A(H3N2) as the dominant virus circulating.

Western Asia
In Western Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease in the countries reporting data during this period. Influenza A(H3N2) was the predominating virus detected in the region, followed by influenza B viruses. Influenza activity continued to decrease in Israel, Iraq and Qatar. Influenza B was detected in Georgia, Iraq and Qatar.

Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America
African region
In the African region, influenza B virus detections were reported in Ghana and Tanzania.

Tropical Asia
In Southern Asia influenza activity sharply increased in India with mainly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus reported followed by influenza B and A(H3N2) and in Sri Lanka.

In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low, with all seasonal influenza subtypes detected in the region.

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

Temperate South America

Southern Africa
In the temperate countries of Southern Africa, influenza remains at inter-seasonal levels.

Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia
In Oceania, influenza virus activity remained at inter-seasonal level.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Hemisphere

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 16/02/17
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) FluID (epidemiological data reported by national focal points) 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.

Links to web pages
Influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices:
AMRO: www.paho.org/influenzareports
EMRO: http://www.emro.who.int/entity/surveillance-forecasting-response/index.html
EURO: http://www.flunewseurope.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 2015:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/GIP_surveillance_2015_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/

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