Influenza Update N° 285

20 March 2017, based on data up to 05 March, 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 appeared to decrease. Influenza activity in many countries especially in East Asia and Europe already peaked. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) virus was predominant. In South Asia influenza activity with mainly H1N1 has been increasing. 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, overall influenza and other respiratory virus activity decreased in Canada and United States of America. Influenza activity slightly increased in Mexico with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus predominating.
- In Europe, influenza activity appeared to decrease with influenza A (H3N2) and influenza B viruses predominant in the region. Detections of influenza B virus increased in the recent weeks. Persons aged over 65 years continued to be reported as most frequently associated with severe disease from influenza infection.
- In East Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease with influenza A(H3N2) virus predominant.
- In Western Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses co-circulating in the region.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity continued to increase in India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka, with mainly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus reported followed by influenza B virus.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low.
- In Northern Africa, low influenza activity was reported in Tunisia, with influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B virus co-circulating.
- In West Africa, influenza activity continued to be reported in Ghana and Mali, with influenza B being the main virus detected. In Eastern Africa, influenza activity was reported in Ethiopia and Mauritius with influenza A(H3N2) virus predominant.
- In the Caribbean countries and Central America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low in general.
- 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 94 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 20 February 2017 to 05 March 2017 (data as of 2017-03-17 09:50:51 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 156226 specimens during that time period. 34376 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 26581 (77.3%) were typed as influenza A and 7795 (22.7%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 651 (8.1%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09
and 7392 (91.9%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 614 (71.4%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 246 (28.6%) 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/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 16/03/17

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 16/03/17
Northern Africa
In Northern Africa, low influenza activity was reported in Tunisia, with influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses co-circulating.

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

Eastern Asia
In East Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease 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) and influenza B viruses were co-circulating in the region. Low levels of influenza B were detected in Armenia, Georgia and Qatar.

Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

African region
In the African region, low levels of influenza activity continued to be reported in Ghana and Mali, with influenza B being the main virus detected. In Eastern Africa, influenza activity was reported in Ethiopia and Mauritius with influenza A(H3N2) virus predominant.

Tropical Asia
In Southern Asia influenza activity continued to increase in India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, with mainly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus reported followed by influenza B.

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

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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