Influenza Update N° 289
15 May 2017, based on data up to 30 April, 2017

Information in this report is categorized by influenza transmission zones, which are geographical groups of countries, areas or territories with similar influenza transmission patterns. For more information on influenza transmission zones, see: 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 decrease. In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity reached seasonal thresholds in some countries, but remained low in general. Worldwide, influenza B viruses were predominant.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 103 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 17 April 2017 to 30 April 2017 (data as of 2017-05-12 06:57:21 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 79447 specimens during that time period. 7736 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 2683 (34.7%) were typed as influenza A and 5053 (65.3%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 642 (45.1%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 782 (54.9%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 396 (51.8%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 369 (48.2%) to the B-Victoria lineage.

For more detailed information, see the Influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices:

- WHO Region of the Americas (AMRO): www.paho.org/influenzareports
- WHO European Region (EURO): www.flunewseurope.org/
- WHO Western Pacific Region (WPRO): www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/en/
Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity slightly increased in recent weeks. In Chile, ILI activity continued to increase and passed the seasonal threshold.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Hemisphere

![Graph](image)

**Data source:** FluNet [www.who.int/flunet](www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)

Data generated on 11/05/17

Countries in the tropical zone

**Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America**

- In the Caribbean and Central America countries, respiratory virus activity remained low.
- In tropical South America, influenza activity remained low in most of the region, except in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) where influenza activity increased in recent weeks with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominating. Other respiratory virus activity remained low in general, except in Colombia where elevated activity of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continued to be reported.

**African region**

- In Western Africa, influenza activity continued to be reported in Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B Victoria lineage co-circulating in the region. In Eastern Africa, influenza activity was reported in Madagascar, Republic of Mauritius, and the United Republic of Tanzania with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses present in the region.
Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza activity decreased in recent weeks. In Bhutan, influenza like illness (ILI) activity continued to be reported, with influenza B viruses most frequently detected. In India, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 continued to be reported. Low levels of influenza activity were reported in Iran and Sri Lanka, with influenza B viruses predominant.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low, with influenza A(H3N2) and A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominant in the region. In Singapore, an increasing trend of ILI levels was reported in recent weeks.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Asia

![Graph showing number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype](image)

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)

Data generated on 11/05/17

Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America

- In North America, influenza activity continued to decrease overall. Increased proportions of influenza B viruses were reported in Canada and in the United States of America in recent weeks. In Mexico, low levels of all seasonal influenza types/subtypes continued to be detected.
Europe

- In Europe, influenza activity continued to decrease to low levels overall. In Northern and Eastern Europe, influenza activity continued to decrease with influenza B viruses predominant. In South West Europe little to no influenza activity was reported.

**Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the European Region**

*Data source: FluNet [www.who.int/flunet](http://www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) Data generated on 11/05/17*
Northern Africa

- In Northern Africa, influenza activity remained low. Sporadic detections of influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses were reported in Morocco and Tunisia.

Western Asia

In Western Asia, low influenza activity was reported with influenza B viruses predominant in the region. Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) levels continued to decrease in Georgia, but remained stable in Armenia.

Central Asia

- In Central Asia, respiratory illness indicators were at low levels in general and very few influenza virus detections were reported during this period.

Eastern Asia

- In East Asia, influenza activity continued to be reported with all seasonal influenza types/subtypes detected in the region. In Southern China, influenza activity remained high with A(H1N1)pdm09 and B Victoria lineage viruses predominant. In Northern China, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections decreased in recent weeks. In the Republic of Korea, influenza activity continued to be reported with influenza B viruses predominant.

Sources 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.

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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