Influenza Update N° 293

10 July 2017, based on data up to 25 June, 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

- In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity continued to increase, especially in temperate South America. A few countries in Central America, the Caribbean and South East Asia also reported increased influenza activity. Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere was reported at low levels. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses co-circulated.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 83 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 12 June 2017 to 25 June 2017 (data as of 2017-07-07 03:57:22 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 56574 specimens during that time period. 5109 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 4101 (80.3%) were typed as influenza A and 1008 (19.7%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 447 (14.3%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 2688 (85.7%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 165 (49.4%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 169 (50.6%) 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](http://www.paho.org/influenzareports)
- WHO European Region (EURO): [www.flunewseurope.org/](http://www.flunewseurope.org/)
- WHO Western Pacific Region (WPRO): [www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/en/](http://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 increased in most countries in recent weeks.
- In temperate South America, influenza like illness (ILI) and SARI activities continued to increase in Chile (ILI was reported to be above the alert threshold), Paraguay and Uruguay following seasonal patterns and decreased slightly in Argentina. Influenza activity continued to increase in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. In Brazil, SARI activity and influenza detections seemed to have peaked. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominated in the region with some B virus activity reported as well.
- In Oceania, seasonal influenza activity in Australia and New Zealand increased from baseline to average levels, with both influenza A and B co-circulating. In New Zealand, of the influenza A viruses subtyped, A(H3N2) viruses predominated and viruses of the Yamagata lineage predominated among the B viruses characterized. Nevertheless, influenza detection rates remained low and at inter-seasonal levels in all territories.
- In Southern Africa, seasonal activity continued to increase with influenza A(H3N2) being the most detected subtype followed by A(H1N1)pdm09.

#### Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Temperate South America

![Graph showing number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Temperate South America]

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

Data generated on 07/07/17
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia

[Graph showing influenza activity in Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia]

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 06/07/17

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Africa

[Graph showing influenza activity in Southern Africa]

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 06/07/17

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 most countries with a few exceptions. There has been an increasing trend of detections of predominantly influenza A(H3N2) viruses in Cuba and El Salvador and detections of predominantly influenza B viruses in Costa Rica and Nicaragua over the past few weeks.
Increased acute respiratory infections (ARI), SARI and pneumonia cases were reported in El Salvador as well.

- In tropical South America, influenza activity remained low.

**Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Central America and the Caribbean**

![Graph showing influenza activity by subtype in Central America and the Caribbean]

**Data source:** FluNet [www.who.int/flunet](http://www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 06/07/17

**African region**

- In Western Africa, few influenza detections were reported in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. In Eastern Africa, influenza activity appeared to decrease in the Republic of Mauritius after a peak in week 23. In both influenza transmission zones, A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses co-circulated.

**Tropical Asia**

- In Southern Asia, low levels of influenza activity continued to be reported. Bangladesh reported increased activity with A(H1N1)pdm09 through week 21, but there have not been further updates. Sri Lanka reported detections of A(H3N2) and B viruses in the past few weeks.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity continued to increase in some countries and decreased in other countries. In Singapore, ILI and influenza activity continued to be reported, with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses predominant. Increased influenza activity was reported in Thailand [with A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses co-circulating], and the Philippines where A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses were predominant. ILI and influenza activity increased slightly over the past few weeks in Southern China (with detections of all seasonal subtypes) and in Hong Kong, SAR, China, with detections of predominantly influenza A(H3N2) viruses.
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in South East Asia

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 06/07/17

Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America

- In North America, little to no influenza activity was reported.

Europe

- In Europe, little to no influenza activity was reported.

Northern Africa

- In Northern Africa, no influenza virus detections were reported.

Western Asia

- In Western Asia, only one influenza virus detection was reported in week 24. Decreasing trends of SARI activity were reported in Armenia and Georgia.

Central Asia

- In Central Asia, there were no updated reports on virus detections or respiratory illness indicators.

Eastern Asia

- In East Asia, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea each reported a few detections of influenza B viruses; Japan also reported occasional influenza A(H3N2) detections. Very little activity was reported in Northern China.
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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