Influenza Update N° 294

24 July 2017, based on data up to 09 July, 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, high levels of influenza activity continued to be reported. 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 68 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 26 June 2017 to 09 July 2017 (data as of 2017-07-20 15:26:16 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 50673 specimens during that time period. 6764 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 5983 (88.5%) were typed as influenza A and 781 (11.5%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 680 (12.5%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 4762 (87.5%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 177 (58%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 128 (42%) 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 or peaked in most countries in recent weeks.
- In temperate South America, influenza activity remained high but appeared to have peaked in most of the countries. In Uruguay, severe acute respiratory infection and influenza activities continued to increase. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominated in the region with some B virus activity reported as well.
- In Oceania, seasonal influenza activity continued to increase, with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses present in the region. In Australia, influenza activity was following the seasonal pattern. An increasing trend of ILI and SARI activities was reported in New Zealand in recent weeks, with influenza like illness (ILI) remaining just above the seasonal threshold level. Influenza activity also increased with influenza A(H3N2) and B Yamagata lineage viruses predominantly detected. Other respiratory virus activity remained stable.
- 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

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

Data generated on 20/07/17
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Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 20/07/17

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Africa

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 20/07/17
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean, respiratory virus activity remained low in most countries with the exception of Cuba reporting an increase of influenza A(H3N2) viruses and RSV detections in recent weeks. In Central America, influenza activity continued to increase in El Salvador and Honduras, and in Costa Rica and Nicaragua with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses detected, respectively. Increasing trends of acute respiratory infections (ARI), SARI and pneumonia 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 number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype]

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 20/07/17

African region

- In Western Africa, few influenza detections were reported in Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Togo. In Eastern Africa, influenza activity continued to decrease. In both influenza transmission zones, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses co-circulated.

Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, low levels of influenza activity continued to be reported, with influenza A(H1N1) virus predominant.

- In South East Asia, influenza activity continued to increase in some countries and decreased in other countries. In Singapore, ILI and influenza activity appeared to decrease after peaking in week 20, with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominant. Increased influenza activity was reported in Thailand, with all seasonal influenza subtypes co-circulating. In the Philippines, influenza detections appeared to decrease with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses.
predominant. ILI and influenza activity continued to increase in Southern China and to a high level in Hong Kong, SAR, China, with detections of predominantly influenza A(H3N2) viruses. Increased SARI activity was also reported in Hong Kong, SAR, China.

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 20/07/17

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, a few influenza virus detections were reported in recent weeks. SARI activity continued to decrease 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, influenza activity remained low. A few detections of influenza A(H3N2) viruses were reported in Northern China and Republic of Korea.

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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