Influenza Update N° 297

04 September 2017, based on data up to 20 August, 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 and in some countries of South and South East Asia, high levels of influenza activity continued to be reported. In Central America and the Caribbean influenza activity continued to be reported in a few countries. Influenza activity remained at low levels in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) viruses are predominating.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 64 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 07 August 2017 to 20 August 2017 (data as of 2017-09-01 04:28:36 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 48522 specimens during that time period. 7438 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 6637 (89.2%) were typed as influenza A and 801 (10.8%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 746 (14%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 4586 (86%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 99 (53.8%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 85 (46.2%) to the B-Victoria lineage.
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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 is still increasing in Oceania, but appeared to have peaked already in South America and South Africa.
- In temperate South America, influenza activity was trending downward throughout most of the sub-region, with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominating. Overall, severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) and influenza like illness (ILI) indicators decreased. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity remained at moderate levels in most of the countries.
- In Oceania, seasonal influenza activity continued to increase, with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses present in the region. In Australia, ILI and influenza activity continued to increase. Respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity decreased in New Zealand, with influenza A(H3N2) and B Yamagata lineage viruses predominantly detected. Other respiratory virus activity continued to decrease. Increased influenza detections were reported in New Caledonia.
- In Southern Africa, influenza activity appeared to have plateaued in South Africa, with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominantly detected.

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

![Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype](Data source: FluNet ([www.who.int/flunet](http://www.who.int/flunet)). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 31/08/17)
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 31/08/17

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 31/08/17
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity remained low in general but RSV activity was increasing.
- In tropical South America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low.

African region

- In Western Africa, influenza activity continued to be reported in Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Senegal, with all seasonal influenza subtypes present in the region. Few influenza detections were reported in Eastern Africa.

Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections continued to increase in India. High influenza activity was also reported in Nepal in recent weeks. In Bhutan, ILI and SARI indicators remained high, with few influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections.
- In South East Asia, increased influenza activity was reported in recent weeks. Influenza detections continued to increase in Myanmar and Thailand, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus and A(H3N2) viruses predominant. Detection of all seasonal influenza subtypes were reported in the Philippines and Viet Nam in recent weeks. In Southern China and in Hong Kong, SAR, China, ILI and influenza activity decreased, with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominantly detected.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Asia

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 31/08/17
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in South East Asia

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 31/08/17

Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America
- Overall influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low. Influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses co-circulated in the region, but with low detections 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, influenza activity increased slightly in Qatar in recent weeks, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses co-circulating.

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.
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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