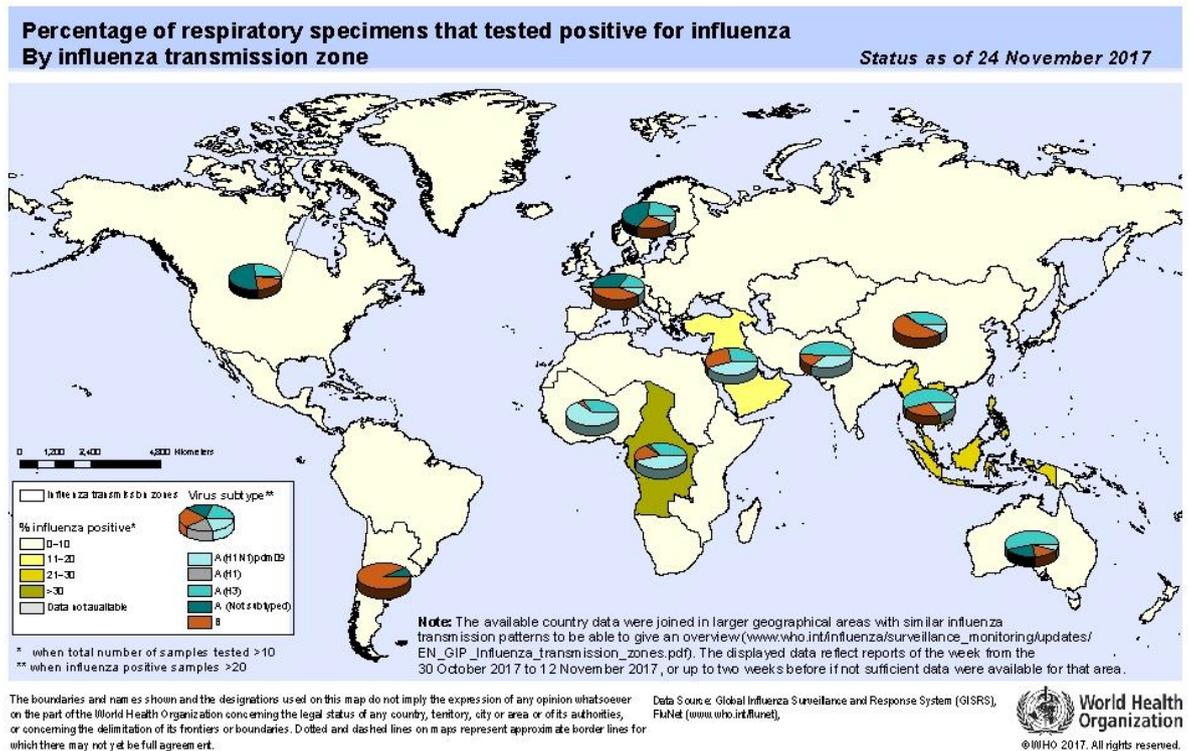


Influenza Update N° 303

27 November 2017, based on data up to 12 November, 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 increased slightly in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere while in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere activity appeared to have decreased at inter-seasonal levels. In Central America and the Caribbean, influenza activity remained low. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses accounted for the majority of influenza detections.
- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 84 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 30 October 2017 to 12 November 2017 (data as of 2017-11-24 03:35:24 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 10 3642 specimens during that time period. 5515 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 3690 (66.9%) were typed as influenza A and 1825 (33.1%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 509 (21.4%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 1873 (78.6%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 781 (77.9%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 221 (22.1%) 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 Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO): www.emro.who.int/surveillance-forecasting-response/surveillance-news/
- 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 northern hemisphere

North America

- Overall influenza virus activity continued to increase in the region. The influenza season began in Canada with influenza activity crossing the seasonal threshold. Acute respiratory infection (ARI) and influenza like illness (ILI) remained just at and below the seasonal thresholds in Mexico and the USA, respectively. In Canada, adults over 65 years of age were over-represented among the influenza-associated hospitalizations. Influenza A(H3N2) virus detections predominated in the region.

Europe

- In Europe, influenza activity remained low, with detections of predominantly influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses in the past weeks.

Northern Africa

- In Northern Africa, sporadic influenza A virus detections were reported in Morocco and Tunisia.

Western Asia

- In Western Asia, influenza activity was low in general. In Qatar, influenza activity continued to increase, with all seasonal subtypes co-circulating.

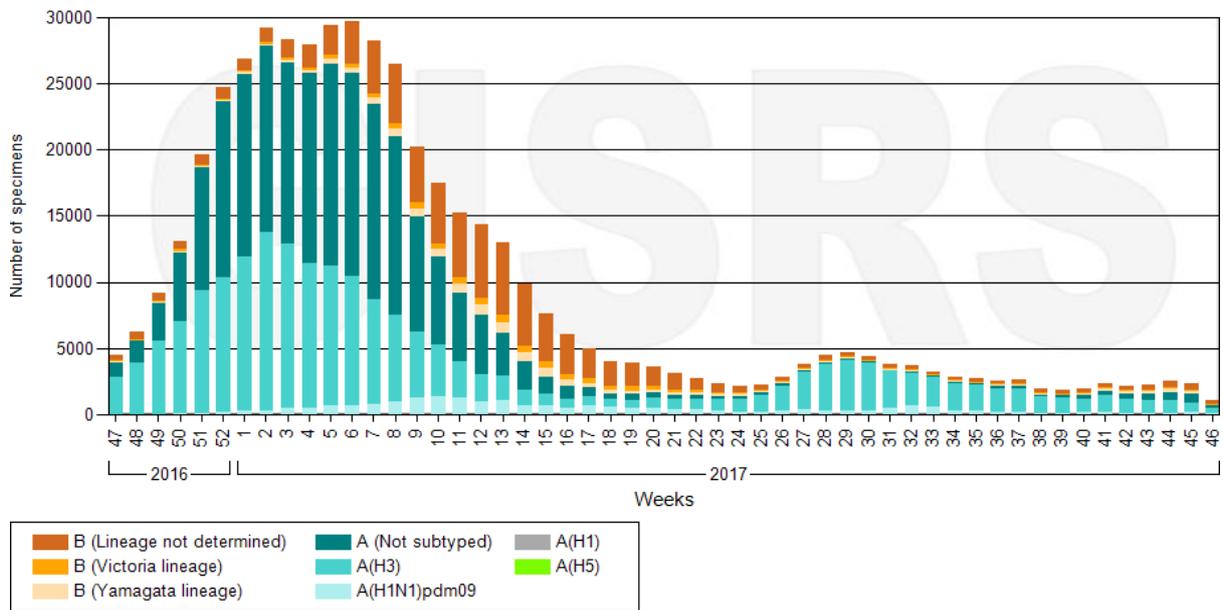
Central Asia

- In Central Asia, respiratory illness indicators appeared to increase in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in recent weeks.

Eastern Asia

- In East Asia, influenza activity remained low in general. In Northern China, influenza A(H3N2) detections increased slightly in recent weeks.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Northern Hemisphere



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flu-net). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 23/11/17

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 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity remained high in several countries, especially in Nicaragua and Panama. Influenza activity continued to be reported in Costa Rica with influenza A(H3N2) virus predominantly detected.
- In the tropical countries of South America, influenza and RSV activity remained at low levels overall. Cases of ARI and pneumonia in children under 5 years of age increased in Peru in the last few weeks.

African region

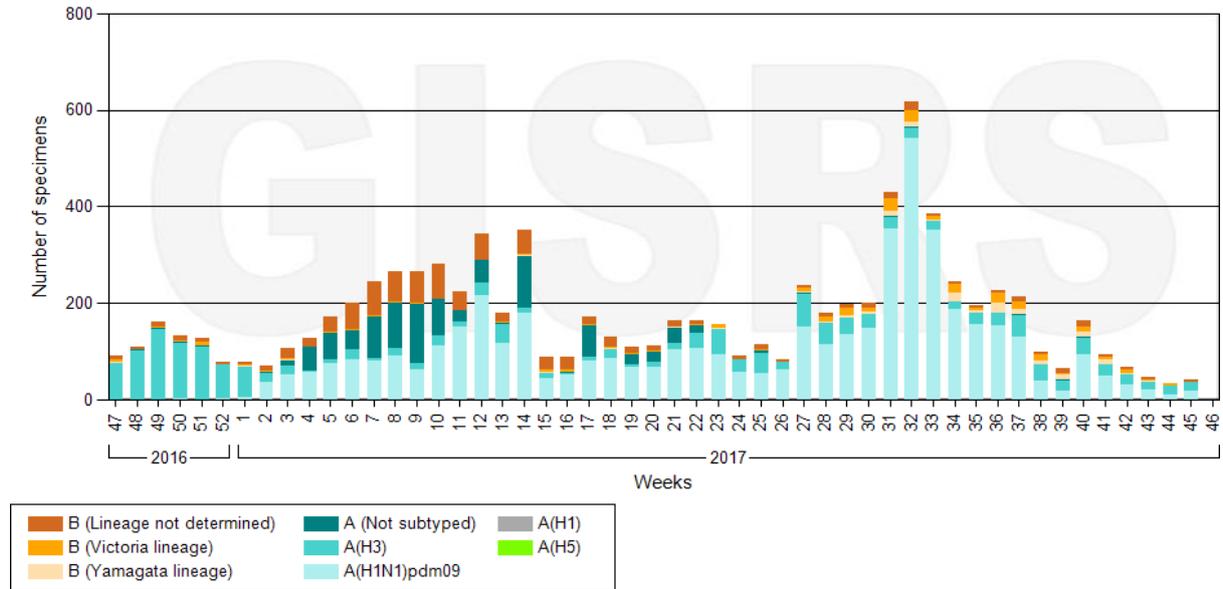
- In Western Africa, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) virus detections were reported in Ghana. In Middle Africa, elevated ILI activity and detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) were reported in Cameroon, and influenza B detections were reported in Central African Republic. In Eastern Africa, influenza A(H3N2) virus detections were reported in Ethiopia. In Réunion Island and Department of Mayotte (French Overseas Departments) influenza activity decreased, with influenza B and A(H1N1)pdm09 most frequently detected, respectively.

Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza activity remained low in general. In India, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) detections continued to be reported.

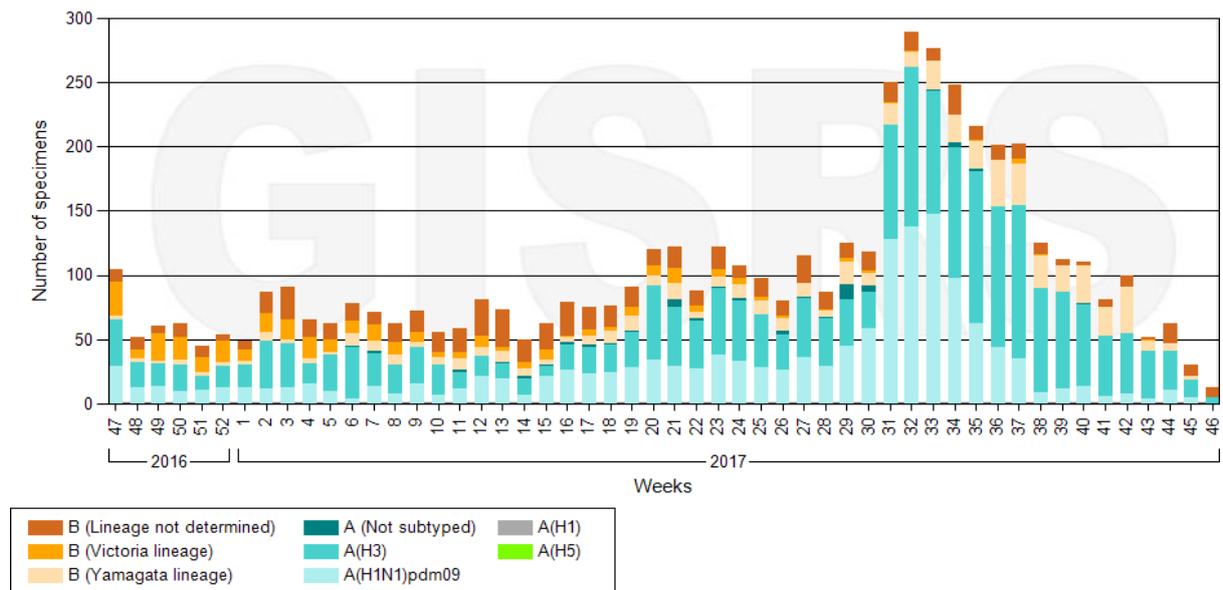
- In South East Asia, influenza activity continued to decrease, with influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses most frequently detected. Influenza activity and respiratory illness indicators continued to decrease in Lao PDR and Thailand.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Asia



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/fluinet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 23/11/17

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in South East Asia

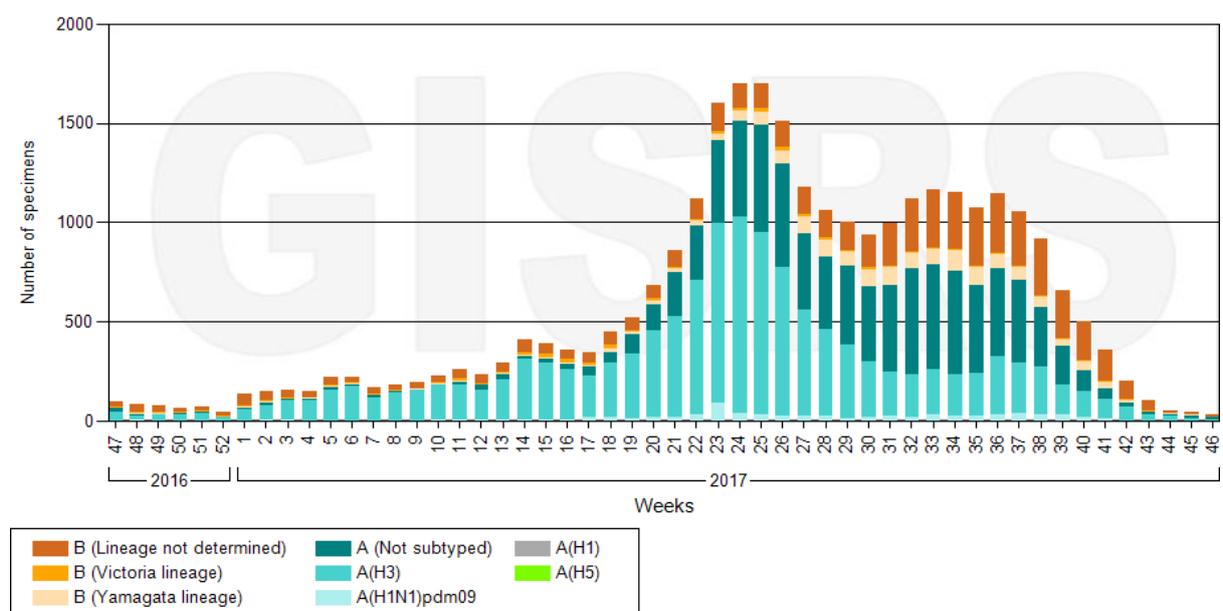


Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/fluinet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 23/11/17

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity appeared to have decreased overall.
- In temperate South America, influenza and RSV activities were both trending downwards throughout most of the sub-region and respiratory illness indicators were low. In Chile, even though influenza activity is normally low at this time of the year, influenza B virus detections continued to be reported. ILI remained just above the seasonal threshold in Paraguay with slightly increased influenza B detections.
- In Oceania, influenza activity and illness indicators returned to or were approaching baseline levels.
- In Southern Africa, low levels of influenza activity were reported in South Africa, with influenza B viruses most frequently detected.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Hemisphere



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/fluNet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 23/11/17

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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