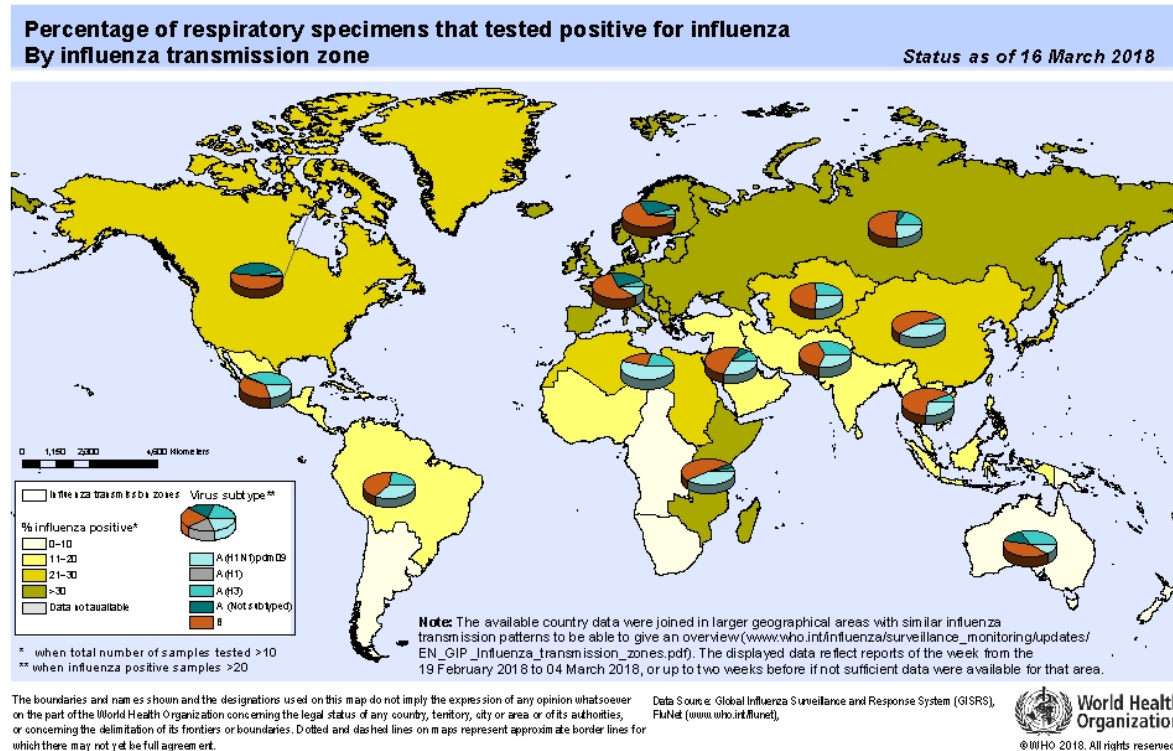


Influenza Update N° 311

19 March 2018, based on data up to 04 March, 2018

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 remained high but appeared to have peaked in some countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere activity remained at inter-seasonal levels. Worldwide, influenza A and influenza B accounted for a similar proportion of influenza detections.
- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 111 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 19 February 2018 to 04 March 2018 (data as of 2018-03-16 03:54:19 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 24 8161 specimens during that time period. 72 543 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 32 650 (45%) were typed as influenza A and 39 893 (55%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 7350 (60.4%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 4817 (39.6%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 4820 (94.7%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 269 (5.3%) 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/
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Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America

- Overall, decreased influenza virus activity was reported in North America. In Canada, influenza activity remained elevated but appeared to have peaked in week 07/2018. Influenza B continued to be the most frequently detected virus. Adults aged 65 years and older remained the age group primarily affected, followed by adults aged 20 to 64 years. In the United States of America (USA), influenza like illness (ILI) and influenza activity decreased, however hospitalization rate due to influenza remained high, especially in adults aged 65 years and older. Influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses co-circulated. In Mexico, influenza activity was reported as decreased for the reporting period, with predominantly influenza A(H3N2) virus detected.

Europe

- Influenza activity remained high in the most of the European region. All seasonal influenza subtypes were present in the region, with influenza B as the predominant virus. In Eastern Europe, influenza activity continued to increase with influenza A (H1N1)pdm09, influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B-Yamagata co-circulating. Detections of influenza A and B sharply increased in Russian Federation. Czechia, Slovakia, and the Ukraine reported influenza activity at high intensity. In Poland, influenza activity increased with influenza B as the predominant virus. In Northern Europe, influenza detections decreased in general with the exception of Norway where activity continued to increase. In South West Europe influenza activity appeared to have peaked in most of the countries. Increased influenza activity in Germany was reported with influenza B-Yamagata as the predominant virus.

Northern Africa

- In Northern Africa, influenza activity decreased across the region. Detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses remained high in Egypt. Influenza activity decreased in Algeria and Morocco, and remained low in Tunisia.

Western Asia

- In Western Asia, influenza activity appeared to decrease across the region, with all seasonal influenza subtypes present in the region. Influenza detections continued to be reported in Armenia (B-Yamagata lineage and A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses), in Cyprus (influenza B virus) and Saudi Arabia (influenza A and B viruses). Influenza B detections appeared to decrease in Israel. Decreased influenza activity was reported in Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar.

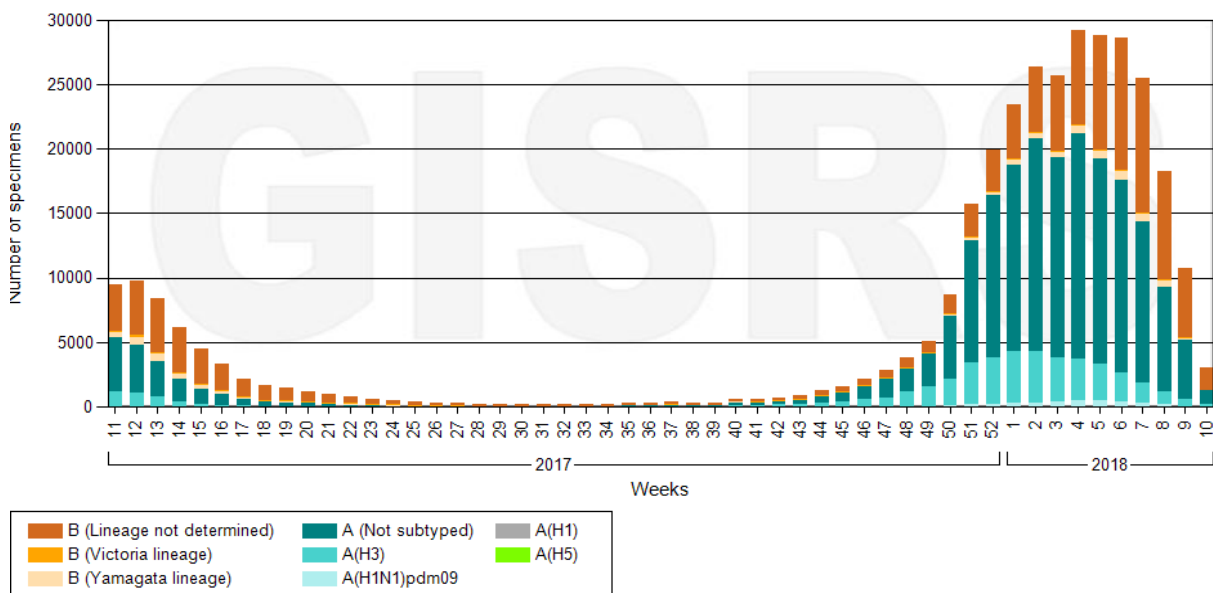
Central Asia

- In Central Asia, influenza activity increased in recent weeks, with all seasonal influenza subtypes co-circulating.

Eastern Asia

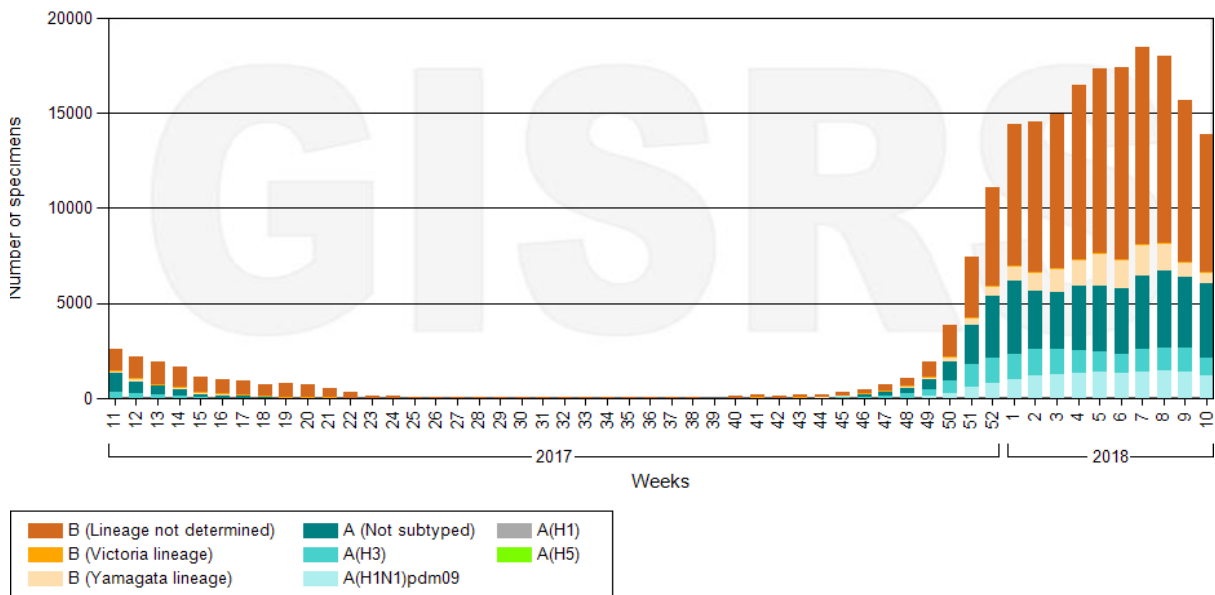
- In East Asia, influenza activity appeared to decrease across the region but remained elevated in China. In China Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, influenza B remained the most frequently detected virus but detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 increased slightly. In Japan and Mongolia, influenza detections were reported as low. In the Republic of Korea, influenza activity peaked in week 04/2018 and decreased influenza A(H3N2) and B virus detections were reported.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in North America



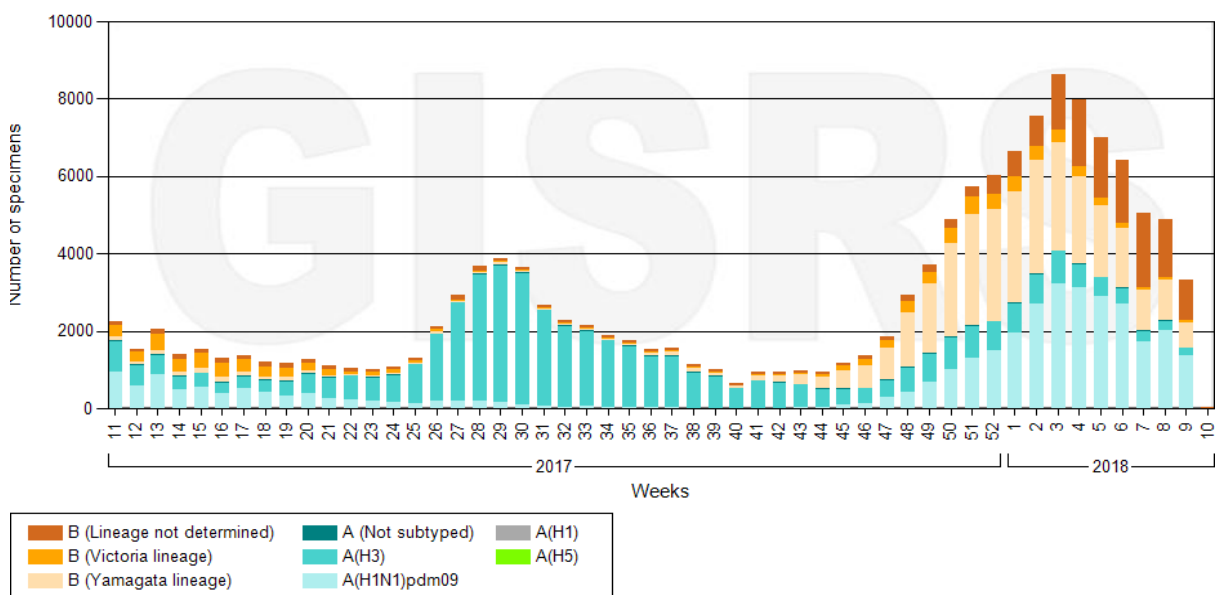
Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 15/03/2018

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the European region of WHO



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 15/03/2018

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Eastern Asia



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 15/03/2018

Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean, influenza activity varied by country. All seasonal subtypes of influenza continue to be detected in the region. Influenza activity slightly increased in the Dominican Republic while it appeared to decrease in Jamaica. In Central American countries, influenza activity remained low in general.
- In the tropical countries of South America, influenza activities and respiratory illness indicators were generally low with a few exceptions. Influenza activity slightly increased in Peru and continued to decline in Ecuador.

African region

- In Western Africa, influenza activity remained low across the region. In Middle Africa, there were no updates available for this reporting period. In Eastern Africa, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B detections continued to be reported in Madagascar and Mozambique.

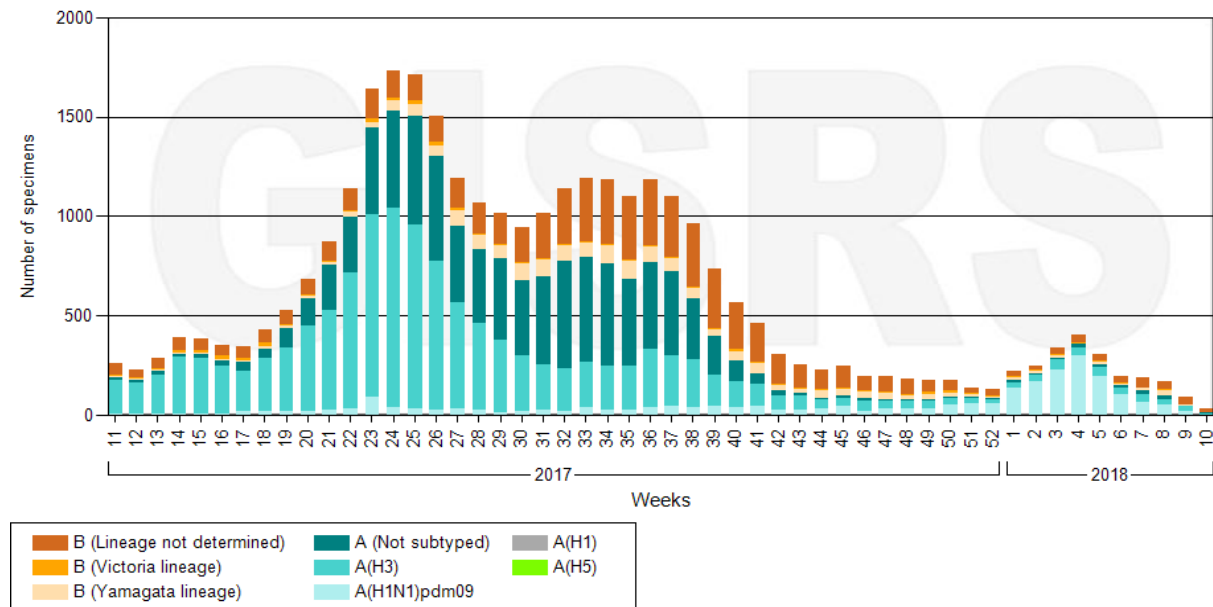
Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza activity remained low in general. Decreased influenza detections were reported in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
 - In South East Asia, low levels of influenza activity were reported in most countries. In Singapore, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 detections decreased whilst influenza B-Yamagata lineage viruses continued to circulate.
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Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

- Overall in the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Hemisphere



Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flu-net). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 15/03/2018

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.

Seasonal influenza reviews:

A review of global influenza activity, October 2016–October 2017, was published on 15 December 2017 and can be found here:

http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/GIP_surveillance_summary_reviews_archives

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/

Contact

fluupdate@who.int