**Summary**

- Influenza activity returned to inter-seasonal levels in most of the countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. Activity increased in some countries in tropical America. In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity increased but remained below the seasonal thresholds in most countries. Worldwide, seasonal influenza subtypes A and B accounted for approximately the same proportion of influenza detections.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 93 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 30 April 2018 to 13 May 2018 (data as of 2018-05-25 09:05:36 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 80749 specimens during that time period. 4449 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 2581 (58%) were typed as influenza A and 1868 (42%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 888 (62.4%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 536 (37.6%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 256 (85%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 45 (15%) 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 northern hemisphere

**North America**
- In North America, overall influenza activity decreased to inter-seasonal levels.

**Europe**
- In Europe, influenza activity generally decreased to inter-seasonal levels.

**Northern Africa**
- In Northern Africa, influenza activity was low across the reporting countries.

**Western Asia**
- In Western Asia, low influenza activity was reported in most countries across the region.

**Central Asia**
- In Central Asia, influenza activity remained low across the region.

**Eastern Asia**
- In East Asia, influenza activity returned to inter-seasonal levels in most countries. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 detections continued to be reported in Mongolia.
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean, detections of all seasonal influenza subtypes continued to be reported in several countries while respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity remained low in the region. In the Dominican Republic, influenza activity appeared to decrease, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus predominating. Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) hospitalizations increased in Haiti in recent weeks. In Central American countries, influenza activity remained low in general but influenza percent positivity remained above alert thresholds in Guatemala and Honduras, with influenza A predominating in the former and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses in the latter.

- In the tropical countries of South America, influenza activity varied by country. In the tropical areas of Bolivia, SARI levels and detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses were still high but appeared to decrease. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 detections continued to be reported in Peru and Venezuela.

African region

- Across reporting countries in Eastern, Middle and Western Africa, influenza activity appeared to be low. Increased detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 were reported in Ethiopia.
Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, countries reporting in this period documented influenza activity as low in general.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low across reporting countries.

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity increased slightly in most countries but remained below alert thresholds in general.
- In Chile and Paraguay, SARI and ILI levels continued to increase while influenza percent positivity remained below seasonal thresholds. RSV percent positivity was high in Paraguay. In Brazil, influenza percent positivity continued to increase with detections of predominantly influenza A viruses.
- In Southern Africa, South Africa reported the start of their influenza season in week 18, with low activity and predominantly influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 detected.
- In Oceania, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in Australia and New Zealand but increased in New Caledonia in recent weeks with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 predominating.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern hemisphere

![Bar Chart]

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 24/05/2018
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/en/

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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