Influenza Update N° 324

17 September 2018, based on data up to 02 September 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

- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained elevated in South America and appeared to decrease in Southern Africa. Influenza activity remained at low seasonal levels in Australia and New Zealand and at inter-seasonal levels in most of temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. Decreased influenza activity was reported in most countries of tropical America. Worldwide, seasonal influenza subtype A viruses accounted for the majority of detections.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 81 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 20 August 2018 to 02 September 2018 (data as of 2018-09-14 04:22:09 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 47128 specimens during that time period. 1934 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 1597 (82.6%) were typed as influenza A and 337 (17.4%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 761 (64.9%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 412 (35.1%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 81 (66.9%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 40 (33.1%) 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 temperate South America, influenza activity was reported in most countries of the sub-region. In Argentina, severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) activity and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity appeared to decrease while influenza positivity rate increased in recent weeks. In Chile and Paraguay, respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity remained elevated with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominating in the former and co-circulation of influenza A(H3N2) viruses and influenza B viruses in the latter. Positivity rates for RSV continued to decrease. In Uruguay, SARI levels and influenza positivity were above the seasonal threshold with all seasonal influenza subtypes co-circulating. In Brazil, influenza detections were low.
- In Southern Africa, detections of predominately influenza B viruses (both lineages) continued to be reported in South Africa in the recent weeks.
- In Oceania, influenza activity remained low and below the seasonal thresholds in Australia and New Zealand in general, with some regional variation. Low to moderate influenza like illness (ILI) activity was reported in the Pacific Islands. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 remained the most frequently detected virus.
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in temperate South America

![Graph showing number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in temperate South America]

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) Data generated on 13/09/2018

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Africa

![Graph showing 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 13/09/2018
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean, influenza detections and RSV activity remained low in general. In Central American countries, influenza activity was generally low while RSV activity increased in recent weeks. In Guatemala, influenza percent positivity decreased and returned below the seasonal threshold. RSV activity continued to increase in Guatemala and Panama.

- In the tropical countries of South America, decreased influenza and RSV activity was reported in most of countries. Respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity of predominately influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses were reported as decreased in Peru, while RSV percent positivity continued to increase.

African region

- In Western and Middle Africa, influenza activity remained low across reporting countries. In Eastern Africa, influenza activity appeared to have peaked in week 31 and was reported as decreased in Kenya, with detections of predominantly influenza A viruses.

Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza activity remained low across reporting countries.

- In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low across reporting countries. In Cambodia, detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B (Yamagata lineage) viruses continued to be
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In the Philippines, influenza activity of predominately A(H3N2) viruses appeared to decrease. In Lao PDR, SARI levels remained higher than last five influenza seasons with most of cases reported in children under 5 years of age.

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

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 13/09/2018

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 13/09/2018
Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in northern hemisphere

![Chart showing influenza activity]

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

Data generated on 13/09/2018

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 the 2017–2018 influenza season in the northern hemisphere, was published on 24 August 2018 and can be found here: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/274263/WER9334.pdf?ua=1&ua=1]

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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