Virological Surveillance Summary

The total number of specimens and number of positive specimens reported to FluNet by Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 28 are presented in the table below. Influenza A and B are cocirculating in the region, with influenza B (Victoria lineage) predominant in recent weeks (Figure 1).

Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, weeks 1 to 28, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (most recent week of report)</th>
<th>Total number of specimens processed</th>
<th>Total number of influenza positive specimens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (28)</td>
<td>42,047</td>
<td>8,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (23)</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (27)</td>
<td>395,693</td>
<td>90,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (25)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic (24)</td>
<td>1,637</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (26)</td>
<td>2,144</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia (24)</td>
<td>2,821</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia (24)</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand (26)</td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (27)</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (27)</td>
<td>6,463</td>
<td>1,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (25)</td>
<td>1,532</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (21)</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient sentinel indicator based surveillance (IBS) systems, as well as event-based surveillance. Case definitions, population groups included, and data formats differ among countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries and areas where routine IBS is conducted and information is available.
The WHO surveillance case definition for influenza-like illness (ILI) is an acute respiratory infection with a measured fever of $\geq 38^\circ C$ and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days. For SARI, it is an acute respiratory infection (ARI) with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^\circ C$ and cough, with symptom onset within 10 days that requires hospitalization. Sentinel site data should be interpreted with caution since the number of sites reporting may vary between weeks.

**Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere**

In countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, influenza activity is within normal seasonal trends observed during the corresponding period from previous years.

**Outpatient ILI Surveillance**

**China (North)**
During week 27, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Northern China was 2.4%, which is the same as the previous week, and higher than the same week of 2016-2018 (2.3%) (Figure 2).

**Mongolia** (no updates)
During week 25, ILI activity in Mongolia decreased compared to the previous week, and was within the tolerance limits (Figure 3).

**Republic of Korea**
In week 26, the overall weekly ILI rate was 4.1 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, lower than the previous week with 4.4 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, following trends shown in previous years (Figure 4).

**Sentinel influenza surveillance**
Japan

In week 26 of 2019, influenza sentinel hospital activity in Japan was low and similar to the same period in recent years (Figure 5).

![Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2009-2019](Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

Countries and areas in the tropical zone are generally observing influenza activity that is consistent with previous seasons.

Surveillance

**Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance**

In week 27, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics was 4.5 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 4.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations recorded in the previous week and within expected seasonal levels compared to previous years (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioners was 43.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than 32.4 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

![Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2015-2019](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

![Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong SAR 2015-2019](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)
China (South) - ILI Surveillance

During week 27, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China was 3.9%, lower than the previous week (4.0%) and the same week of 2017 (4.1%), but higher than the same weeks of 2016 and 2018 (both 3.3%) (Figure 8).

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance

In week 27, the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI was 3,182 over 5.5 working days, an increase when compared to the previous week of 2,957 over 5.5 working days. The proportion of patients with ILI among the polyclinic attendances for ARI was 2.8% (Figure 9).

Lao PDR

In week 27, the number of ILI cases presenting to sentinel sites increased compared to the previous week and is higher than previous years. (Figure 10).

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity is reported during the influenza season usually starting in May. Influenza activity remains unusually high in Australia for this time of year.
Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza and ILI
In week 26, there were 10.8 ILI per 1,000 consultations at sentinel general practitioners, decreasing from 12.1 per 1,000 consultations in week 25 and almost twice the five year average for this time of year. The numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases in week 26 was substantially higher than the five year average for the same period and year to date there have been 119,808 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (Figure 11).

New Zealand – Influenza like Illness
General Practice visits for influenza-like illness is above the baseline level this week but showing a similar trend of the average seasonal rate of 2000-2017 seasons (excluding pandemic season in 2009) (Figure 12).

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance
In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, in week 27, the number of ILI cases reported increased in several PICs, including Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Niue and Samoa compared to last week (Figure 13).
Figure 13: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries
(Source: PacNet bulletin)
Global influenza situation updates

**Virological update**

**Global update**

Others:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2019 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2019-2020 northern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines [Link](#)
- 4th WHO Informal Consultation on Improving Influenza Vaccine Virus Selection [Link](#)

WHO's YouTube Channel: film exploring a number of key aspects of the constant evolution of influenza viruses and associated impacts on public health. [Arabic], [Chinese], [English], [French], [Russian], [Spanish]