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 21 of 2022 are presented in Table 1 below. Influenza A and B are co-circulating, however, the majority of cases reported from week 1 to week 21 2022 have been Influenza A (Figure 1). Caution should be taken when interpreting these data as there are reporting delays.

Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, week 1, 2022 to week 21, 2022

<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 (20 of 2022)</td>
<td>80,459</td>
<td>2,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (19 of 2022)</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (20 of 2022)</td>
<td>208,555</td>
<td>28,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji (16 of 2022)</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (19 of 2022)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic (19 of 2022)</td>
<td>1,240</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (18 of 2022)</td>
<td>10,079</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia (20 of 2022)</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (20 of 2022)</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (21 of 2022)</td>
<td>2,025</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (20 of 2022)</td>
<td>1,237</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (20 of 2022)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 21, 2021 to week 20, 2022 (Source: WHO FLUNET)
Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient 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 ≥38°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 ≥38°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, ILI and influenza activity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 20 of 2022, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Northern China was 1.6%, the same as the previous week (1.6%), lower than the same week of 2019 to 2021 (2.5%, 1.9% and 2.7%). (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in Northern China, 2019-2022
(Source: China National Influenza Center)
**Mongolia**

During week 20 of 2022, the ILI activity in Mongolia decreased to 24 ILI cases per 10,000 population. This is lower than the upper tolerance limit of 28 ILI cases per 10,000 population (Figure 3).

![Figure 3: Proportion of outpatient ILI visits per 10,000 people in Mongolia, 2020-2022](Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

**Republic of Korea**

In week 21 of 2022, the overall weekly ILI rate was 1.9 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was the same as previous week (1.9). The ILI consultation rate has remained below the national epidemic threshold (5.8 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits) and absence of seasonal peaks since week 10 of 2020 (Figure 4). In week 21 of 2022, of the 123 samples collected, all were negative for influenza virus.

![Figure 4: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1,000 outpatient consultations, Republic of Korea, 2017-2022](Source: Korean Centres for Disease Control and Prevention)
Sentinel influenza surveillance

**Japan**

In week 19 of 2022, the number of cases reported weekly by sentinel hospital sites remained very low in Japan. The number of cases in 2022 has been consistently low (**Figure 5**).

![Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2012-2022](Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

**Countries/areas in the tropical zone**

ILI and influenza activity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years in some of the countries and areas in the tropical zone.

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

In week 21 of 2022, the average consultation rate for ILI at sentinel general outpatient clinics was 0.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 0.4 reported in the previous week (**Figure 6**). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner clinics was 5.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 8.1 recorded in the previous week (**Figure 7**).

![Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2019-2022](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

![Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong SAR 2018-2022](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)
China (South) - ILI Surveillance
During week 20 of 2022, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China was 3.4%, higher than the last week (3.0%), lower than the same week of 2019 and 2021 (4.2% and 4.0%), higher than the same week of 2020 (2.7%). (Figure 8).

![Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China, 2019-2022](Source: China National Influenza Center)

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance
In week 20 of 2022, the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in polyclinics for ARI was 1,975, higher than the previous season in 2021 (Figure 9). Of 410 samples tested for influenza in the past 4 weeks, the positivity rate in the community was 0.2%. Of the specimens tested positive for influenza in April 2022, it was positive for influenza A(H3N2). (Figure 10).

![Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2020-2022](Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

![Figure 10: Monthly influenza surveillance for ARI in Singapore, 2020-2022](Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)
Lao PDR
During week 20 of 2022, the ILI cases presented to sentinel sites was 59 cases higher than the previous week. Of 53 samples tested for influenza in week 20, 2022, all were tested negative for Influenza (Figure 11).

![Figure 11: Weekly number of ILI cases at sentinel sites (2018 to 2022)](Source: Lao National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)

Cambodia
In week 20 of 2022, Ministry of Health received data from seven sentinel sites in Cambodia. The number of ILI cases was low in Cambodia until week 32 of 2021, but started increase from week 8 of 2022. Cases peaked in week 16 of 2022 and decrease in the subsequent few weeks. The positivity rate peaked in week 40, 2020 (65.2%), and since week 45 of 2020 there was only one case reported in week 8 (5%) of 2021 and no positive case in this 2022 (Figure 12).

![Figure 12: Number of ILI cases from seven sentinel sites and influenza positivity rate by week, 2020-2022, Cambodia](Source: Communicable Disease Control Department, Cambodia Ministry of Health)
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 in Australia and New Zealand.

**Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza**

From 9 May to 22 May 2022, there were 26,193 laboratory-confirmed influenza notifications to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS). This is 3 times higher than notifications with a diagnosis date in the previous fortnight. In the year to date, there have been 38,742 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza to the NNDSS. The number of notifications in 2022 have increased since March, and is currently higher than the weekly 5 year average for this time of year (Figure 13).

![Figure 13: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza by month and week from 2017 to 2022 in Australia](Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

**New Zealand – Influenza like Illness**

Overall, based on multiple sources of surveillance information, community ILI activity has increased in the week ending 20 May (Figure 14). Activity remains high for this time of year. While this may be largely driven by the current COVID-19 Omicron outbreak, there is now also evidence of non-COVID-19 ILI activity throughout New Zealand.

![Figure 14: Weekly rates of general practice ILI consultations per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2020-2022](Source: New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research)
In week 20, 2022, low levels of influenza-like illness activity continue to be reported across the Pacific Island Countries and Areas (Figure 15).
Caution should be taken in interpreting these data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.

** FSM: Federated States of Micronesia, CMNI: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands**

* Figure 15: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2019-2022
  (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

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### Global influenza situation updates

**Virological update**

**Global update**

**Others:**
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2022 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)

Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2022-2023 northern hemisphere influenza season [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]