Influenza Update N° 187

7 June 2013

Summary

- Influenza activity in the northern hemisphere temperate zones has decreased to low levels.
- The influenza activity in tropical areas have been varying- but relatively stable since the last update, Madagascar reported high influenza activity.
- Influenza activity in the southern hemisphere has started to increase in South America, and in South Africa but remained low in Oceania.
- For information on H7N9 in China please see link: http://who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/influenza_h7n9/en/index.html

Note: Global epidemiology and surveillance updates are periodically collected from data reported by National authorities or organizations responsible for reporting this data. For further information on specific influenza virus activity in the world and scientific literature for practitioners and other professionals in the field, please visit the links provided at the end of this document.
Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

Influenza activity in the northern hemisphere temperate zones has decreased to low levels.

In Canada, where the influenza season has been prolonged due to the late season circulation of influenza type B, influenza activity has now declined. Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultations have been stable over the last eight weeks, although above expected range, which appear to be linked to rhinovirus circulation.

In Europe, northern Africa, northern Asia and the United States of America, transmission has returned to inter-seasonal levels.

A summary review of the Northern Hemisphere 2012-13 influenza season has been published in the Weekly epidemiological record on the 31 of May. Web link: [http://who.int/wer/2013/wer8822.pdf](http://who.int/wer/2013/wer8822.pdf)

**Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the northern hemisphere**

![Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet), Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 07/06/2013](image)

**Countries in the tropical zone**

Tropical countries of the Americas/Central America and the Caribbean

In Central America activity remained low. The Caribbean, Cuba and Dominican Republic reported influenza activity predominantly due to influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus. Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru also experienced mainly A(H1N1)pdm09 influenza activity while some countries reported detections of influenza A(H3N2) virus.
Central African tropical region

A few countries in the Central African tropical region have reported low grade, persistent influenza transmission with varying proportions of all three virus types over the past few weeks. Madagascar reported high levels of influenza activity since the beginning of April with both influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B viruses circulating.

Tropical Asia

Influenza transmission in southern Asia was similar to previous weeks with co-circulation of all three viruses. Influenza activity in Thailand and Vietnam remained low with A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) circulating. In Lao People’s Democratic Republic, activity remained low with co-circulation of A(H3N2) and B viruses. In southern China, influenza activity continued to decline with A(H1N1)pdm09 as the predominant circulating virus.

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

Influenza activity in the southern hemisphere increased in South America and South Africa while it remained low in Oceania.

In South America, ILI and SARI showed increasing trends in respiratory virus circulation during the past few weeks in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. In Argentina, Chile and Paraguay, increased ILI and SARI activity in recent weeks was mainly due to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), with fewer but increasing number of samples testing positive for influenza. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was the most frequently detected influenza virus in Argentina, Brazil and Chile, while influenza A(H3N2) was reported in Paraguay.

South Africa reported increasing influenza activity with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 as the predominant circulating virus.

Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands continued to report low influenza activity.

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) Data generated on 07/06/2013
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the Southern hemisphere

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet), Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 07/06/2013

Source 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 Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System) 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.

Link to web pages

Epidemiological Influenza updates:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance

Epidemiological Influenza updates archives 2012:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/GIP_surveillance_2012_archives

Virological surveillance updates:
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport

Virological surveillance updates archives:

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