Influenza Update N° 266

27 June 2016, based on data up to 12 June, 2016

Summary

In temperate countries in the southern hemisphere, influenza activity increased steadily in the last weeks in South America and South Africa, but remained still low overall in most of Oceania. Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere was back to inter-seasonal levels.

- **In temperate South America**, influenza season has started with steadily increasing reports of influenza-like illness (ILI), acute respiratory infection (ARI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases over the last few weeks. Of the respiratory viruses detected, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 were predominant.
- **In the temperate countries of Southern Africa**, influenza detections continued to increase with predominantly influenza B viruses detected.
- **In Oceania**, influenza virus activity remained low. Slight increases in ILI were detected in Australia.
- **In the Caribbean countries**, respiratory virus activity remained generally low with decreasing influenza B activity reported in Cuba over the past few weeks.
- **In Central America**, active circulation of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 continued in El Salvador and increased in Panama. RSV activity continued in Costa Rica and Guatemala.
- **In tropical South America**, active circulation of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and RSV continued in most countries in the region. Influenza detections increased in Bolivia and Colombia. ARI and SARI activities were elevated in Ecuador and Colombia. However, in Brazil, influenza detections and SARI indicators seemed to have peaked already (see below for more information).
- **In tropical countries of South Asia**, influenza activity was generally low with influenza A and B co-circulating in the region.
- **In the northern temperate and central tropical regions of Africa**, influenza activity was generally low with influenza A virus detections predominant in Western Africa and influenza B virus detections predominant in Eastern Africa and Northern Africa.
- **In North America and Europe**, influenza activity was low with influenza B predominant. ILI levels were below seasonal thresholds.
- **Influenza activity continued to decrease in temperate Asia with a predominance of influenza B virus activity.**
- **National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 82 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 30 May 2016 to 12 June 2016 (data as of 2016-06-24 07:06:01 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 55586 specimens during that time period. 3800 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 2282 (60.1%) were typed as influenza A and 1518 (39.9%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 1426 (86.2%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 228 (13.8%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 175 (32.1%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 371 (67.9%) to the B-Victoria lineage.
Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

**Temperate South America**

For more information see:


**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 24/06/16
Southern Africa
ILI consultations continued to rise and influenza B was predominant among influenza detections with a small proportion of A(H3N2) detections. RSV detections continued to increase among patients with pneumonia.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Africa

Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia
Overall influenza activity remained low. In Australia, ILI activity was at or just above to baseline levels, although influenza detections remained low. Influenza A viruses predominated among the few influenza detections. In New Zealand, ILI and influenza activities remained low. SARI activity increased slightly.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 24/06/16
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America
In Brazil, influenza activity and SARI indicators seemed to have decreased in the past few weeks from a peak in mid-April. Influenza positivity peaked at around 40% this season - similar to the 2013 season when influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was also predominant and in contrast to the 2014 and 2015 seasons when influenza A(H3N2) was predominant. The peak in influenza positivity also occurred earlier in the year compared to previous seasons.
The proportion of cumulative SARI-related deaths slightly increased to 14% (3,288 of 33,187 hospitalizations), higher than the proportion in the 2014-15 season (8.4%). Among these fatal cases, 70.9% had underlying risk factors.
All viruses characterised up to end of April remained antigenically closely related to the vaccine virus. Further comparisons of virological and cumulative epidemiologic data are underway to assess the timing, intensity and severity of the influenza season in Brazil.


African region
In Western Africa, influenza virus activity continued with influenza A(H3N2) circulating in Ghana and predominant but co-circulating with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B in Côte d'Ivoire. Influenza activity was low in Eastern Africa with influenza A and B viruses detected in Madagascar and Tanzania, and influenza B viruses in Mozambique.

Tropical Asia
Overall, influenza activity in Southern Asia was low with influenza B virus detections predominant. In Southeast Asia overall, influenza detections decreased with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses co-circulating. Vietnam reported in the last few weeks an increase in influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B detections.


Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America

Europe
For more information see: https://flunewseurope.org/

Northern Africa and Western Asia
Influenza virus detections, of predominantly influenza B, were low.

Central Asia
For more information see: https://flunewseurope.org/
Northern Temperate Asia
In temperate Northern Asia, influenza activity continued at low levels and influenza B virus was predominant in the region.

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 24/06/16

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 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.

Links to web pages
Influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices:
AMRO: www.paho.org/influenzareports
EURO: http://www.flunewseurope.org/
WPRO: http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza

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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