Influenza Update N° 269
08 August 2016, based on data up to 24 July, 2016

Summary

Influenza activity varied in countries of temperate South America and increased steadily in the last few weeks in South Africa, but remained low overall in most of Oceania. Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere was at inter-seasonal levels.

- In temperate South America, influenza-like illness (ILI) activity and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) indicators continued to increase in Chile and Paraguay. Influenza activity also increased in Chile and plateaued in Paraguay, while no influenza activity was reported in Uruguay. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus co-circulated with influenza B viruses in Chile and Paraguay. In Argentina however, influenza activity continued to decrease, and ILI and SARI cases remained elevated but not increasing. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity remained elevated in the region.

- In the temperate countries of Southern Africa, influenza detections among ILI patients continued to rise, with a notable shift from influenza B to influenza A(H3N2) predominating. Among patients with pneumonia, the incidence of RSV detections continued to decline compared to recent reporting periods.

- In Oceania, influenza virus activity slightly increased but remained low. Influenza A(H3N2) predominated in Australia and New Caledonia where influenza activity increased in recent weeks, while New Zealand continued to see low levels of influenza activity. ILI activity in New Zealand remained low for this time of the year.

- In the Caribbean countries, influenza B detections continued at low levels. Other respiratory virus activity remained generally low. SARI cases and hospitalizations decreased slightly in several countries.

- In Central America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low in El Salvador. In Panama, detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 continued to decrease while detections of non-influenza respiratory viruses increased. In Costa Rica, influenza activity remained low while other respiratory virus activity increased with RSV predominating.

- In tropical South America, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and RSV activities generally decreased in recent weeks or remained low in most of the countries. SARI activities were continuing to decrease but remained elevated compared to the same period last year in Colombia. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 detections continued to decrease in Ecuador. In Peru, influenza activity continued to decline with co-circulation of A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B while detection of other respiratory viruses increased, with RSV predominating. In Ecuador, SARI-related RSV and influenza detections increased slightly but remained at low levels.

- In tropical countries of South Asia, influenza activity was generally low with influenza A and B viruses co-circulating in the region.

- In the northern temperate and central tropical regions of Africa, influenza activity was generally low with influenza A(H3N2) virus detections predominant in Western Africa and influenza B virus detections predominant in Eastern and Northern Africa, among the few countries reporting data during this period.
In North America and Europe, influenza activity was low with influenza B predominant. ILI levels were below seasonal thresholds.

Influenza activity was low in temperate Asia with influenza B virus predominant.

National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 63 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 11 July 2016 to 24 July 2016 (data as of 2016-08-05 03:43:59 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 33674 specimens during that time period. 1772 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 1149 (64.8%) were typed as influenza A and 594 (33.5%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 453 (50.3%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 447 (49.7%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 75 (29.6%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 178 (70.4%) 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

![Graph showing influenza data by subtype in Temperate South America]

**Data source**: FluNet ([www.who.int/flunet](http://www.who.int/flunet)). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 04/08/16

**Southern Africa**

Influenza virus detections among ILI consultations continued to rise and influenza B virus was predominant with an increased proportion of A(H3N2) detections. The incidence of RSV and influenza virus detections among patients with pneumonia was reduced compared to recent reporting periods.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Africa

![Graph showing influenza data by subtype in Southern Africa]

**Data source**: FluNet ([www.who.int/flunet](http://www.who.int/flunet)). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 03/08/16
Oceania, Melanesia and Polynesia
Overall influenza activity remained low. In Australia, ILI activity increased but was somewhat lower than activity seen in previous seasons during the same period, and influenza virus detections increased. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominated among influenza detections, but some A(H1N1)pdm09 was also seen. In New Zealand, ILI and SARI activities and influenza detections were low compared to previous seasons and have plateaued.

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

Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America
For more information see:

African region
In Western Africa, influenza virus activity decreased over the past few weeks. Ghana reported predominantly influenza A(H3N2) virus detections while Côte d’Ivoire reported predominantly influenza B virus detections. Influenza activity continued in Madagascar with predominantly influenza B virus reported.

Tropical Asia
Overall, influenza activity in Southern Asia was low with both influenza A and influenza B virus circulating. Bangladesh recorded increased influenza activity, predominantly A(H3), with some circulating B virus in recent weeks. Nepal continued to report increased detection of influenza A(H3) and B.

In Southeast Asia overall, influenza detections increased with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3) and influenza B viruses co-circulating. Singapore, where predominantly influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses co-circulated, has reported more detections in the last few weeks. Cambodia reported increased
detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B(Victoria) viruses. Increased detection of A(H1N1)pdm09 and B virus was also noted in the Philippines and Viet Nam, where A(H3N2) was also circulating.

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, remained low in the countries reporting data during this period (Egypt and Qatar).

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.

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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