Influenza Update N° 298
18 September 2017, based on data up to 03 September, 2017

Information in this report is categorized by influenza transmission zones, which are geographical groups of countries, areas or territories with similar influenza transmission patterns. For more information on influenza transmission zones, see: www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/EN_GIP_Influenza_transmission_zones.pdf

Summary

- Influenza activity remained at low levels in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. High levels of influenza activity continued to be reported in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere and in some countries of South and South East Asia. In Central America and the Caribbean influenza activity continued to be reported in a few countries. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) viruses were predominating.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 79 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 21 August 2017 to 03 September 2017 (data as of 2017-09-15 04:53:57 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 42603 specimens during that time period. 5268 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 4609 (87.5%) were typed as influenza A and 659 (12.5%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 3243 (84.3%) were influenza A(H3N2) and 602 (15.7%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. Of the characterized B viruses, 137 (67.2%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 67 (32.8%) to the B-Victoria lineage.
For more detailed information, see the Influenza reports from WHO Regional Offices:

- WHO Region of the Americas (AMRO): [www.paho.org/influenzareports](http://www.paho.org/influenzareports)
- WHO European Region (EURO): [www.flunewseurope.org/](http://www.flunewseurope.org/)
- WHO Western Pacific Region (WPRO): [www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/en/](http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/en/)

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity appeared to have peaked in Oceania, South America and South Africa.
- In temperate South America, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activities continued to trend downwards throughout most of the sub-region. In Chile and Paraguay, influenza activity remained slightly above the seasonal threshold. Overall, severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) and influenza like illness (ILI) indicators decreased.
- In Oceania, seasonal influenza activity continued at elevated levels, with influenza A(H3N2) virus predominant, followed by B viruses. In Australia,ILI and influenza activity was reported to plateau at the national level with subnational variability. Overall, activity was similar to slightly greater compared to past seasons. In New Zealand, respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity continued to decrease to below seasonal threshold levels, with influenza A(H3N2) and B Yamagata lineage viruses predominantly detected. Overall, the intensity of the season was low compared to past seasons. In New Caledonia, influenza activity was decreasing after a peak of influenza A(H3N2) and B virus detections in the recent weeks. High ILI activity was reported in Solomon Islands in recent weeks.
- In Southern Africa, influenza activity appeared to have plateaued in South Africa. Although most of the season was dominated by influenza A(H3N2), in recent weeks influenza B detections were predominant. Influenza transmission, based on influenza detection rates, was moderate when compared with the previous 10 years, and the detection rate of pneumonia was low in comparison with the previous six years.
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Temperate South America

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 14/09/17
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, respiratory illness indicators and influenza activity remained low in general but RSV activity increased in several countries. Influenza activity decreased in Cuba in the past few weeks but remained elevated in Nicaragua.
- In tropical South America, influenza and other respiratory virus activity remained low.

African region

- In Western Africa, influenza activity continued to be reported in Ghana, Togo and Senegal, with all seasonal influenza subtypes present in the region. Few influenza detections were reported in Middle (influenza B viruses in Central African Republic) and Eastern Africa. (influenza A(H3N2) viruses in Ethiopia, all subtypes in Kenya, and influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses in Madagascar).

Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections continued to be reported. High ILI and continued increasing SARI levels were reported in Bhutan, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus predominantly detected. Based on reports, influenza activity appeared to have decreased in Nepal.
- In South East Asia, high levels of influenza activity were reported, with all seasonal influenza subtypes present in the region. In Thailand, influenza activity remained high, with all seasonal influenza subtypes co-circulating. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections continued to be reported in Myanmar. Influenza detections increased also in Cambodia and Lao PDR in recent weeks, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) predominant, respectively. In Southern
China, ILI activity and influenza A(H3N2) viruses detections remained high, while influenza activity was reported at low levels in Hong Kong, SAR, China.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Asia

![Graph showing influenza activity in Southern Asia]

**Data source:** FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 14/09/17

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in South East Asia

![Graph showing influenza activity in South East Asia]

**Data source:** FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 14/09/17
Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

North America

- Overall influenza virus activity remained low. RSV activity increased over the past few weeks in the United States of America.

Europe

- In Europe, little to no influenza activity was reported.

Northern Africa

- In Northern Africa, no influenza virus detections were reported.

Western Asia

- In Western Asia, influenza activity increased slightly in Oman and Qatar in recent weeks, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses co-circulating.

Central Asia

- In Central Asia, there were no updated reports on virus detections or respiratory illness indicators.

Eastern Asia

- In East Asia, influenza activity remained low.

Sources 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.

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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