Influenza Update N° 306

08 January 2018, based on data up to 24 December, 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 continued to increase in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere while in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere activity was at inter-seasonal levels. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses accounted for the majority of influenza detections although influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses were predominant in some countries.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 105 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 11 December 2017 to 24 December 2017* (data as of 2018-01-07 15:48:27 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 179990 specimens during that time period. 40431 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 26351 (65.2%) were typed as influenza A and 14080 (34.8%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 3357 (30.7%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 7582 (69.3%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 5620 (86.3%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 891 (13.7%) to the B-Victoria lineage.

- Due to the holiday period and end of the calendar year, data reported to FluNet and FLUID may be less complete than usual.
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 northern hemisphere

**North America**
- Overall influenza virus activity continued to increase in the region. In Canada, influenza and influenza like illness (ILI) activities as well as influenza-associated hospitalizations were above expected levels for this time of year and might indicate an early season. Adults 65 years and older accounted for the majority of hospitalizations in Canada and the USA and influenza cases in Mexico. In the region, influenza A(H3N2) virus detections predominated followed by influenza B virus detections.

**Europe**
- Influenza activity in Europe increased above baseline levels in most countries in Northern and Southwestern Europe with sharp increases in respiratory illness indicators in some countries. Activity remained low in countries in Eastern Europe.
- Influenza B virus detections remained frequent and the subtype of the influenza A viruses detected varied depending on the country and the surveillance system (outpatient or inpatient systems).

**Northern Africa**
- In Northern Africa, influenza activity was predominantly due to influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections. Activity increased in Egypt and Morocco; and Tunisia reported sharp increases in activity.

**Western Asia**
- In Western Asia, increasing influenza activity was reported in Israel and Jordan with predominantly influenza B and A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detections, respectively.

**Central Asia**
- In Central Asia, low to no influenza activity was reported.

**Eastern Asia**
- In East Asia, influenza activity continued to increase in recent weeks.
- In both Northern and Southern China, ILI and influenza activity continued to increase, with influenza B Yamagata-lineage viruses predominantly detected followed by influenza A(H3N2) viruses.
- Increasing detections of influenza B and A(H3N2) viruses were reported in the Republic of Korea.
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in North America

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 03/01/2018

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Western Asia

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 03/01/2018
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America
- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, low to no influenza activity was reported.
- In the tropical countries of South America, low to no influenza activity was reported.

African region
- In Western Africa, influenza activity continued at lower levels compared to previous weeks. Detections of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses were reported from Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.
- In Middle Africa, Cameroon reported activity with influenza A and B viruses and the Democratic Republic of Congo reported detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses.
- In Eastern Africa, sporadic influenza detections were reported in Madagascar, Mozambique, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Tropical Asia
- In Southern Asia, increased influenza activity was reported in Iran with detection of all seasonal subtypes.
- In South East Asia, low levels of influenza activity were reported.
Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity decreased overall to inter-seasonal levels.

**Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Hemisphere**

Data source: FluNet [www.who.int/flunet](http://www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)

Data generated on 03/01/2018

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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.

**Seasonal influenza reviews:**

A review of global influenza activity, October 2016-October 2017, was published on 15 December 2017 and can be found here: [http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/GIP_surveillance_summary_reviews_archives/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/GIP_surveillance_summary_reviews_archives/en/)

**Epidemiological Influenza updates:**


**Epidemiological Influenza updates archives 2015:**


**Virological surveillance updates:**

[http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport](http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport)

**Virological surveillance updates archives:**

[http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/](http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/)

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