Influenza Update N° 319

09 July 2018, based on data up to 24 June, 2018

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 detections continued to increase in Southern Africa and in recent weeks started to increase in South America. However, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in Australia and New Zealand. In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere influenza activity returned to inter-seasonal levels. Increased influenza activity was reported in some countries of tropical America. Worldwide, seasonal influenza subtype A viruses accounted for the majority of detections.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 82 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 11 June 2018 to 24 June 2018 (data as of 2018-07-06 04:10:13 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 52621 specimens during that time period. 1376 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 1047 (76.1%) were typed as influenza A and 329 (23.9%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 760 (84.9%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 135 (15.1%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 116 (77.3%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 34 (22.7%) 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 continued to increase in South Africa and South America but remained at baseline levels in Australia and New Zealand.

- In Chile, influenza like illness (ILI), SARI levels and influenza detections were reported above seasonal threshold, with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominating. In Paraguay, ILI levels were above seasonal thresholds, but percent positivity for influenza remained low; SARI levels and percent positivity of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) remained elevated. In Brazil, influenza percent positivity was reported as decreased with detections of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses. Influenza detections remained low while RSV activity increased in Uruguay and Argentina.

- In Southern Africa, influenza activity with almost exclusively A(H1N1)pdm09 virus increased to moderate levels compared to previous years in South Africa.

- In Oceania, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in Australia and New Zealand. New Caledonia continued to report detections of predominantly influenza B virus Yamagata-lineage. Influenza activity of predominantly A viruses was reported in French Polynesia.
Influenza update

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 05/07/2018

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Africa

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 05/07/2018
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean, low detections of predominately influenza A viruses continued to be reported. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity remained low in the region. A sharp increase of SARI levels was reported in Suriname in recent weeks and was associated with co-circulation of other respiratory viruses among the <5 years-of-age population. In Central American countries, influenza activity was low in general with the exception of Guatemala where influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 virus detections remained elevated.

- In the tropical countries of South America, influenza activity varied by country. In Bolivia, SARI levels and detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses was reported as decreased while RSV activity remained high. Influenza activity of predominately A(H1N1)pdm09 virus and respiratory illness indicators remained elevated in Colombia and Peru (particularly in the under 5 age group).

African region

- In Western Africa, detections of predominately influenza B viruses of both lineages were reported in Côte d’Ivoire and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 in Ghana. In Middle and Eastern Africa, influenza activity was low in reporting countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Madagascar and United Republic of Tanzania).

Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza activity remained low across countries reporting in this period. In the Maldives, influenza A(H3N2) virus detections was reported as decreased.

- In South East Asia, influenza activity remained low across reporting countries.
Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in tropical South America

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 05/07/2018

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Asia

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)
Data generated on 05/07/2018
Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity returned to intersessional levels.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in northern hemisphere

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

Data generated on 05/07/2018

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/

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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