Influenza Update N° 326

15 October 2018, based on data up to 30 September 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

- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity appeared to decrease overall though influenza percent positivity remained elevated in Southern Africa. In Australia and New Zealand, influenza activity remained at low levels and even below seasonal threshold during the entire season. Increased influenza detections were reported in some countries of Southern and South-East Asia. In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels. Worldwide, seasonal influenza subtype A viruses accounted for the majority of detections.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 95 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 17 September 2018 to 30 September 2018 (data as of 2018-10-12 03:45:25 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 58772 specimens during that time period. 2124 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 1789 (84.2%) were typed as influenza A and 335 (15.8%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 1051 (74%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 369 (26%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 51 (49%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 53 (51%) 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 temperate South America, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity decreased in most countries of the sub-region. In Paraguay, influenza activity and respiratory illness indicators were reported as decreased but above alert threshold. In Uruguay, severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) levels remained elevated while influenza positivity appeared to decrease with detections of all seasonal influenza subtypes.

- In Southern Africa, influenza percent positivity from influenza like illness (ILI) sentinel sites reached high levels in South Africa with detections of mainly influenza B viruses (both lineages).

- In Oceania, influenza activity remained low overall. In Australia and New Zealand, influenza activity appeared to have peaked though remained generally low during the entire season. In Low to moderate ILI activity was reported in the Pacific Islands. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was the most frequently detected virus.

Number of specimens positive for influenza 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 11/10/2018
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 11/10/2018

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Oceania

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) Data generated on 11/10/2018
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean, influenza detections and RSV activity remained low in general except in Cuba and Haiti where detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus continued to increase. In Central American countries, influenza activity remained high in El Salvador and Nicaragua, with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus predominately detected. Elevated RSV activity was reported in Guatemala and Panama.

- In the tropical countries of South America, influenza and RSV activity were low in most of countries, though RSV percent positivity continued to increase in Peru.

African region

- In Western and Eastern Africa, influenza detections were low across reporting countries. In Middle Africa, detections of influenza A(H3N2) continued to be reported in the Central African Republic.

Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza activity remained low across reporting countries with the exception of India where detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus continued to increase.

- In South East Asia, influenza activity was reported in some countries. In Cambodia, detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B (Yamagata-lineage) viruses were reported. Lao PDR continued to report influenza activity of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and SARI levels higher than last five influenza seasons with most of cases reported in children under 5 years of age. Increased influenza activity of predominantly A(H1N1)pdm09 continued to be reported in Thailand.
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 11/10/2018

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

Data source: FluNet (www.who.int/flunet). Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) Data generated on 11/10/2018
Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal 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 11/10/2018

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 the 2017–2018 influenza season in the northern hemisphere, was published on 24 August 2018 and can be found here:
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/274263/WER9334.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

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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