Influenza Update N° 345

8 July 2019, based on data up to 23 June 2019

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 detections continued to increase or remained elevated in most areas. The 2019 influenza season has started earlier than previous years in Australia, Chile, South Africa and New Zealand.
  - Influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominated in Oceania and South Africa.
  - Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominated in temperate South America.
- In Southern Asia and South East Asia, influenza activity was low across reporting countries, except Myanmar where an increase in influenza A(H1N1) was reported.
- In the Caribbean, Central American countries, and the tropical countries of South America, influenza and RSV activity were low in general, with exception of Costa Rica and Panama where influenza A viruses activity was high
- In Northern, Eastern, West and Middle Africa, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.
In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere influenza activity returned to inter-seasonal level in most countries.

Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections.

National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 91 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 10 June 2019 to 23 June 2019* (data as of 2019-07-04 13:50:17 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 68851 specimens during that time period. 6853 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 4387 (64%) were typed as influenza A and 2466 (36%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 972 (36.1%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 1717 (63.9%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 48 (4%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 1144 (96%) 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

Influenza activity continued to increase or stayed at high level across countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere.

In Oceania, influenza activity continued to be elevated across the continent, with influenza A(H3N2) being the dominant subtyped virus. In Australia, influenza like illness (ILI) and influenza activity remained elevated, and was seemingly plateauing after an early start of the season. At national level, weekly laboratory-confirmed notifications of influenza further increased, and the percent positivity increased in some states while it started to decrease in some others. Influenza A(H3N2) was the most frequently detected virus, followed by influenza B. Influenza activity continued to increase in New Zealand, with influenza B (Victoria-lineage) viruses being predominant. Influenza percent positivity was reported to be over 56%, being the highest rate for this period in recent years, due to the early start of the season. Increased detections of Influenza B have been reported in Fiji and Wallis & Futuna.

In South Africa, influenza activity continued to increase with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominating. The rate of influenza positivity among ILI cases was reported as moderate based on epidemic thresholds calculated on 2008-2018 data (excluding the 2009 pandemic). Influenza transmission is currently moderate and impact is high.

In South America, overall influenza activity was increased throughout the sub-region. Brazil reported increased influenza activity with influenza A(H3N2) predominating. Chile reported elevated activity with co-circulation of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, influenza A(H3N2) and
influenza B viruses. Uruguay reported increased detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza A(H3N2) viruses.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Oceania

![Graph showing influenza cases by subtype in Oceania]

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

Data generated on 5/07/2019

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in Southern Africa

![Graph showing influenza cases 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 5/07/2019
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 5/07/2019

Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, influenza activity remained low overall with low reporting of SARI. In Costa Rica and Panama however, influenza activity remained elevated with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) co-circulating in Costa Rica and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 in Panama.

In the tropical countries of South America, influenza activity was low in general among those countries reporting data for this period.

Tropical Africa

- In Western Africa, influenza detections were low across reporting countries, except in Côte d’Ivoire where detections of influenza A(H3N2) increased. Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo provided updates for this reporting period.

- In Middle Africa, there was no influenza activity among reporting countries. Central African Republic, Chad, and Democratic Republic of the Congo provided updates for this reporting period.

- In Eastern Africa, influenza detections continued to be reported with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 predominating, followed by A(H3N2). In Madagascar, ILI activity continued to decrease with influenza B predominating.
Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza detections remained low across reporting countries.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity decreased or was low across reporting countries, with detections of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses. Myanmar reported an increase in influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 during weeks 24 and 25.

Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal level in most countries.

Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the northern hemisphere

![Graph showing number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype in the northern hemisphere]

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

Data generated on 5/07/2019

**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 in August 2018 and can be found here: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/274263/WER9334.pdf?ua=1&ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/274263/WER9334.pdf?ua=1)

**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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