Influenza Update N° 350

16 September 2019, based on data up to 01 September 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 activity continued to decrease in most countries.
- In the Caribbean, and tropical South American countries, influenza activity was low overall. In Central American countries, influenza activity slightly increased across the sub-region.
- In tropical Africa, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low across reporting countries except in Bhutan where influenza percent positivity was reported above alert threshold.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity was low in most reporting countries and continued to be reported in Myanmar.
- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.
- Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses accounted for the majority of detections.
National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 84 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 19 August 2019 to 01 September 2019 (data as of 2019-09-13 05:05:32 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 57132 specimens during that time period. 4097 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 2353 (57.4%) were typed as influenza A and 1744 (42.6%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 501 (35.8%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 899 (64.2%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 84 (15.4%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 462 (84.6%) 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 Oceania, influenza activity decreased across the transmission zone. In Australia, despite some geographical variability across regions, at the national level influenza-like illness (ILI) and weekly laboratory-confirmed notifications of influenza were lower than average for this time of the year, decreased from a peak in activity in July. The proportion of influenza B viruses among influenza positive samples increased slightly this period. ILI and influenza activity were below seasonal baseline threshold in New Zealand. No alerts of unusual influenza activity were reported among the other countries in the transmission zone.

- In South Africa, influenza activity was low and influenza A(H3N2) remained the most frequently detected viruses.

- In temperate South America, influenza activity decreased in most countries with exception of Chile, where a second wave of influenza activity of predominately B viruses was reported.
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 12/09/2019

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 12/09/2019
Countries in the tropical zone

Tropical countries of Central America, the Caribbean and South America

- In the Caribbean countries, influenza activity remained low overall. In Central American countries, increased detections were reported in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua with all seasonal influenza subtypes co-circulating. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity appeared to decrease in Cuba and Costa Rica while continued to increase in Panama.

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

Tropical Africa

- In Western Africa, influenza detections were low across reporting countries. Influenza A(H3N2) and B virus detections were low in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and Togo. Increased ILI activity was reported in Senegal.

- In Middle Africa, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.

- In Eastern Africa, influenza detections were low across reporting countries. Influenza activity decreased in Madagascar with detections of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses.
Tropical Asia

- In Southern Asia, influenza detections were low across reporting countries, except in Bhutan where influenza percent positivity remained above alert threshold. Influenza-associated ILI were higher compared to the last two seasons. Laboratory confirmed ILI and SARI were most frequently reported in persons aged 5-14 years. Influenza A(H3N2) and B/Victoria lineage viruses co-circulated.

- In South East Asia, influenza activity was low in most reporting countries. Detections of predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B viruses continued to be reported in Myanmar and Thailand, respectively.

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

![Graph showing influenza activity by subtype in South East Asia](image.png)

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

Data generated on 12/09/2019
Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

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

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

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

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

Data generated on 12/09/2019

**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 2018–2019 influenza season in the northern hemisphere, was published in August 2019 and can be found here: [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/326242/WER9432-en-fr.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/326242/WER9432-en-fr.pdf)

**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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