Influenza surveillance summary

This influenza surveillance summary includes countries where routine surveillance is conducted and information is available.

Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

In the countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) activity is variable with activity mainly following seasonal patterns.

Japan

In Japan the ILI activity continued to be low, following seasonal patterns. (Figure 1)

![Figure 1: Influenza cases reported per sentinel weekly](Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Mongolia

ILI activity in Mongolia has increased in the last week, following seasonal patterns, however, current activity slightly exceeded the upper tolerance limit. (Figure 2)

![Figure 2: Proportion of outpatients that were ILI (per 10,000 people)](Source: National Influenza Center of Mongolia)
The percentage of patients with pneumonia among hospitalized patients has decreased over the past week and it is at the tolerance limit. (Figure 3)

Northern China
During week 44, influenza activity in north China was low, with ILI% slightly higher than the previous week.
Republic of Korea
The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians due to ILI, continues to remain below the national baseline level (12.2 per 1,000 patients) and below activity for the same week during the years 2011 and 2013 year. (Figure 5)

Countries in the tropical zone
In the tropical zone the overall ILI activity was variable.

Hong Kong (China)
The overall influenza activity remained at baseline level. The ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics have slightly decreased since late October (Figure 6).
However, the ILI consultation rates observed at sentinel private doctor sites increased in November. The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 42.4 ILI per 1,000 consultations (Figure 7).

![Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

In week 44, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons under age group 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were all 0 cases per 10,000 people for the same age group (Figure 8).

![Figure 8: Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)
**Singapore**
The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for acute respiratory infection (ARI*) decreased in week 44 (2006 patients) compared to week 43 (2049 patients) (Figure 9).

![Figure 9: Singapore average daily attendances for ARI (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)](image)

**Southern China**
During week 44, percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI (ILI5) decreased at national sentinel hospitals, following seasonal trends (Figure 10).

![Figure 10: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in southern China, (Source: China National Influenza Center)](image)
Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere
Overall ILI activity has continued to decrease, following seasonal patterns.

Australia (No new update)
Throughout the country, seasonal influenza activity has continued to decline following recent peaks in activity. As of 12 October 2014, the sentinel general practitioner ILI consultation rate decreased markedly. Currently, the rate of ILI consultations is within the range observed at a similar period in recent years (Figure 11).

As at 10 October 2014, there have been 62,918 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza reported. There have been 2,576 notifications occurring in the two weeks ending 10 Oct. Figure 12, shows the decline in notifications.

Figure 11: Australian weekly rate of ILI from Sentinel General Practitioner ILI surveillance systems
(Source: Australia Department of Health)

Figure 12: Australian notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza
(Source: Australia Department of Health)
New Zealand (No new update)
The current rate of influenza-like illness is below the seasonal threshold (Figure 13).

![Figure 13: Weekly consultation rates for influenza-like illness in New Zealand in 2014 in comparison to the average epidemic curve in 2000–2013 (excluding 2009)
(Source: New Zealand Ministry of Health and Institute of Environmental Science & Research)](image)

Pacific Islands
In the Pacific Islands, ILI activity was variable with an increasing trend observed in a number of islands especially in Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (Figure 14)

![Figure 14: Pacific Islands reported cases of diarrhea, influenza-like illness and prolonged fever by year, month and week number, up to 19 October 2014.*
Note: Numbers of reported cases are not comparable between countries. The purpose of the charts is to show trends over time within each country/area.](image)
## Virological Surveillance Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Reporting period</th>
<th>Samples received</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern China</td>
<td>27 Oct-2 Nov</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>26 Oct-1 Nov</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Hemisphere Tropical zone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>26 Oct-1 Nov</td>
<td>1964 (11 positive)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>26 Oct-1 Nov</td>
<td>55 influenza specimens</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
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<td>Southern China</td>
<td>27 Oct-2 Nov</td>
<td>2787</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>19-25 Oct</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td><strong>Southern Hemisphere Mekong area</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>29 Sep-12 Oct</td>
<td>62</td>
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<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<td>121</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
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</table>

Figure 15: Data from WHO FluNet, MOH and Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System, WHO

### Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

**Mongolia**

Influenza virus continues to circulate at low levels. The number of specimens is low, similar to numbers tested in the same period in 2013. (Figure 16)
Northern China
During week 44, the percentage of specimens that tested positive for influenza in north China was 4.3%, higher than the previous week (3.8%). (Figure 17)

![Figure 17: Influenza Positive Tests Reported by Northern China Laboratories (Data from China National Influenza Center)](image)

Republic of Korea
1 influenza virus was isolated until the 44th week in 2014-2015 season. 1 virus was identified as A/H3N2. (Figure 18)

![Figure 18: Data from Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention](image)
Countries in the tropical zone

Hong Kong (China)
Among the respiratory specimens received in week 44, 11 (0.56%) tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 1 influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 6 influenza A (H3), 2 influenza B and 2 influenza C. (Figure 19)

![Figure 19: Data from Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection](image)

Singapore
The overall prevalence of influenza among ILI samples (n=55) in the community was 18.2% in the past 4 weeks. Of all the influenza virus isolates in October 2014, influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B comprised 91.7% and 8.3%, respectively. (Figure 20)

![Figure 20: Data from Singapore Ministry of Health](image)
Southern China
During week 44, the percentage of specimens that tested positive for influenza in south China was 1.9%, lower than in the previous week (3.4 %). Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were predominantly reported. (Figure 21).

![Figure 21: Influenza Positive Test Reported by Southern China Laboratories](Data from China National Influenza Center)

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere
Australia (No new update)
Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 is the predominant subtype in Australia (Figure22). Specimens were collected from 23% of Australian sentinel practices research network (ASPREN) general practitioners ILI patients. Of these patients, 18% were positive for influenza, compared with 23% in the previous fortnight.

![Figure 22: Australian proportion of respiratory viral tests positive for influenza in ASPREN ILI patients and ASPREN ILI consultation rate, 1 January to 14 September 2014](Source: Australia Department of Health)
Global influenza situation updates:

Epidemiological update:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/

Virological update:
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport