Virological Surveillance Summary

The total number of specimens and number of positive specimens reported to FluNet by the Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 2 are presented in the table below. Influenza B is currently the predominant circulating subtype (Figure 1).

Table 1: Countries and areas reporting data to FluNet, Western Pacific Region, weeks 1 to 2, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (most recent week of report)</th>
<th>Total number of specimens processed</th>
<th>Total number of influenza positive specimens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (week 1)</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (week 52)</td>
<td>1,301</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (week1)</td>
<td>7,614</td>
<td>3,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji (week 42)</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (week 51)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>8,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People's Democratic Republic (week 52)</td>
<td>4,946</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (week 44)</td>
<td>4,210</td>
<td>531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia (week 1)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia (week 51)</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand (week 18-39)</td>
<td>2,307</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea (week 50)</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (week 52)</td>
<td>1,288</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (week 1)</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (week 52)</td>
<td>2,013</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (week 47)</td>
<td>2,097</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 2 2017 to week 1 2018 (Source: www.who.int/flunet)
Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient sentinel indicator based surveillance (IBS) systems as well as event-based surveillance. Case definitions, populations under surveillance and data formats differ among countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries/areas where routine IBS is conducted and information is available.

The WHO surveillance case definition for ILI is an acute respiratory infection with a measured fever of \( \geq 38^\circ C \) and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days. For SARI, it is an acute respiratory infection (ARI) with a history of fever or measured fever of \( \geq 38^\circ C \) and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days and requires hospitalization.

Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In most countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI and influenza activity are consistent with seasonal trends.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 1, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in northern China was 5.8%, which is higher than the previous week (5.5%) as well as the same week of 2015, 2016 and 2017 (4.1%, 2.9% and 3.8%) (Figure 2).

Mongolia

There has been an increase in ILI activity in Mongolia since week 35 2017, which follows seasonal trends. The most recent peak in ILI activity occurred in week 4 of 2017 (Figure 3). Mongolia publishes weekly reports, available here: [http://www.flu.mn/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=5&Itemid=51](http://www.flu.mn/eng/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=5&Itemid=51)

![Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in north China, 2014-2018](Source: China National Influenza Center)

![Figure 3: Proportion of outpatient ILI visits (per 10,000 people), 2015-2018](Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)
**Republic of Korea**

In week 1, there were 72.1 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was higher than the previous week (71.8). ILI activity is increasing in line with the 2016 seasonal increase (Figure 4). Korea publishes a weekly report, available here: [http://www.cdc.go.kr/CDC/info/CdcKrInfo0301.jsp?menuIds=HOME001-MNU1154-MNU0005-MNU0037-MNU1380](http://www.cdc.go.kr/CDC/info/CdcKrInfo0301.jsp?menuIds=HOME001-MNU1154-MNU0005-MNU0037-MNU1380)

![Figure 4: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1,000 patients, 2013-2017](image)

**Sentinel influenza surveillance**

**Japan (no update)**

In week 50, influenza activity in Japan shows a similar seasonal pattern to previous years with few influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital (Figure 5). More information about historical trends are available here: [https://www.niid.go.jp/niid/en/10/2096-weeklygraph/1644-01flu.html](https://www.niid.go.jp/niid/en/10/2096-weeklygraph/1644-01flu.html)

![Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2007-2017](image)
Countries/areas in the tropical zone

Countries/areas in the tropical zone are observing influenza activity that is consistent with previous seasons.

**Surveillance**

**Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance**

In week 1, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 5.1 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than that recorded in the previous week (4.9) (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 39.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than the rate recorded in the previous week (32.2) (Figure 7). Hong Kong SAR, China publishes a weekly report, available here: [http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/guideline1_year/29/134/441/304.html](http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/guideline1_year/29/134/441/304.html)

**China (South) - ILI Surveillance**

During week 1, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in southern China was 6.0%, which is higher than the last week (5.5%) as well as the same week of 2014, 2015 and 2016 (3.0%, 3.2% and 3.3%) (Figure 6).

**Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance**

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in polyclinics for acute respiratory infection increased from 2,836 per working day in week 52, to 3,158 per working day in week 1 (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with ILI among polyclinic attendances for ARI remained at 2.2%. Singapore publishes a weekly report, available here: [http://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/statistics/infectiousDiseasesStatistics/weekly_infectiousdiseasesbulletin.html](http://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/statistics/infectiousDiseasesStatistics/weekly_infectiousdiseasesbulletin.html)
In week 1, influenza activity increased compared to the previous week. In week 1 the number of cases is similar to that reported in the same week between 2013 and 2015 but lower than that reported in week 1 in 2017 (see Figure 10).

**Figure 8:** Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in South China, 2014-2018 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

**Figure 9:** Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2017-2018 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

**Lao PDR**

In week 1, influenza activity increased compared to the previous week. In week 1 the number of cases is similar to that reported in the same week between 2013 and 2015 but lower than that reported in week 1 in 2017 (see Figure 10).

**Figure 10:** Weekly number of ILI presentations at sentinel sites, 2013 to week 1 2018, Lao PDR (Source: Lao National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)
Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity followed seasonal trends.

**Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza (no update)**

The number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases has decreased from a peak reached in week 33. As of 27 October 2017 (week 42), a total of 229,579 notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza were reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (Figure 11). Sixty-three percent of notifications were influenza A (57% A(unsubtyped), 4% influenza A(H3N2) and 1% influenza A(H1N1pdm09)), 37% were influenza B and less than 1% were influenza A&B co-infections or untyped. Australia publishes influenza surveillance reports on a fortnightly basis during the influenza season, typically between May and October. For more information: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm#current

![Figure 11: Australian notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm)

(Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

**New Zealand – Influenza like Illness (no update)**

During week 39, 80 patients with influenza-like illness consulted sentinel general practices in 20 district health boards (DHBs). The weekly ILI incidence was 19.5 per 100 000 patient population. Of the 36 laboratory tested ILI cases, eight were positive for influenza viruses. This gives an ILI related influenza incidence (adjusted) of 4.3 per 100 000 patient population. New Zealand publishes a weekly report, available here: https://surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza_weekly_update.php

![Figure 12: Weekly resident ILI and influenza incidence since Week 1 of 2017 in New Zealand](https://surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza_weekly_update.php)

(Source: Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR), New Zealand)
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In the Pacific Island Countries and Areas, in week 1, the number of ILI cases reported compared to previous weeks increased in Vanuatu (Figure 13). The PICs submit a report on a weekly basis, for more information:

Figure 13: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2018
Global influenza situation updates

Epidemiological update

Virological update:

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

Others:
Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2017 southern hemisphere influenza season

Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2017-2018 northern hemisphere influenza season
http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/201703_recommendation.pdf?ua=1

Antigenic and genetic characteristics of zoonotic influenza viruses and candidate vaccine viruses developed for potential use in human vaccines
http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/characteristics_virus_vaccines/en/

4th WHO Informal Consultation on Improving Influenza Vaccine Virus Selection

Video on influenza on WHO’s YouTube Channel
Arabic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxW6Pg1AnwI
Chinese: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW9gDKEPi5Q
English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhhJfT86Bgg
French: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mo8rWWjZkc
Russian: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQO6nbkKUWQ
Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXr75cKxwTY