

FLU EXPRESS

Flu Express is a weekly report produced by the Respiratory Disease Office of the Centre for Health Protection. It monitors and summarizes the latest local and global influenza activities.

Local Situation of Influenza Activity (as of Oct 2, 2014)

Reporting period: Sep 21 – 27, 2014 (Week 39)

- The overall influenza activity remained at the baseline level.
- Influenza can cause serious illnesses in high-risk individuals and even healthy persons. Except for those with contraindications, influenza vaccination is suitable for all members of the public.
- Children (aged between six months and less than 6 years, or attending a kindergarten or child care centre in Hong Kong) and elderly (aged 65 years or above), who are eligible, can be subsidised for seasonal influenza vaccination from enrolled private doctors participating in the Government's vaccination subsidy schemes starting from Oct 6, 2014.

Influenza-like-illness surveillance among sentinel general outpatient clinics, 2012-14

In week 39, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 4.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

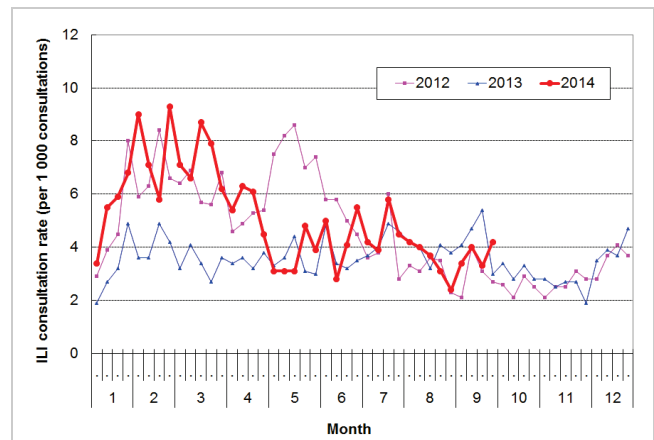


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2012-14

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel private doctors, 2012-14

In week 39, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 24.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

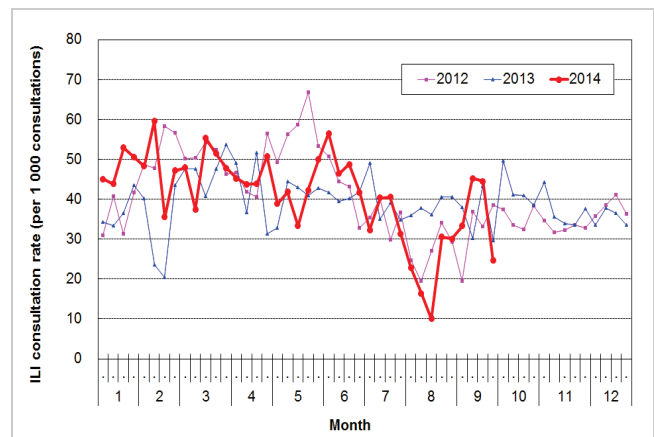


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2012-14

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 39, 28 (1.4%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 3 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus, 9 influenza A(H3) viruses, 13 influenza B viruses and 3 influenza C virus (Figure 3).

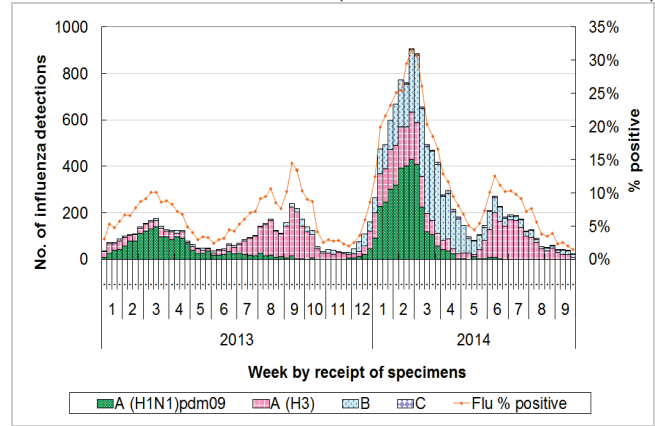


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2013-14

Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 39, 0.15% was influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 0.45% influenza A(H3), 0.66% influenza B and 0.15% influenza C (Figure 4).

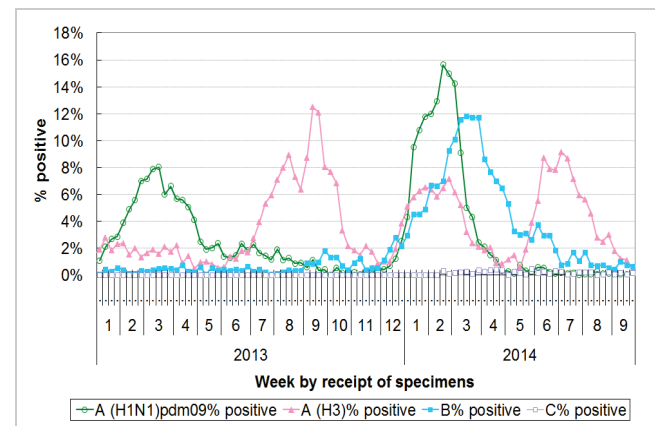


Figure 4 Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2013-14

In week 39, 1 ILI outbreak occurring in a school was recorded. In the first 5 days of week 40 (Sep 28 to Oct 2, 2014), 2 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/ institutions were recorded (Figure 5).

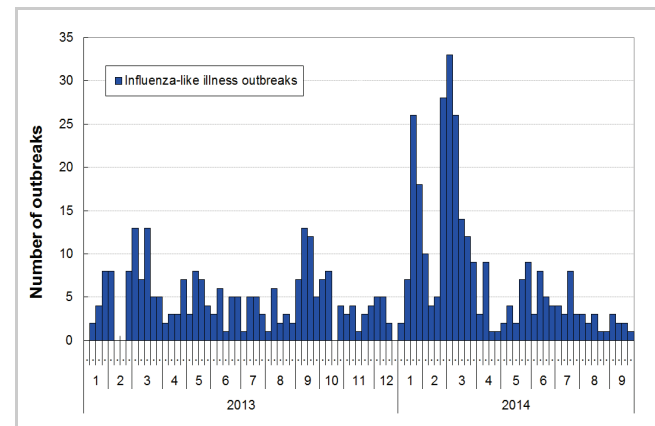


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2013-14

Rate of influenza-like illness syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2012-14[#]

In week 39, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 140.6 (per 1,000 coded cases) (Figure 6).

[#]Note: The influenza-like illness syndrome group includes codes such as influenza, upper respiratory tract infection, fever, cough, throat pain, and pneumonia.

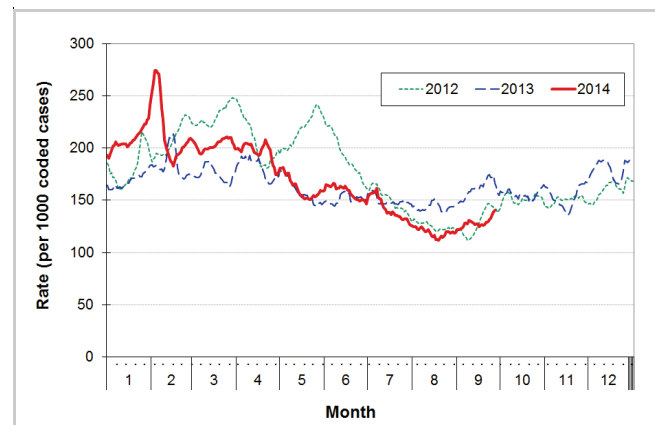


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2012-14

Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths based on discharge coding, 2012-14

In week 39, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.27, 0.01, and 0.05 cases respectively (per 10,000 people in the age group) (Figure 7). Weekly number of deaths with any diagnosis of influenza in public hospitals is also shown in the figure on the right hand side.

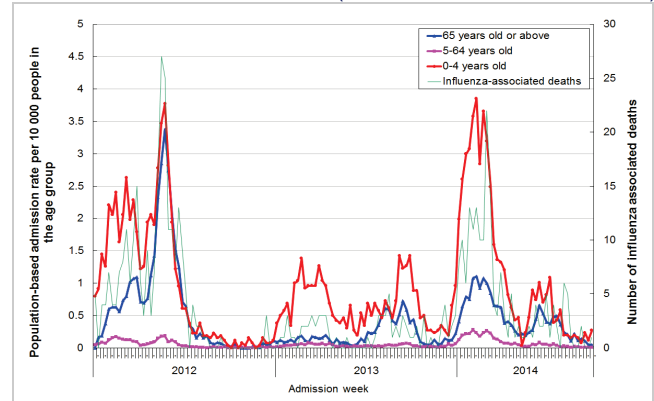


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2012-14

Fever surveillance at sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens, 2012-14

In week 39, 0.65% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

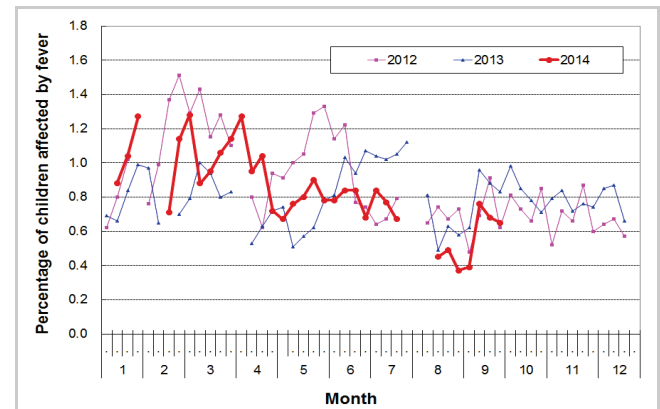


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2012-14

Fever surveillance at sentinel residential care homes for the elderly, 2012-14

In week 39, 0.13% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

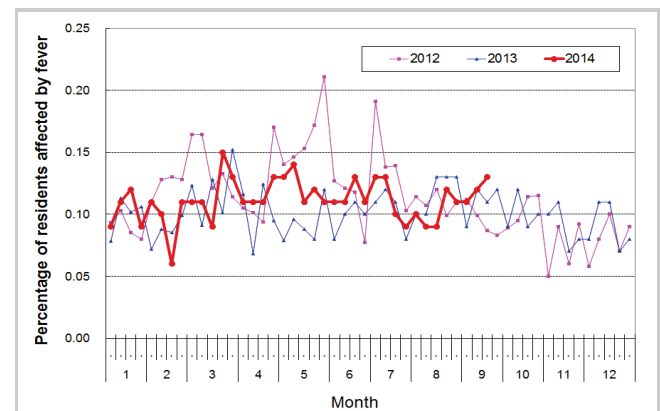


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2012-14

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel Chinese medicine practitioners, 2012-14

In week 39, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.86 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

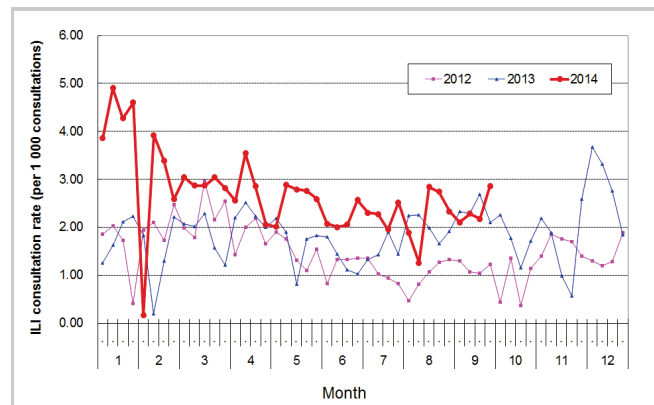


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2012-14

Surveillance of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death (Aged above one month and below 18 years)

- In week 39, there were no new cases of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death. In the first 5 days of week 40 (Sep 28 to Oct 2, 2014), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication was reported, involving a 3-year-old boy who had developed encephalitis. He has been discharged. His respiratory specimen was tested positive for influenza B.

Note: The data reported are provisional figures and subject to further revision.

Surveillance of oseltamivir resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus infection

- In week 39 and the first 5 days of week 40 (Sep 28 to Oct 2, 2014), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus infection. There are totally 47 reports of oseltamivir resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detected in Hong Kong since 2009.

Global Situation of Influenza Activity

- In the United States (week ending Sep 20, 2014), the ILI consultation rate was below the national baseline.
- In Canada (week ending Sep 20, 2014), influenza activity increased compared to previous weeks.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Sep 21, 2014), the weekly influenza consultation rates remained low in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- In New Zealand (week ending Sep 28, 2014), the ILI consultation rate remained low and was below the seasonal threshold.
- In Singapore (week ending Sep 27, 2014), the number of consultations for acute respiratory infections remained low.

Sources:

Information have been extracted from the following sources when updates are available: [United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [Public Health England](#), [Australia Department of Health](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).