

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 Jan 15, 2014)

Reporting period: Jan 5 – 11, 2014 (Week 2)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the local influenza activity continued to increase.
- The Centre for Health Protection has collaborated with the Hospital Authority and private hospitals to monitor influenza associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions or deaths (aged 18 years or above) since Jan 3, 2014. As of Jan 15, there were 25 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death, in which 9 of them were fatal.
- 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 2, 2013.

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

In week 2, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 5.5 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

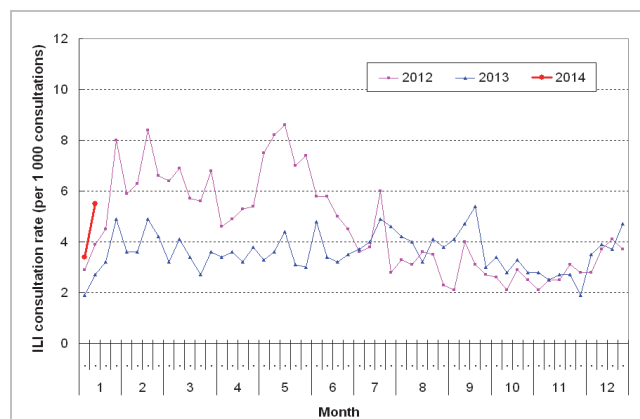


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2012-14

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

In week 2, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 43.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

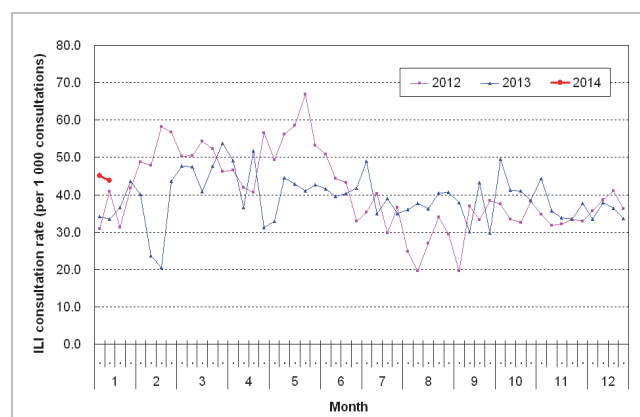


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2012-14

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2013-14

In week 2 (Jan 5 to 11, 2014), the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch was 496, including 245 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses, 147 influenza A(H3) viruses and 103 influenza B viruses (Figure 3)*.

*Note: During the same period, one detection of influenza A(H7) virus was recorded.

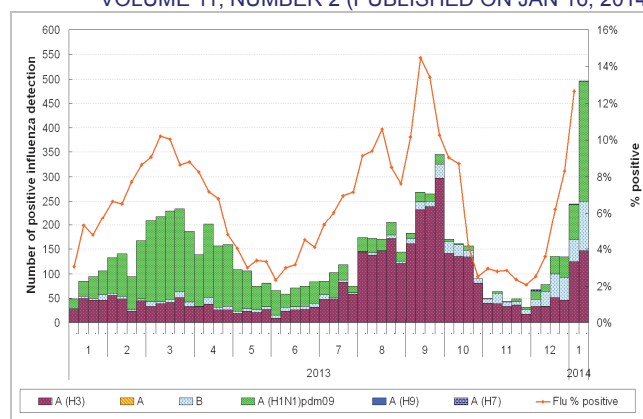


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2013-14

Percent positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

For the respiratory specimens received between Dec 30, 2013 to Jan 5, 2014, 12.7% were tested positive for influenza viruses, including 4.4% influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 5.1% influenza A(H3) and 3.2% influenza B (Figure 4).

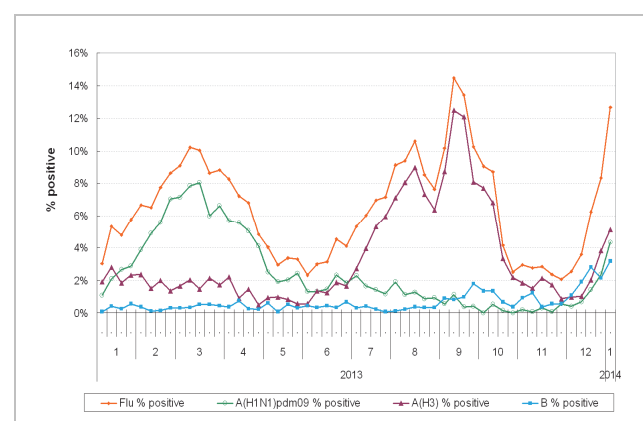


Figure 4 Percent positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2013-14

In week 2, 7 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 to 15, 2014), 16 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 5).

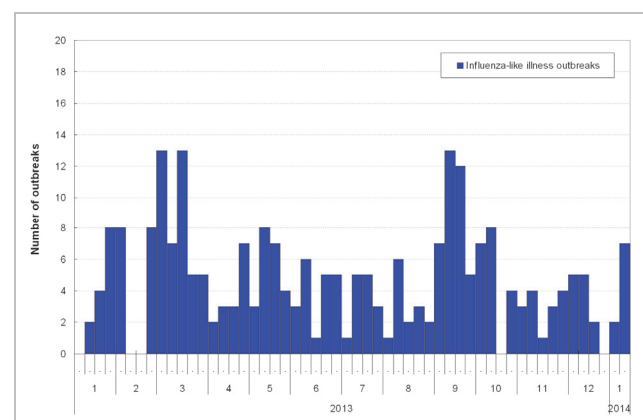


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2013-14

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

In week 2, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 196.6 (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.

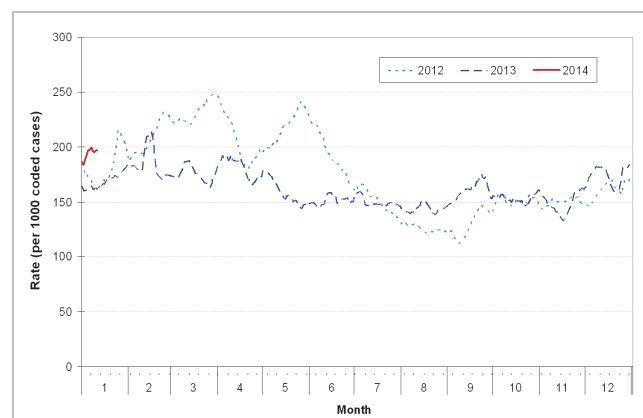


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2012-14

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

In week 2, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 2.47, 0.18 and 0.58 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.

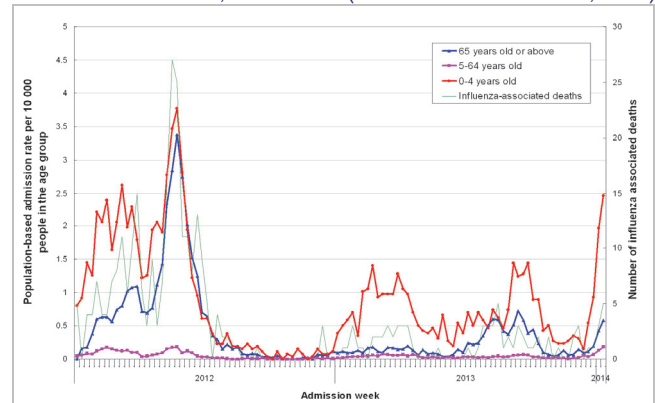


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2012-14

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

In week 2, 0.88% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

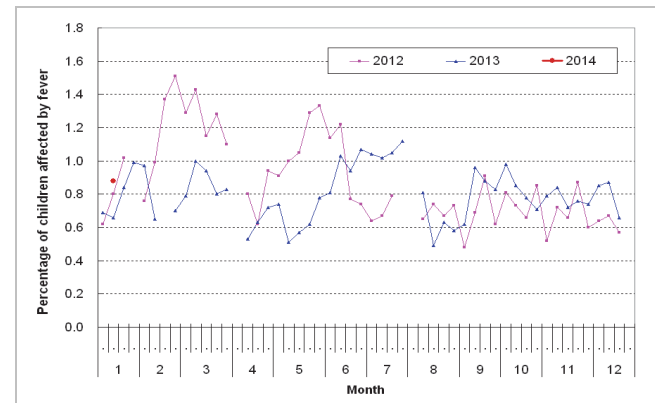


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2012-14

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

In week 2, 0.11% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

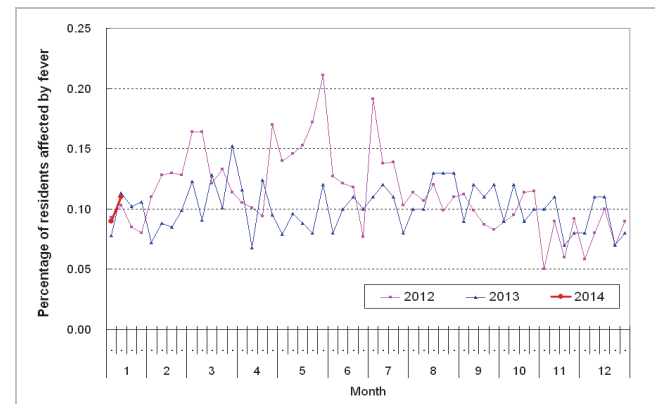


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2012-14

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

In week 2, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 4.90 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

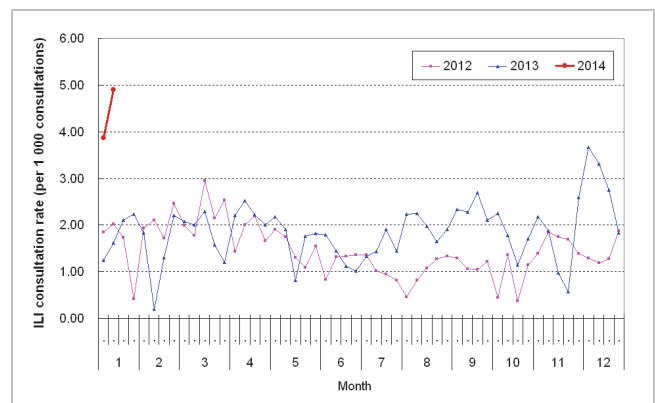


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2012-14

Enhanced Surveillance for Severe Seasonal Influenza (Aged 18 years or above)

- From Jan 8, 2014, 12:00 noon, to Jan 15, 2014, 12:00 noon, 12 cases of influenza associated ICU admission/death were recorded, in which 5 of them were fatal.

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

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

- In week 2, two cases of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication were reported. The first case was a 50-day-old boy who had developed shock and his nasopharyngeal aspirate was tested positive for influenza A(H1). Another case was a one-year-old boy who presented with fever and cough, and his nasopharyngeal aspirates were tested positive for influenza A(H1) and influenza B. Both cases are now in critical condition. In the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 to 15, 2014), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a 5-year-old boy was reported. He had developed pneumonia and was complicated with invasive pneumococcal disease. He is now in critical condition. His nasopharyngeal aspirate was tested positive for influenza A(H1).

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

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

- In week 2, there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus infection. In the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 to 15, 2014), there were two new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus infection involving a 17-month-old boy and a 4-year old boy were reported. They had been discharged. The virus strains detected were sensitive to zanamivir (Relenza). There are totally 41 reports of Tamiflu resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detected in Hong Kong since 2009.

Global Situation of Influenza Activity

- In the United States (week ending Jan 4, 2014), the influenza activity continued to increase.
- In Canada (week ending Jan 4, 2014), the influenza activity continued to increase.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Jan 5, 2014), the ILI consultation rate remained low.
- In Europe (week ending Jan 5, 2014), the influenza activity generally remained at low levels in the Region, but the ILI consultation rates in Spain, Portugal and Turkey had increased.
- In Singapore (week ending Jan 11, 2014), the number of consultations for acute respiratory infections was below the warning level.

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](#), [United Kingdom Health Protection Agency](#), [World Health Organization/Europe Euroflu](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).