

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 Aug 21, 2013)

Reporting period: Aug 11 – 17, 2013 (Week 33)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the local influenza activity remained stable.
- 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 Jul 26, 2013. As of Aug 21, there were 19 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death, in which 13 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.

Influenza-like-illness surveillance among sentinel general outpatient clinics, 2011-13

In week 33, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 3.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

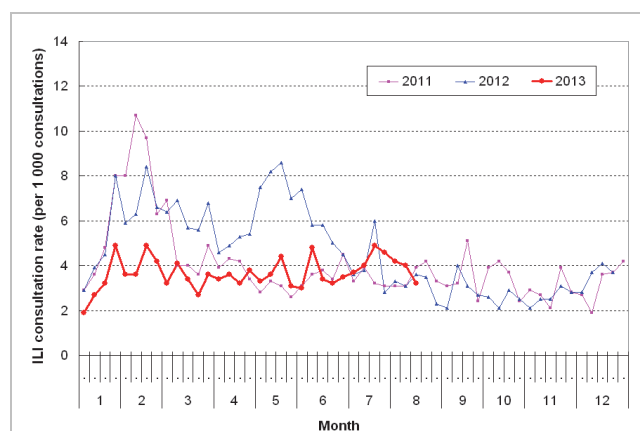


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2011-13

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel private doctors, 2011-13

In week 33, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 36.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

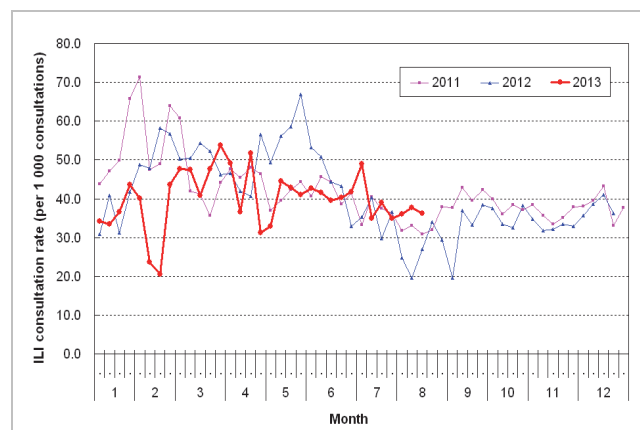


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2011-13

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2012-13

In week 33, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 170, including 146 influenza A (H3) viruses and 24 influenza A (H1N1)2009 viruses (Figure 3).

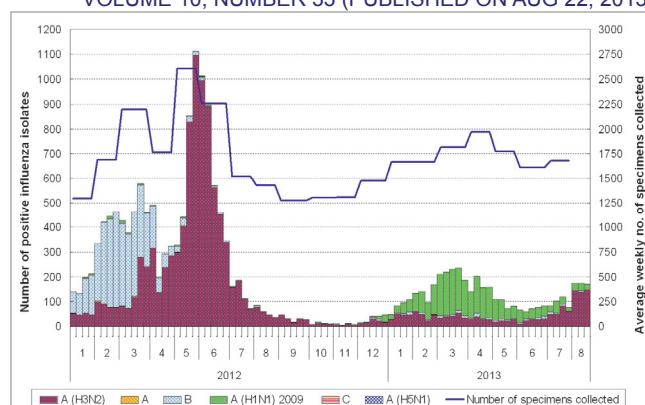


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2012-13

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2012-13

In week 33, 3 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 34 (Aug 18 to 21, 2013), 3 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/ institutions were recorded (Figure 4).

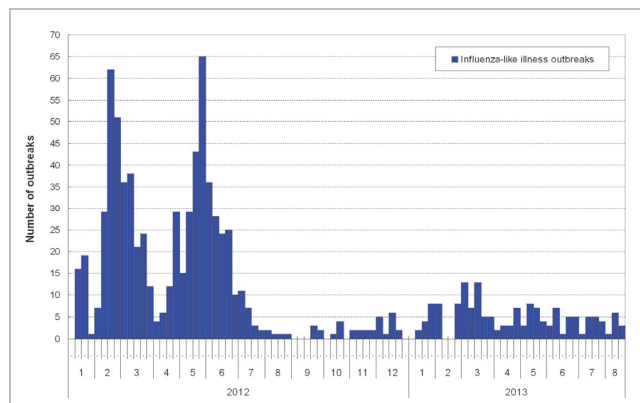


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2012-13

Rate of influenza-like illness syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2011-13[#]

In week 33, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 151.2 (per 1,000 coded cases) (Figure 5).

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

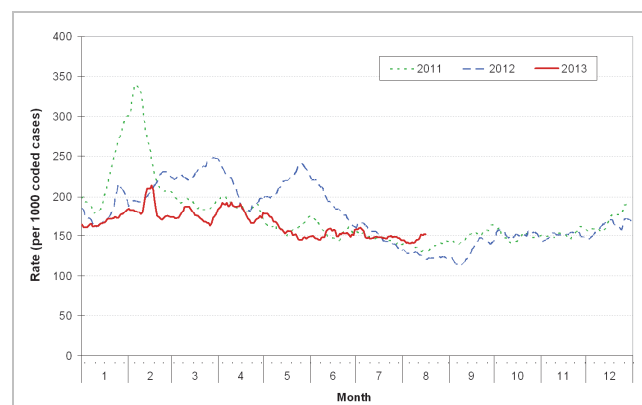


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2011-13

Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths based on discharge coding, 2011-13

In week 33, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.67, 0.04 and 0.51 cases respectively (per 10,000 people in the age group) (Figure 6). Weekly number of deaths with any diagnosis of influenza in public hospitals is also shown in the figure on the right hand side.

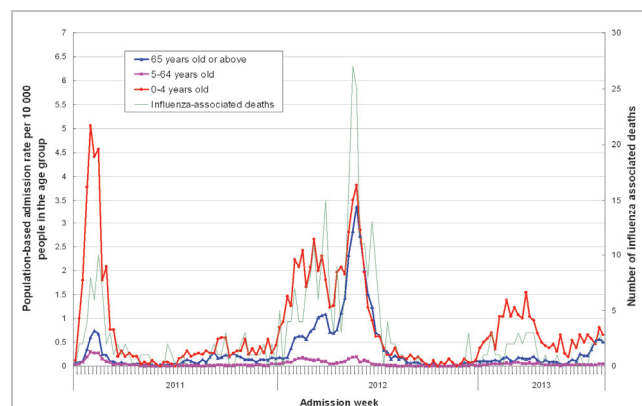


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2011-13

Fever surveillance at sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens, 2011-13

In week 33, 0.49% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 7).

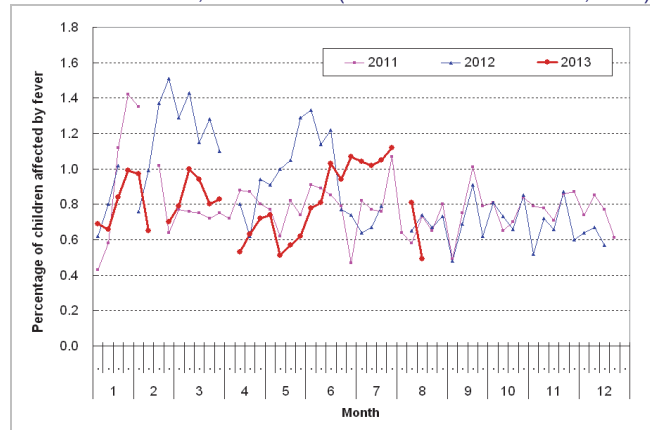


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2011-13

Fever surveillance at sentinel residential care homes for the elderly, 2011-13

In week 33, 0.13% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 8).

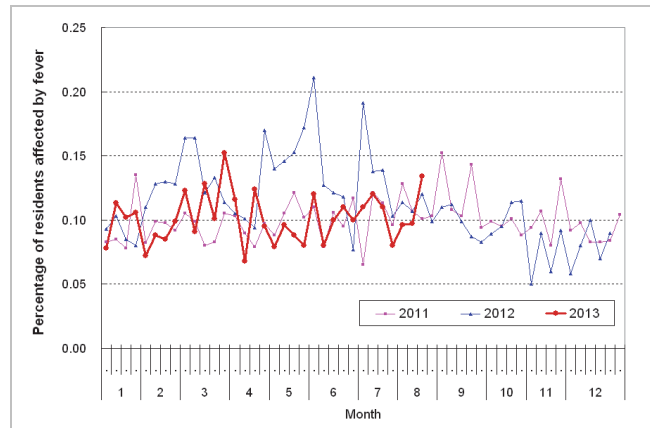


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2011-13

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel Chinese medicine practitioners, 2011-13

In week 33, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 1.98 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

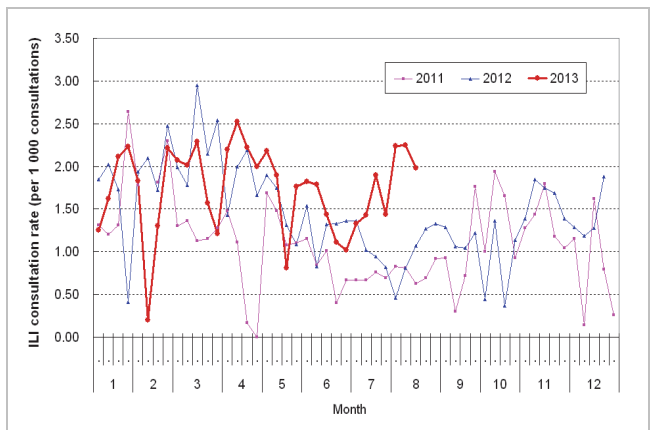


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2011-13

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

- From Aug 14, 2013, 12:00 noon to Aug 21, 2013, 12:00 noon, 7 cases of influenza associated ICU admission were recorded, in which 6 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 33 and the first 4 days of week 34 (Aug 18 to 21, 2013), there were no new reports of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death.

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

Surveillance of Tamiflu resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection

- In week 33, two cases of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection involving a 1-year-old girl and a 56-year-old man were reported. The girl is now in stable condition, and the man has been discharged. The virus strains detected in both cases were sensitive to zanamivir (Relenza). In the first 4 days of week 34 (Aug 18 to 21, 2013), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 35 reports of Tamiflu resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus detected in Hong Kong since 2009.

Global Situation of Influenza Activity

- In the United States (week ending Aug 10, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In Canada (week ending Aug 10, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Aug 11, 2013), the ILI consultation rate remained low.
- In Europe (week ending Aug 11, 2013), the ILI consultation rate were at low levels in all countries in the Region.
- In New Zealand (week ending Aug 18, 2013), the ILI consultation rate was below the baseline.
- In Australia (week ending Aug 2, 2013), the overall influenza activity remained low, but the steady national increase had continued.

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](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Australia Department of Health and Ageing](#).