

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 Apr 26, 2012)

Reporting period: Apr 15– 21, 2012 (Week 16)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall influenza activity still remained at high level.
- 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 13, 2012. As of Apr 25, there were 124 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths, in which 72 of them were fatal.
- As Hong Kong is still in winter influenza season, target groups are advised to make use of the last opportunity to receive influenza vaccinations.

Influenza-like-illness surveillance among sentinel general outpatient clinics, 2010-12

In week 16, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 5.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

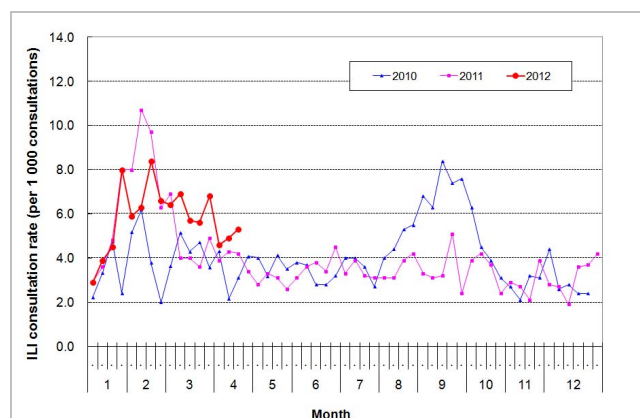


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2010-12

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel private doctors, 2010-12

In week 16, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 40.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

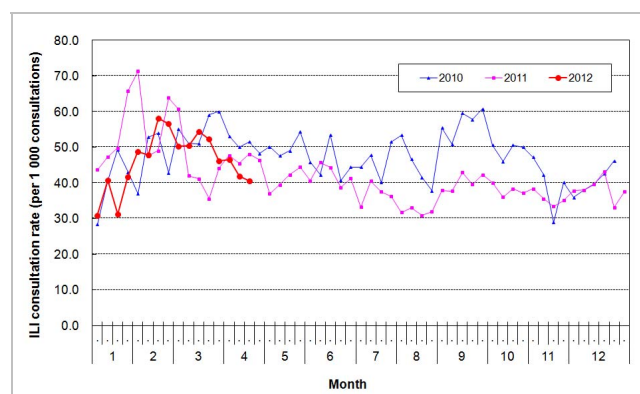


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2010-12

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2011-12

In week 16, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 292, including 236 influenza A (H3) viruses, 54 influenza B viruses and 2 influenza A viruses (Figure 3).

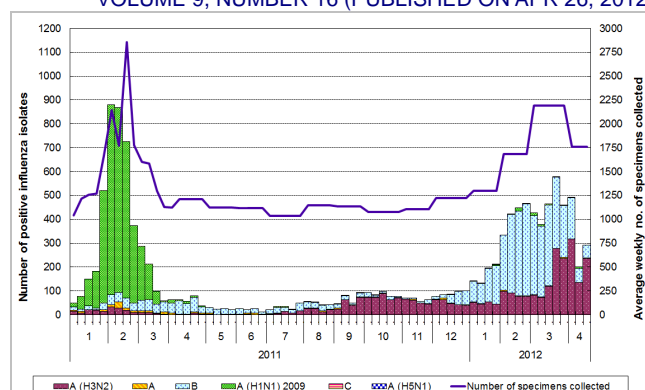


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2011-12

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2011-12

In week 16, 12 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 17 (Apr 22 to 25, 2012), 21 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded.

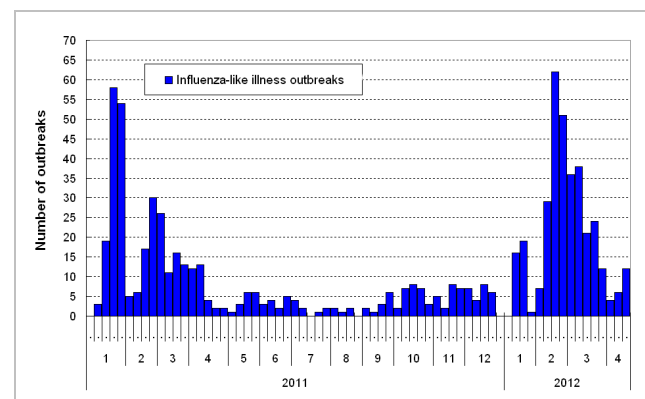


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2011-12

Rate of influenza-like illness syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2010-12[#]

In week 16, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments was 180.8 (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.

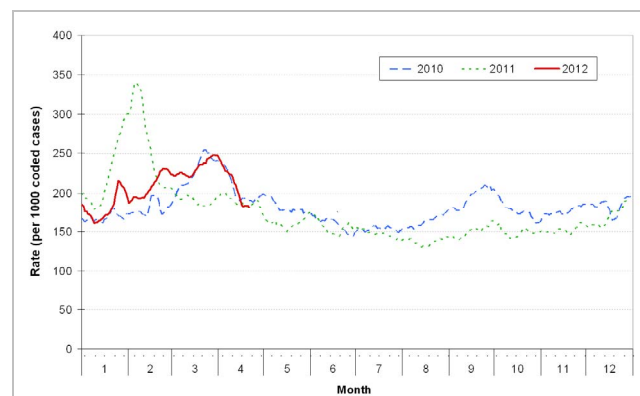


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2010-12

Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths based on discharge coding, 2010-12

In week 16, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 1.56, 0.05 and 0.60 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 on the right hand side.

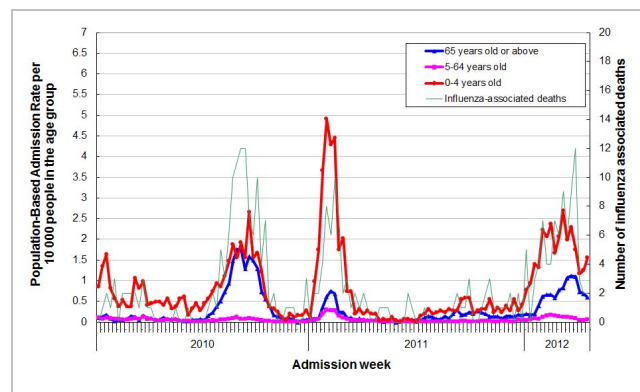


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2010-12

Fever surveillance at sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens, 2010-12

In week 16, 0.62% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens had fever (Figure 7).

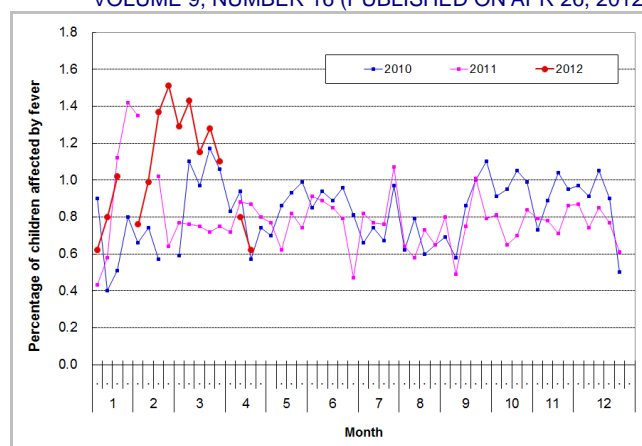


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/KG, 2010-12

Fever surveillance at sentinel residential care homes for the elderly, 2010-12

In week 16, 0.09% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly had fever (Figure 8).

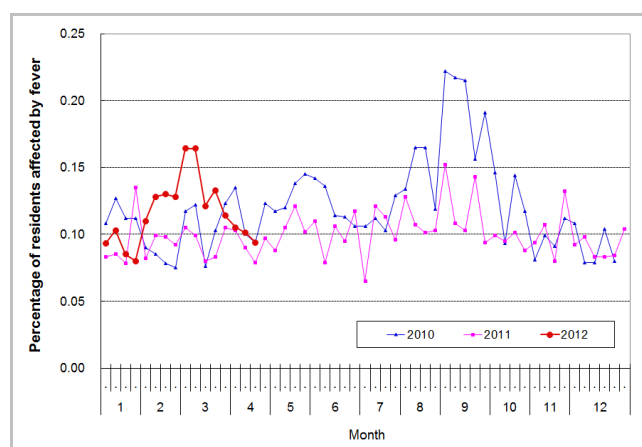


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2010-12

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel Chinese medicine practitioners, 2010-12

In week 16, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners was 2.19 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

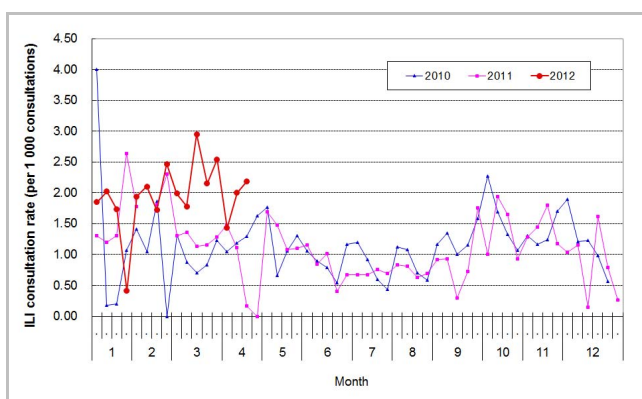


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2010-12

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

- From Apr 18, 2012, 12:00 noon to Apr 25, 2012, 12:00 noon, 5 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths were recorded, in which 2 of them were fatal. In addition, one previously reported case who required ICU admission passed away during this reporting period.

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 16, there were no new reports of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death. In the first 4 days of week 17 (Apr 22 to 25, 2012), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a boy aged 7 years old who had developed severe tracheitis was reported. He had been discharged. His nasopharyngeal aspirate specimen was tested positive for influenza A.

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

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

- In week 16 and the first 4 days of week 17 (Apr 22 to 25, 2012), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 18 reports of resistance to Tamiflu in strains of influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus detected in Hong Kong since 2009.

Global Situation of Influenza Activity

- In the United States (week ending Apr 14, 2012), influenza activity was elevated in some areas, but declined nationally and in most regions.
- In Canada (week ending Apr 14, 2012), the peak of activity for the 2011-2012 influenza season has passed as most indicators of influenza activity continued to decline.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Apr 15, 2012), the weekly influenza consultation rates in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland remained low.
- In Europe (as of Apr 15 2012), ILI consultation rate continued to decrease, and most of the countries were at low influenza intensity.
- In Singapore (week ending Apr 21, 2012), the number of consultations for acute respiratory infections was above 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](#).