

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 Jul 25, 2012)

Reporting period: Jul 15 – 21, 2012 (Week 29)

- The latest surveillance data showed that influenza peak season in Hong Kong has come to an end, having lasted for about six months since taking off in mid-January.
- 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 Jul 26, there were 331 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths, in which 225 of them were fatal. After reviewing the prevailing situation, the enhanced surveillance of severe seasonal influenza will end on July 26.

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

In week 29, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 6.0 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

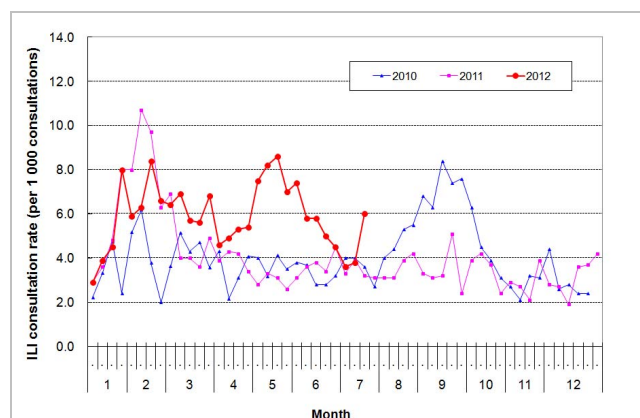


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2010-12

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

In week 29, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 29.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

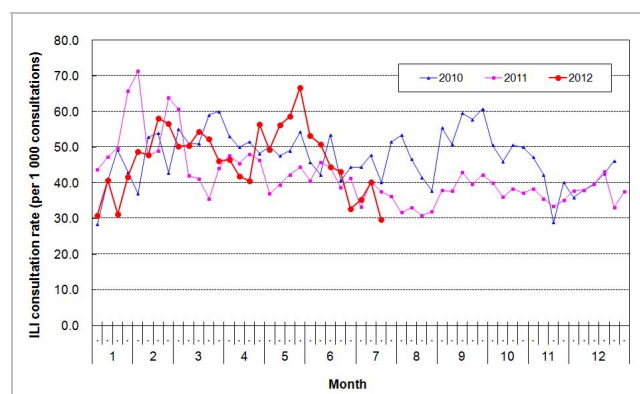


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2010-12

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2011-12

In week 29, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 112, including 110 influenza A (H3) viruses and 2 influenza A(H1N1)2009 viruses (Figure 3).

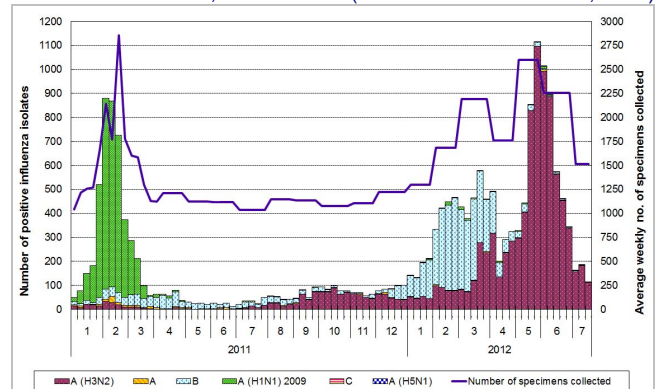


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2011-12

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2011-12

In week 29, 4 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 30 (Jul 22 to 25, 2012), 1 ILI outbreak occurring in an institution was recorded.

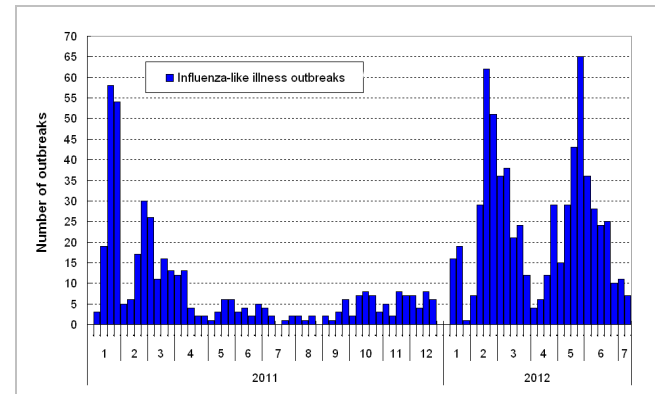


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2011-12

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

In week 29, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments was 141.9 (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.

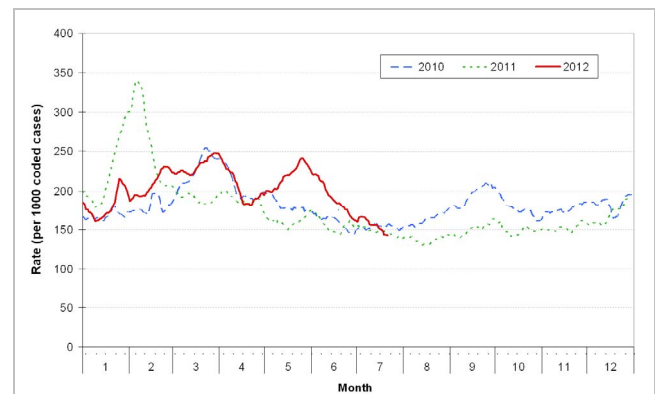


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2010-12

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

In week 29, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.23, 0.01 and 0.25 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.

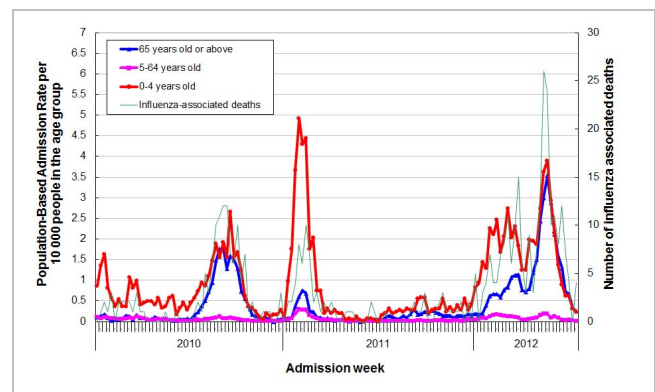


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2010-12

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

In week 29, 0.79% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens had fever (Figure 7).

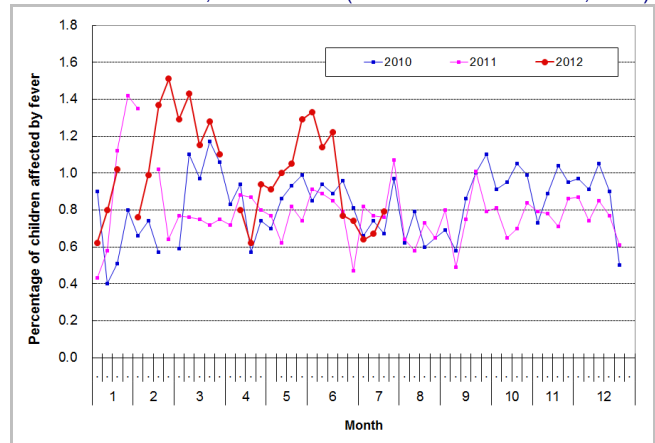


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/KG, 2010-12

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

In week 29, 0.14% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly had fever (Figure 8).

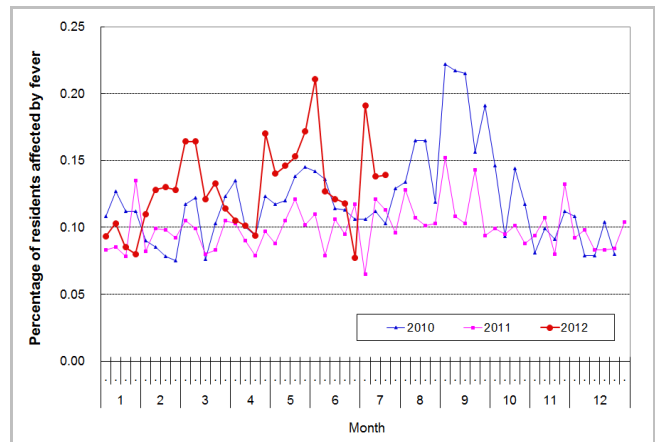


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2010-12

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

In week 29, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners was 0.94 ILI case per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

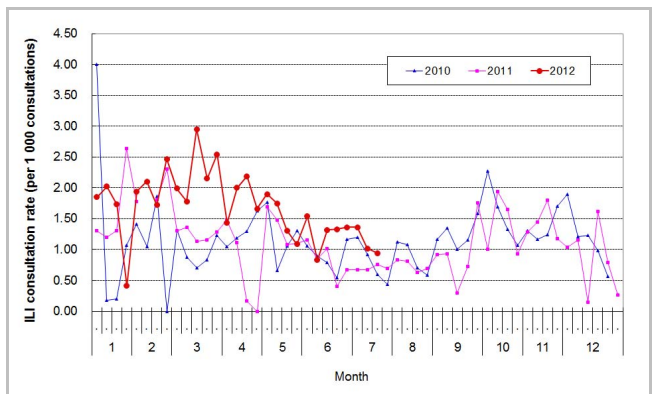


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2010-12

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

- From Jul 18, 2012, 12:00 noon to Jul 26, 2012, 12:00 noon, 6 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths were recorded, in which 4 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 29 and the first 4 days of week 30 (Jul 22 to 25, 2012), 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 29 and the first 4 days of week 30 (Jul 22 to 25, 2012), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 20 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 Jul 14, 2012), the ILI consultation rate was below its national baseline.
- In Canada (week ending Jul 14, 2012), the overall influenza activity remained low and continued to decline.
- In the United Kingdom (as of Jul 19, 2012), the ILI consultation rate remained low.
- In Europe (week ending Jul 15, 2012), the ILI consultation rate was at low level in all countries.
- In Australia (week ending Jul 6, 2012), the ILI activity continued to increase.
- In New Zealand (week ending Jul 22, 2012), influenza activity continued to increase and the consultation rate for ILI was above the baseline level.
- In Singapore (week ending Jul 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](#), [Australia Department of Health and Ageing](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).