

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 Feb 16, 2012)

Reporting period: Feb 5 – 11, 2012 (Week 6)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall influenza activity has 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 13, 2012. As of Feb 15, there were 28 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths, in which 15 of them were fatal.
- The local influenza activity is expected to increase further during the next few weeks. Target groups are advised to receive influenza vaccinations as soon as possible to protect their health.

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

In week 6, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 6.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

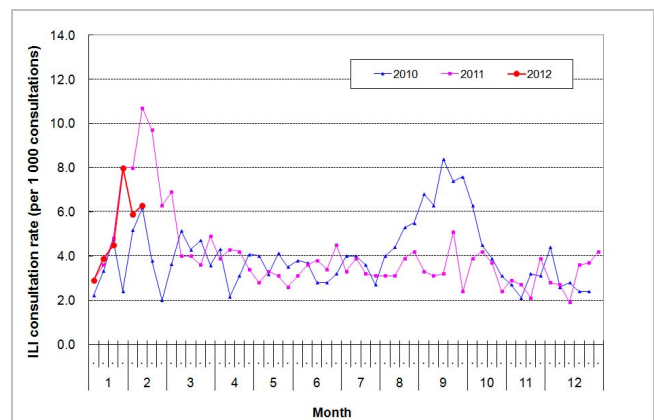


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2010-12

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

In week 6, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 47.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

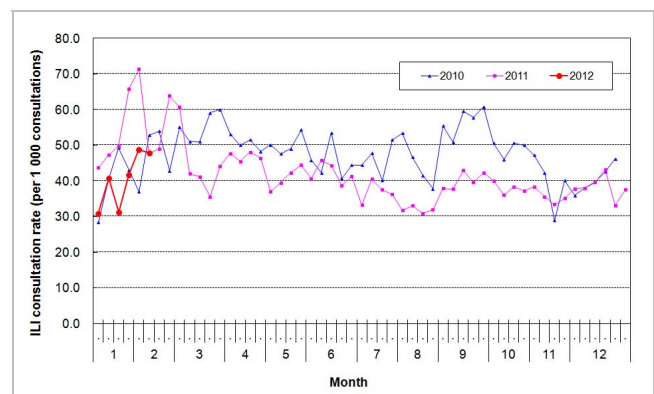


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2010-12

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2011-12

In week 6, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 421, including 329 influenza B viruses, 90 influenza A (H3) viruses and 2 influenza A(H1N1)2009 viruses (Figure 3).

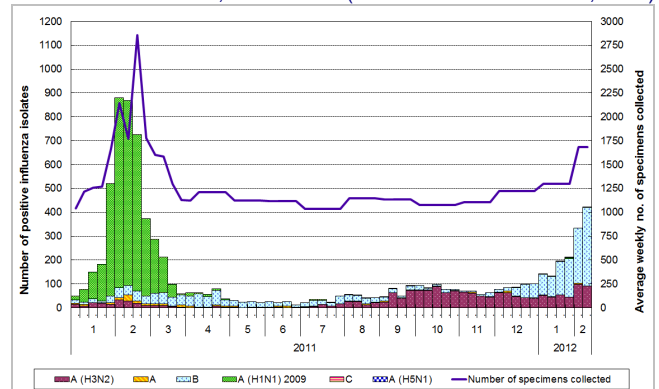


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2011-12

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2011-12

In week 6, 29 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 7 (Feb 12 to 15, 2012), 38 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded.

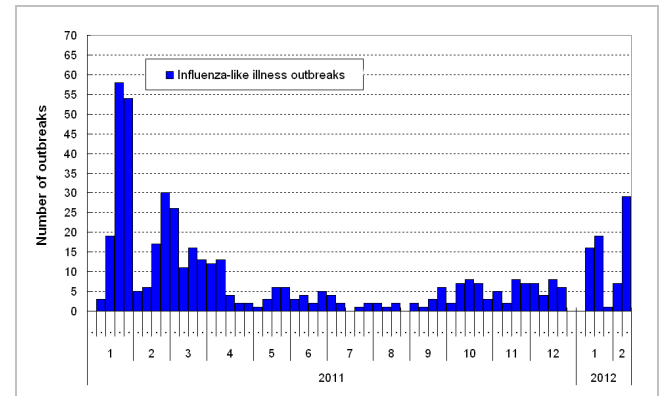


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2011-12

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

In week 6, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 1.52, 0.12 and 0.47 case respectively (per 10,000 people in the age group) (Figure 5). Weekly number of deaths with any diagnosis of influenza in public hospitals is also shown on the right hand side.

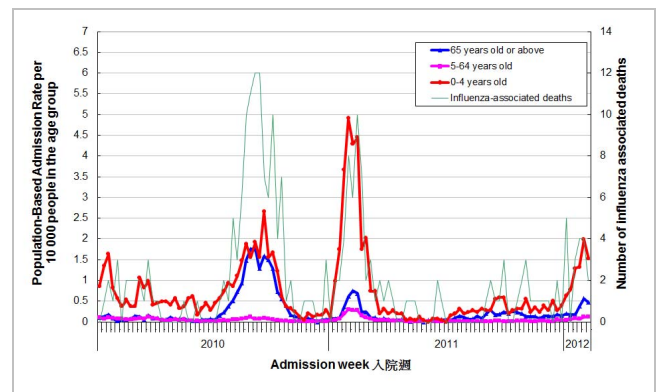


Figure 5 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2010-12

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

In week 6, 0.99% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens had fever (Figure 6).

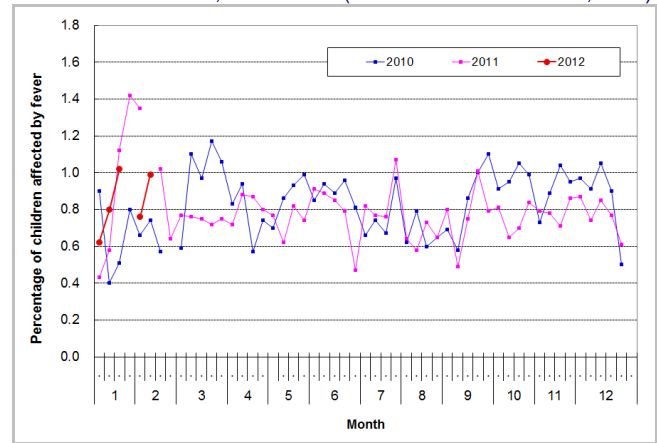


Figure 6 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/KG, 2010-12

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

In week 6, 0.13% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly had fever (Figure 7).

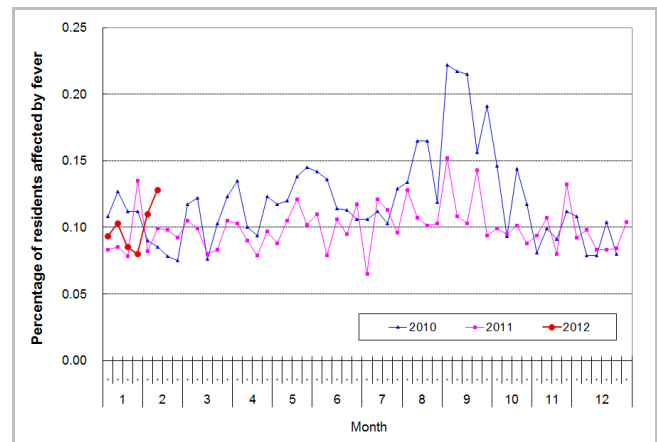


Figure 7 Percentage of resident with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2010-12

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

In week 6, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners was 2.10 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 8).

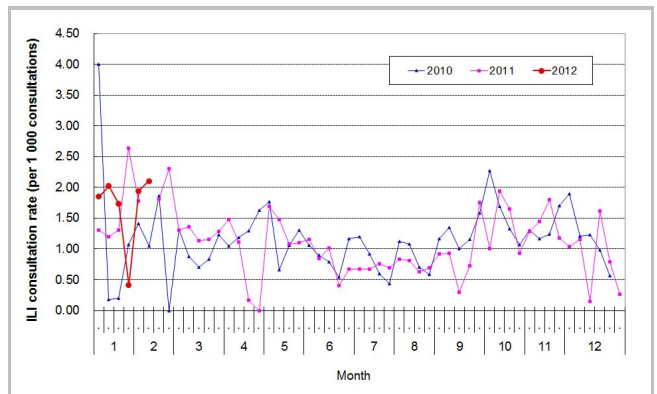


Figure 8 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2010-12

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

- From Feb 8, 2012, 12:00 noon to Feb 15, 2012, 12:00 noon, 5 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths were recorded, in which 2 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 6, one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a girl aged 7 years old who had developed encephalitis was reported. The girl is now in critical condition. In the first 4 days of week 7 (Feb 12 to 15, 2012), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a girl aged 4 years old who had developed encephalitis was reported. The girl is now in stable condition. Their nasopharyngeal aspirate specimens tested positive for influenza B.

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

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

- In week 6 and the first 4 days of week 7 (Feb 12 to 15, 2012), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 16 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 Feb 4, 2012), influenza activity increased. The most common type of influenza detected among positive specimens was influenza A(H3N2) virus.
- In Canada (week ending Feb 4, 2012), the ILI consultation rate increased this week compared to the previous three weeks but remained within expected levels for this time of year.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Feb 5, 2012), the overall influenza activity remained at low level, although some indicators continued to increase.
- In Europe (as of Feb 5, 2012), the ILI consultation rate increased in most countries in the region. The dominant influenza type was A(H3N2).
- In Singapore (week ending Feb 11, 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](#).