

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 June 4, 2014)

Reporting period: May 25 – 31, 2014 (Week 22)

- The overall influenza activity is low.
- 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 22, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 3.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

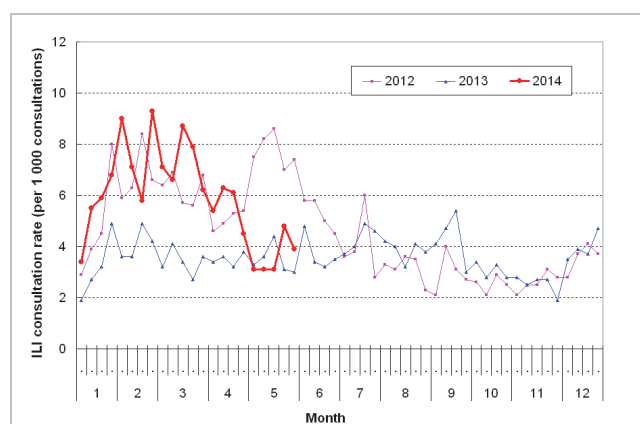


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2012-14

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

In week 22, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 49.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

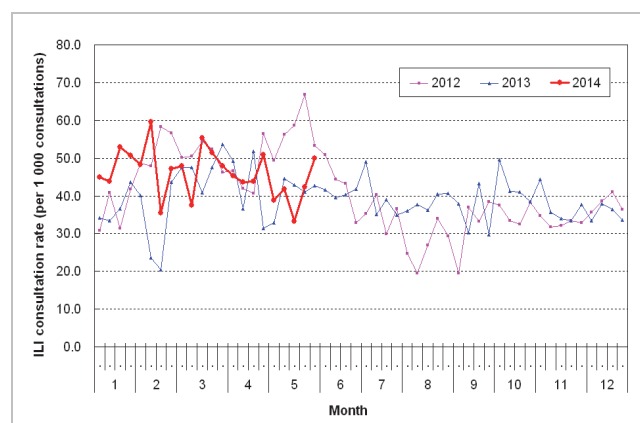


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2012-14

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2013-14

For the respiratory specimens received in week 22, 126 (6.1%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 6 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses, 66 influenza A(H3) viruses, 45 influenza B viruses, and 9 influenza C viruses (Figure 3).

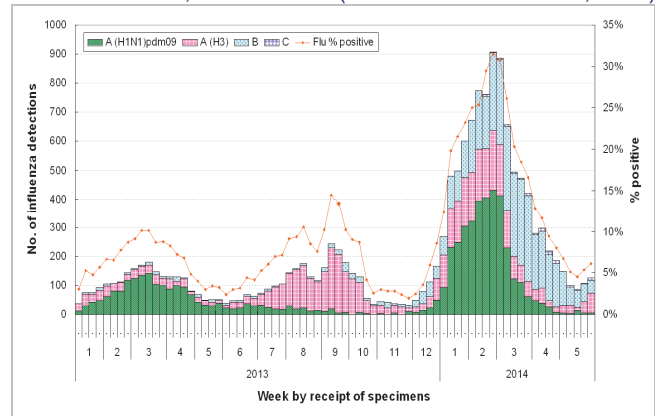


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2013-14

Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 22, 0.3% was influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 3.2% influenza A(H3), 2.2% influenza B, and 0.4% influenza C (Figure 4).

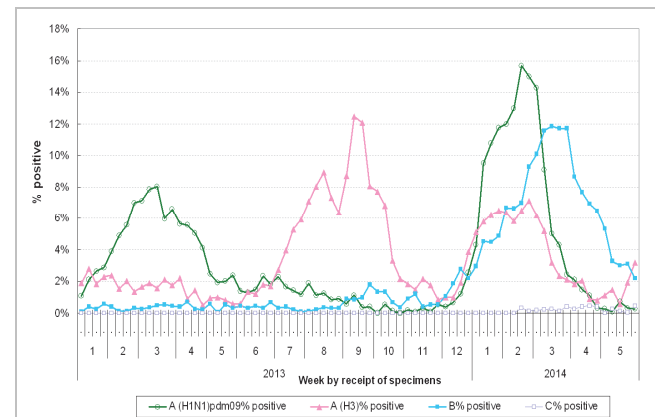


Figure 4 Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2013-14

In week 22, 9 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 23 (June 1 to 4, 2014), 1 ILI outbreak occurring in a school was recorded (Figure 5).

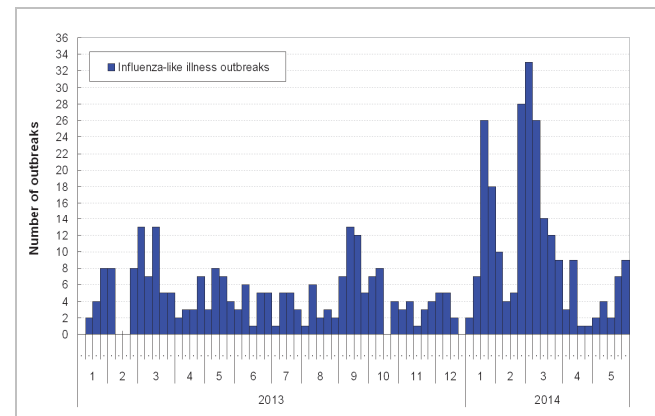


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2013-14

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

In week 22, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 159.6 (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.

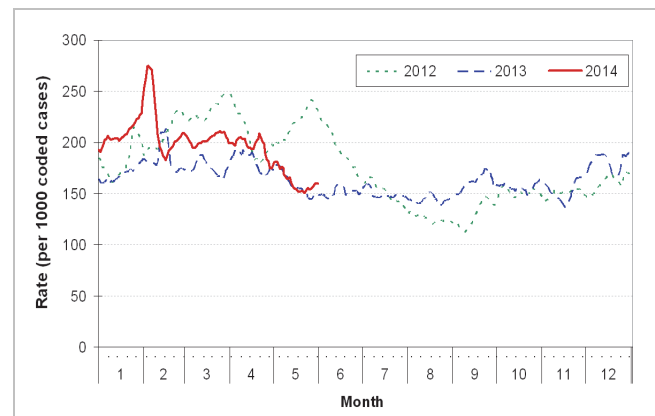


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2012-14

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

In week 22, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.58, 0.05, and 0.16 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.

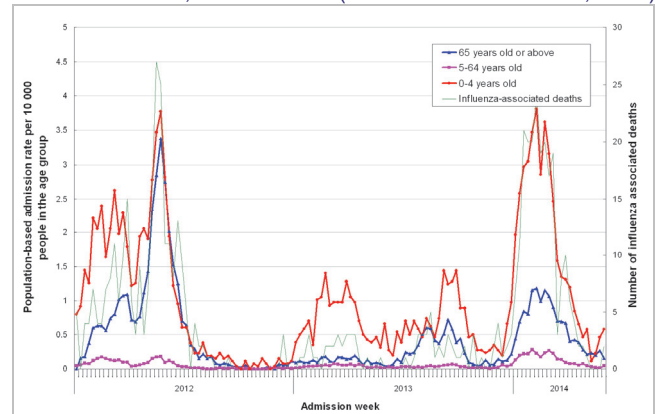


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2012-14

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

In week 22, 0.78% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

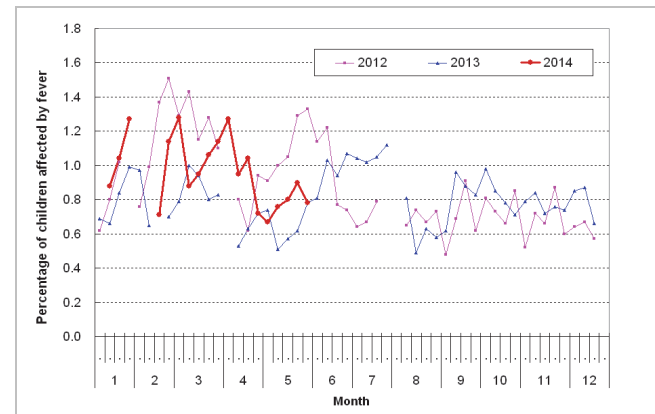


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2012-14

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

In week 22, 0.11% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

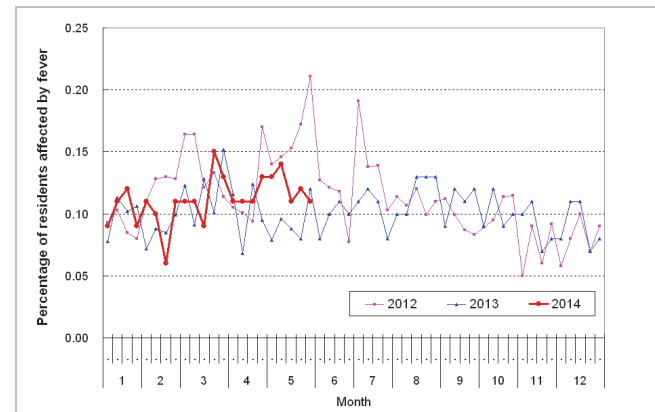


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2012-14

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

In week 22, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.59 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

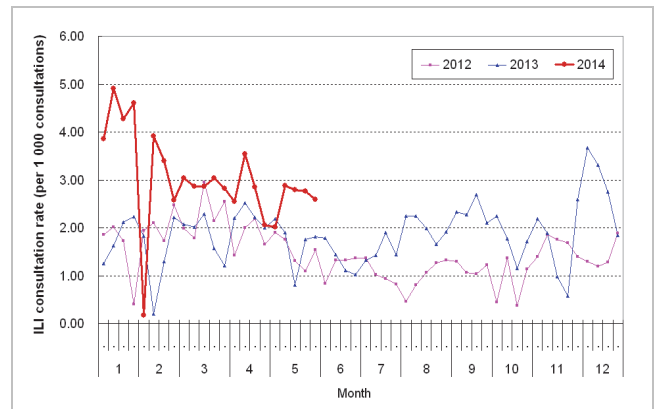


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2012-14

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

- In week 22, there were no new cases of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death. In the first 4 days of week 23 (June 1 to 4, 2014), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication was reported, involving a 13-month-old girl who had developed encephalitis. She is currently in critical condition. Her respiratory specimen was tested positive for influenza A(H3) virus.

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

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

- In week 22 and the first 4 days of week 23 (June 1 to 4, 2014), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus infection. There are totally 47 reports of oseltamivir resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detected in Hong Kong since 2009.

Global Situation of Influenza Activity

- In the United States (week ending May 24, 2014), influenza activity continued to decrease.
- In Australia (week ending May 23, 2014), the influenza activity remained low and stable.
- In New Zealand (week ending May 25, 2014), the ILI consultation rate was below the seasonal threshold.
- In Singapore (week ending May 31, 2014), the number of consultations for acute respiratory infections remained low.

Sources:

Information have been extracted from the following sources when updates are available: [United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [Australia Department of Health and Ageing](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).