

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 16, 2014)

Reporting period: Jul 6 – 12, 2014 (Week 28)

- The overall influenza activity in this week was similar to that in last week. The influenza activity in the recent two weeks has decreased slightly when compared to that in mid-June but was still higher than May.
- The CHP has collaborated with the Hospital Authority and private hospitals to reactivate the enhanced surveillance of influenza associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions or deaths aged 18 years or above since Jun 23. As of Jul 16, there were 17 cases of influenza associated ICU admission, in which 9 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.
- 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.

Influenza-like-illness surveillance among sentinel general outpatient clinics, 2012-14

In week 28, 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).

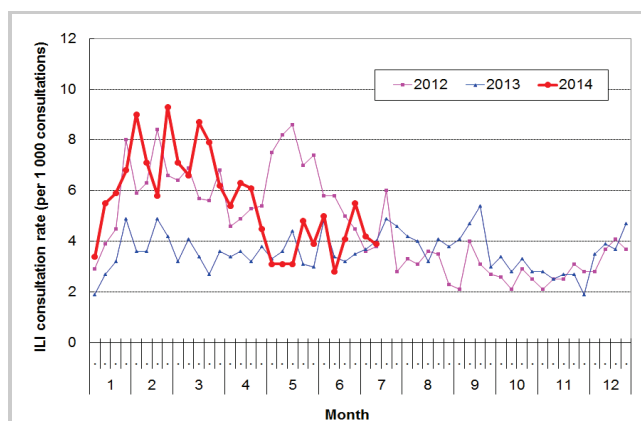


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2012-14

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

In week 28, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 40.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

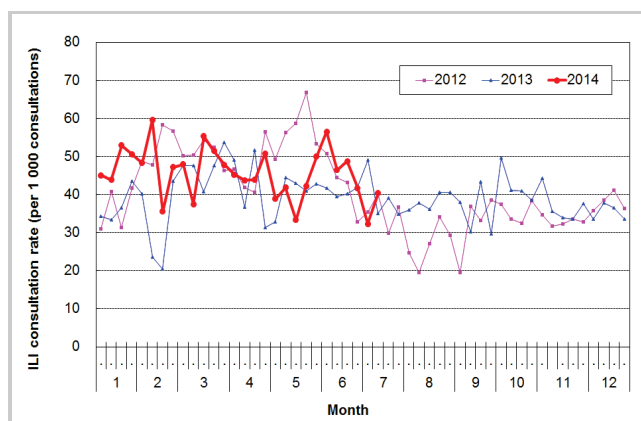


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2012-14

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2013-14

For the respiratory specimens received in week 28, 188 (9.7%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 2 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses, 168 influenza A(H3) viruses, 17 influenza B viruses and 1 influenza C virus (Figure 3).

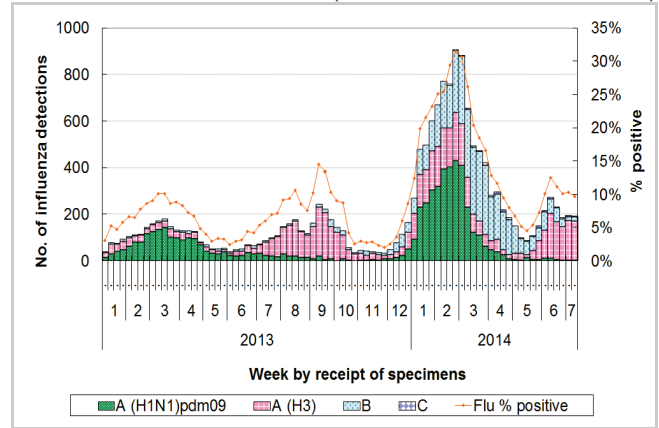


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2013-14

Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 28, 0.1% was influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 8.6% influenza A(H3), 0.9% influenza B, and 0.1% influenza C (Figure 4).

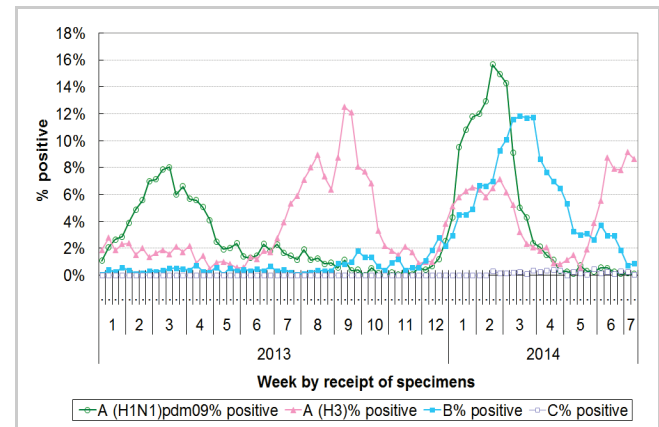


Figure 4 Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2013-14

In week 28, 3 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 29 (Jul 13 to 16, 2014), 6 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/ institutions were recorded (Figure 5).

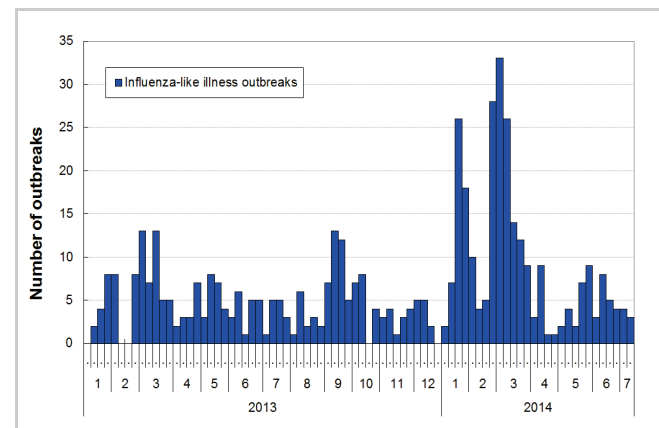


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2013-14

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

In week 28, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 144.1 (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.

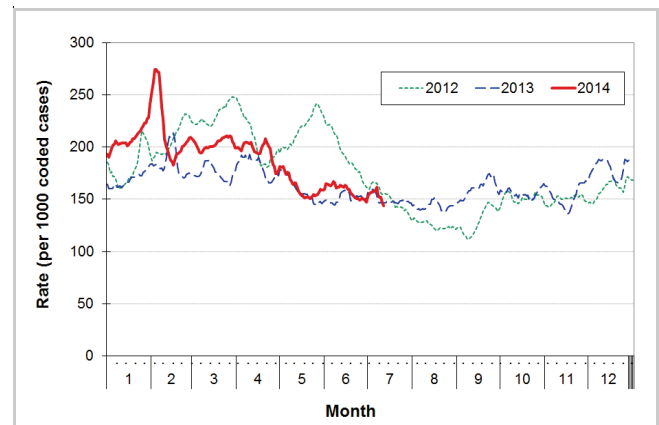


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2012-14

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

In week 28, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.43, 0.05, and 0.36 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.

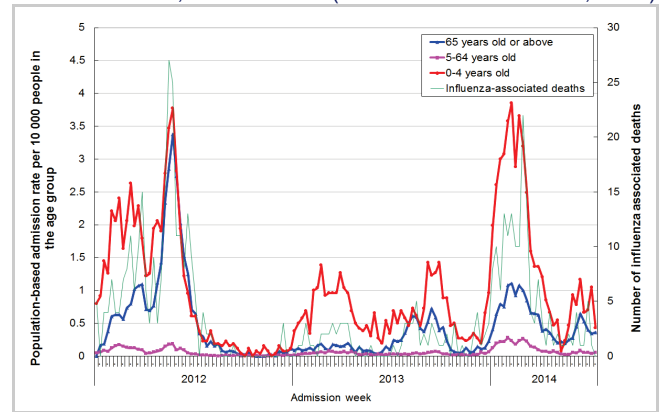


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2012-14

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

In week 28, 0.77% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

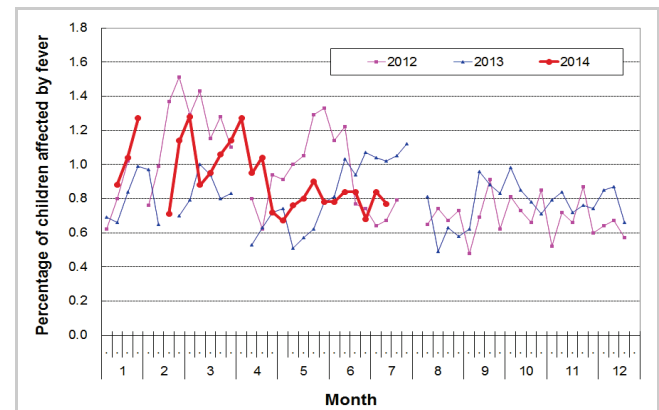


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2012-14

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

In week 28, 0.13% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

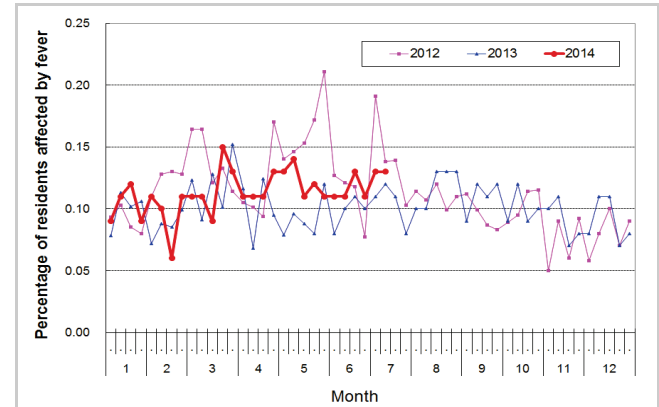


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2012-14

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

In week 28, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.27 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

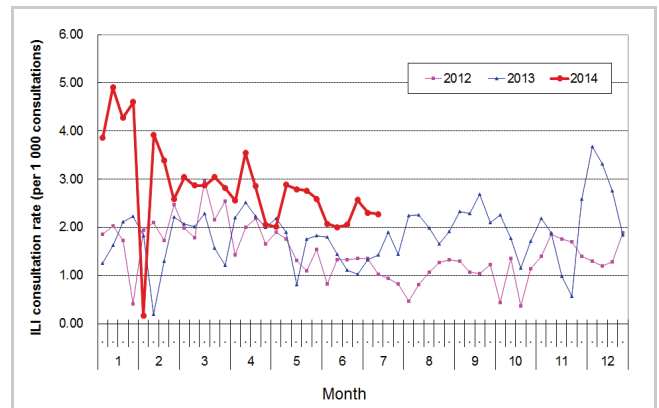


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2012-14

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

- From Jul 9, 2014, 12:00 noon, to Jul 16, 2014, 12:00 noon, 5 cases of influenza associated ICU admission/death were recorded, in which 4 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 28, there were no new cases of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death. In the first 4 days of week 29 (Jul 13 to 16, 2014), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication was reported, involving a 13-year-old girl who had developed pneumonia and shock. She is now in critical condition. Her respiratory specimen was tested positive for influenza A.

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

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

- In week 28 and the first 4 days of week 29 (Jul 13 to 16, 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 Jul 5, 2014), the ILI consultation rate was below the national baseline.
- In Australia (week ending Jul 4, 2014), the influenza activity has started to increase, and the 2014 influenza season has begun.
- In New Zealand (week ending Jul 6, 2014), the ILI consultation rate has steadily increased in past few weeks and was above the seasonal threshold.
- In Singapore (week ending Jul 12, 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](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).