

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 May 24, 2012)

Reporting period: May 13– 19, 2012 (Week 20)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall influenza activity was 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 May 23, there were 194 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths, in which 114 of them were fatal.

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

In week 20, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 8.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

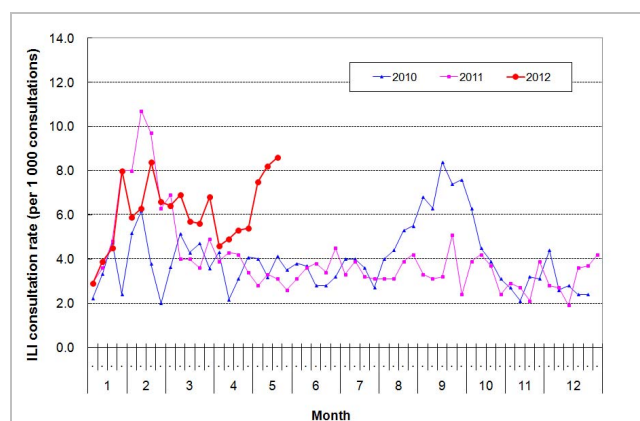


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2010-12

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

In week 20, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 58.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

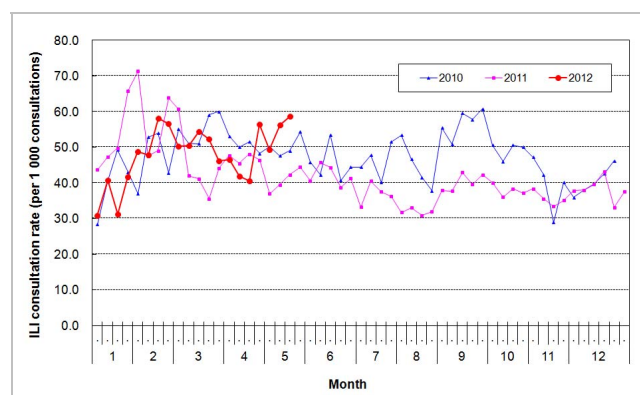


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2010-12

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2011-12

In week 20, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 852, including 827 influenza A (H3) viruses, 22 influenza B viruses, 2 influenza A(H1N1)2009 viruses and 1 influenza A virus (Figure 3).

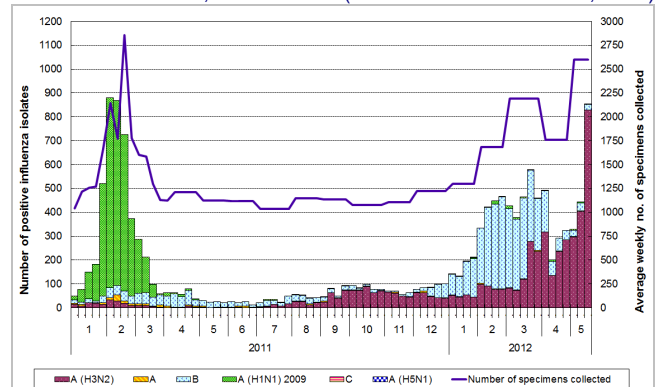


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2011-12

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2011-12

In week 20, 43 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 21 (May 20 to 23, 2012), 32 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded.

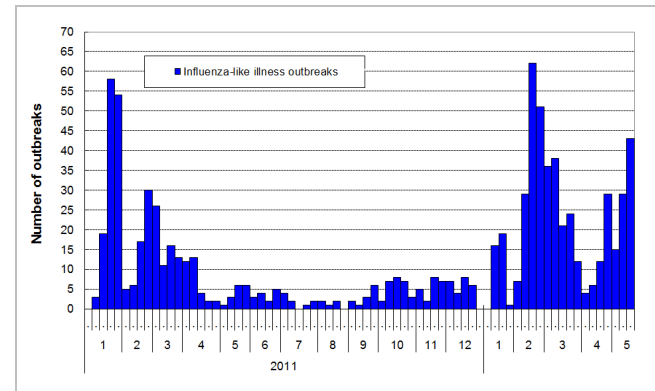


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2011-12

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

In week 20, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments was 224.4 (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.

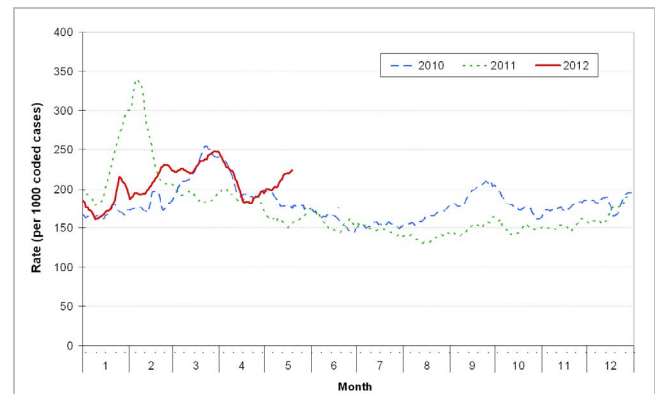


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2010-12

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

In week 20, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 3.00, 0.15 and 2.35 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.

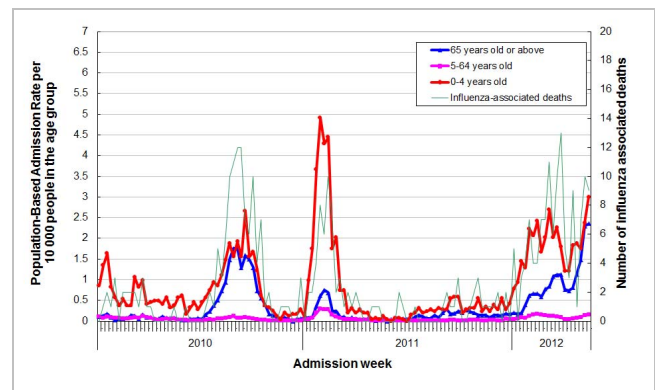


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2010-12

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

In week 20, 1.05% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens had fever (Figure 7).

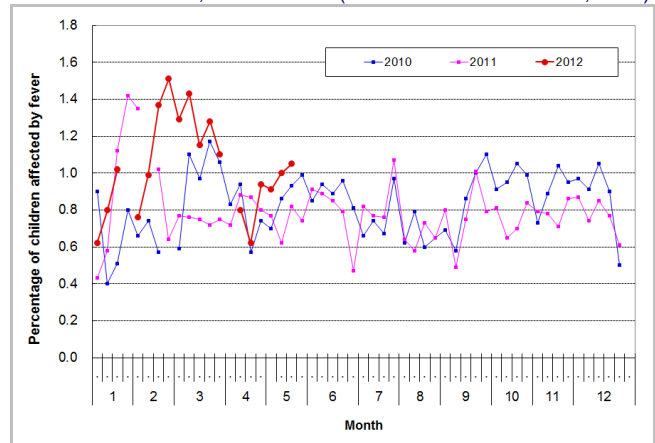


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/KG, 2010-12

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

In week 20, 0.15% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly had fever (Figure 8).

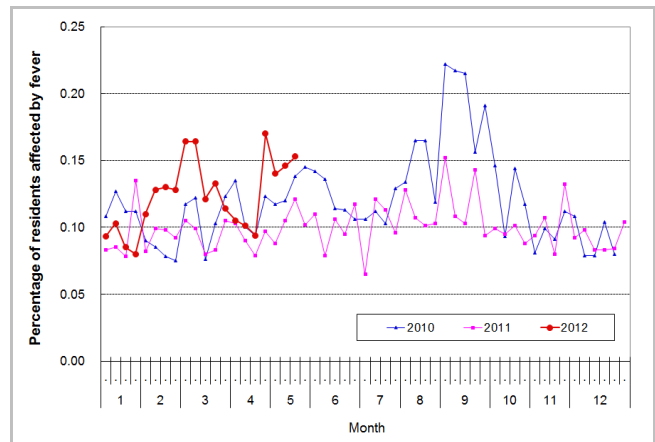


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2010-12

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

In week 20, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners was 1.35 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

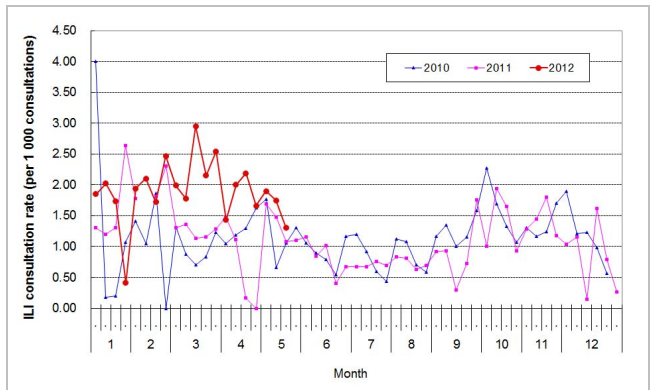


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2010-12

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

- From May 16, 2012, 12:00 noon to May 23, 2012, 12:00 noon, 27 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths were recorded, in which 14 of them were fatal. In addition, two previously reported cases 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 20, one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a girl aged 16 years old who resides at the developmental and disabilities unit of Caritas Medical Centre was reported. She had developed severe pneumonia and is now in stable condition. Her nasopharyngeal aspirate specimen was tested positive for influenza A. In the first 4 days of week 21 (May 20 to 23, 2012), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a boy aged 4 years old who had developed severe pneumonia was reported. He is now in critical condition. 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 20, one case of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection involving a 3-year-old girl who had developed fever was reported. She had recovered. The virus strain detected was sensitive to zanamivir (Relenza). In the first 4 days of week 21 (May 20 to 23, 2012), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 19 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 May 12, 2012), influenza activity declined nationally and in most regions, but remained elevated in some areas.
- In Canada (week ending May 12, 2012), the overall influenza activity continued to decline.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending May 13, 2012), the weekly influenza consultation rates in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland remained low.
- In Europe (as of May 13, 2012), ILI consultation rate is approaching out-of-season level in most countries.
- In Singapore (week ending May 19, 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](#).