

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 Apr 18, 2013)

Reporting period: Apr 7 – 13, 2013 (Week 15)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the local influenza activity remained stable as compared with the previous week.
- 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 18, 2013. As of Apr 17, there were 60 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death, in which 25 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 between the age of six months and less than 6 years old as well as elderly people aged 65 years and above are eligible to receive subsidised vaccination from enrolled private doctors participating in the Government's vaccination subsidy schemes starting from Sep 24, 2012.

Influenza-like-illness surveillance among sentinel general outpatient clinics, 2011-13

In week 15, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 3.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

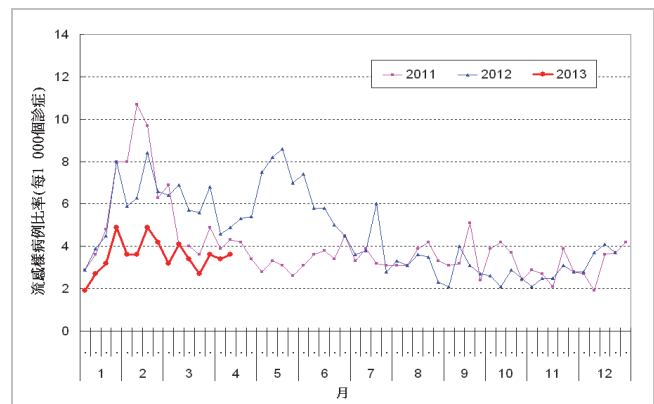


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2011-13

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel private doctors, 2011-13

In week 15, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 36.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

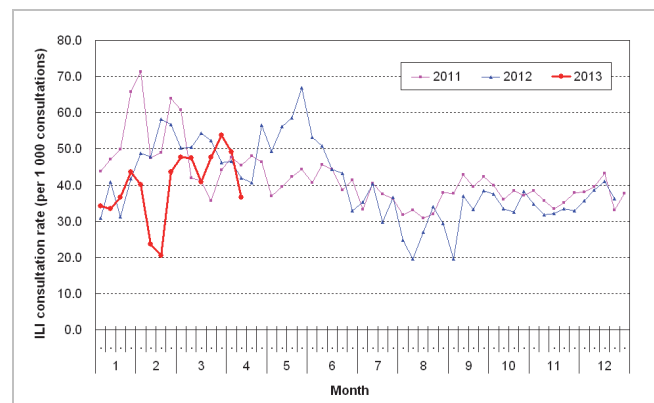


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2011-13

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2012-13

In week 15, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 201, including 150 influenza A (H1N1)2009 viruses, 37 influenza A (H3) viruses and 14 influenza B virus (Figure 3).

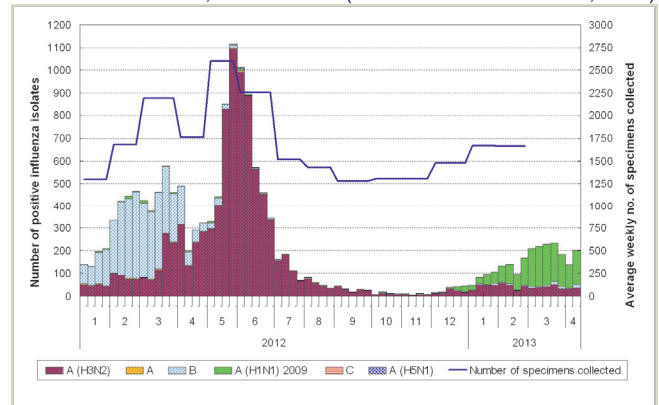


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2012-13

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2012-13

In week 15, 3 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 16 (Apr 14 to 17, 2013), 2 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded.

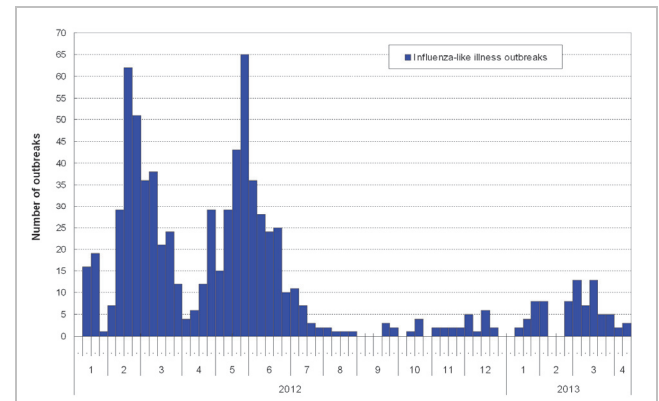


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2012-13

Rate of influenza-like illness syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2011-13[#]

In week 15, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 188.1 (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.

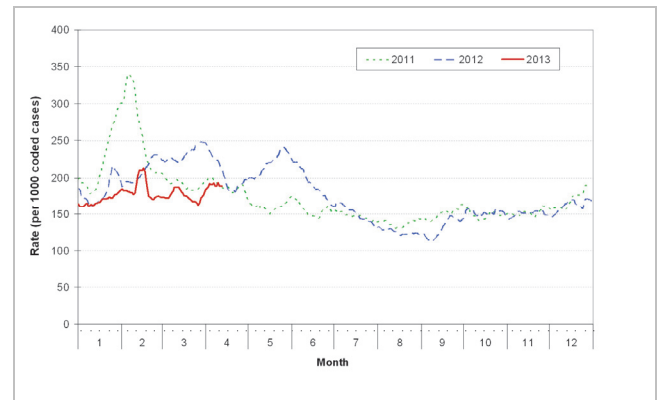


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2011-13

Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths based on discharge coding, 2011-13

In week 15, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.77, 0.04 and 0.17 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 in the figure on the right hand side.

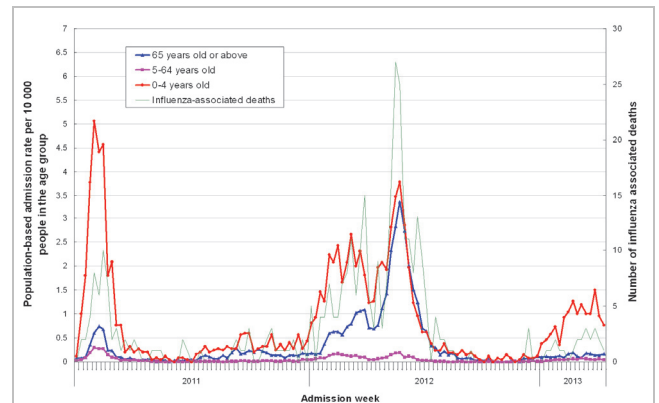


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2011-13

Fever surveillance at sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens, 2011-13

In week 15, 0.53% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 7).

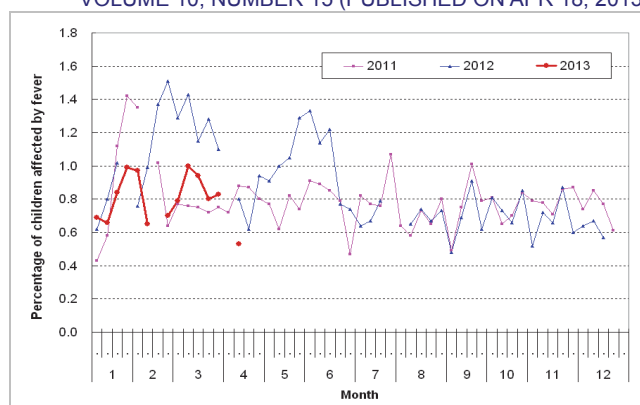


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2011-13

Fever surveillance at sentinel residential care homes for the elderly, 2011-13

In week 15, 0.07% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 8).

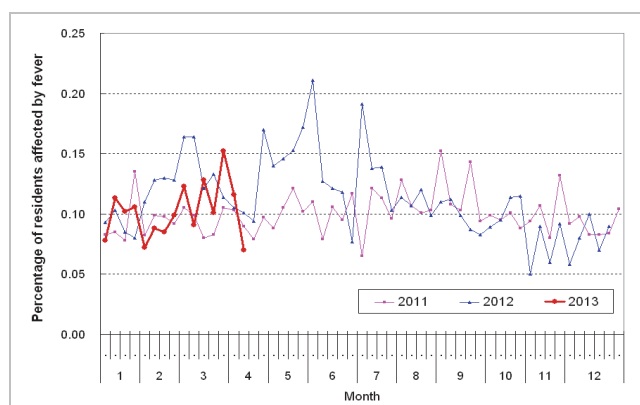


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2011-13

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel Chinese medicine practitioners, 2011-13

In week 15 the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.52 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

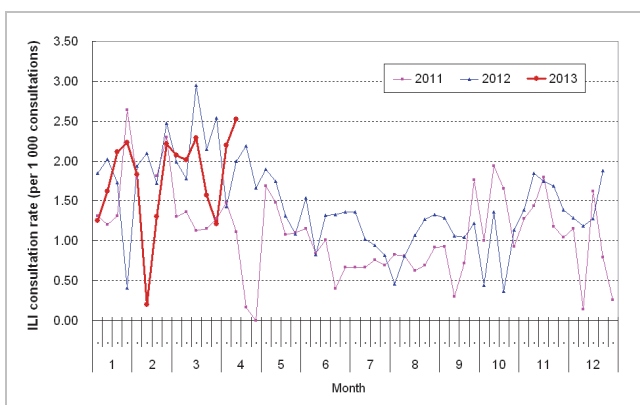


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2011-13

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

- From Apr 10, 2013, 12:00 noon to Apr 17, 2013, 12:00 noon, 4 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death were recorded, in which 2 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 15, there were no new reports of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death. In the first 4 days of week 16 (Apr 14 to 17, 2013), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a 19-month-old girl who had developed encephalitis was reported. She is now in serious condition. Her nasopharyngeal aspirate tested positive for influenza A(H1).

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

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

- In week 15 and the first 4 days of week 16 (Apr 14 to 17, 2013), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 30 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 Apr 6, 2013), the influenza activity decreased.
- In Canada (week ending Apr 6, 2013), the overall influenza activity continued to decline.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Apr 7, 2013), the weekly influenza consultation rate remained low.
- In Europe (week ending Apr 7, 2013), the ILI consultation rate has decreased in most countries of the Region.
- In Singapore (week ending Apr 6, 2013), the number of consultations for acute respiratory infections was below 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](#), [Public Health England](#), [World Health Organization/Europe Euroflu](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).