

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 Dec 10, 2014)

Reporting period: Nov 30 – Dec 6, 2014 (Week 49)

- The overall influenza activity still remained at the baseline level, but some data showed that the influenza activity has increased slightly when compared with past few weeks.
- 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 6, 2014.

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

In week 49, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 2.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

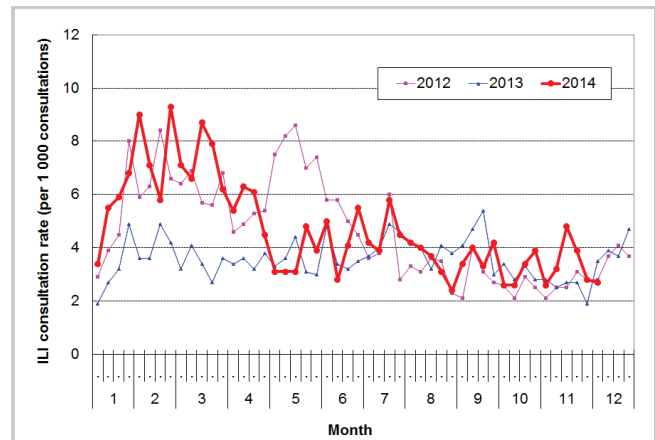


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2012-14

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

In week 49, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 38.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

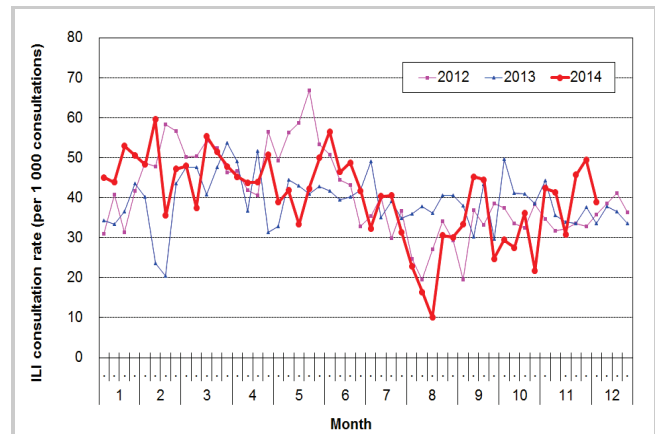


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2012-14

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 49, 36 (1.76%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 29 influenza A(H3), 3 influenza B and 4 influenza C (Figure 3).

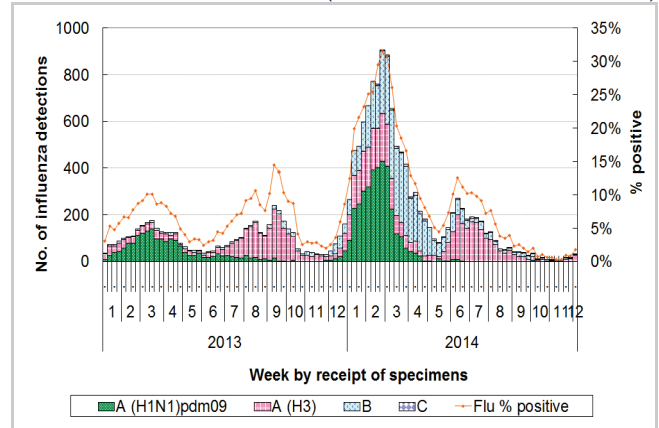


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2013-14

Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 49, 1.42% was influenza A(H3), 0.15% influenza B and 0.20% influenza C (Figure 4).

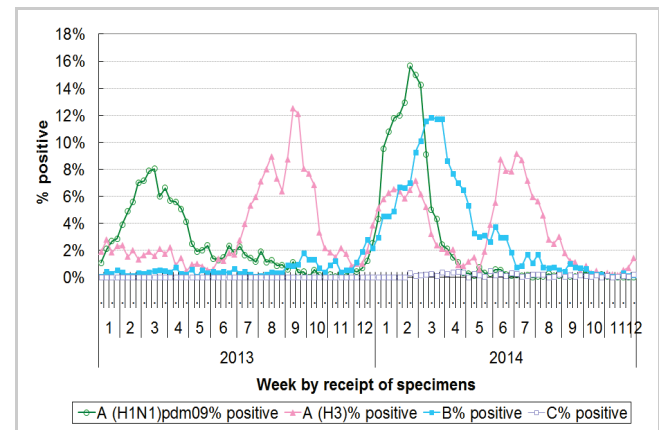


Figure 4 Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2013-14

In week 49, 6 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 50 (Dec 7 to 10, 2014), 5 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 5).

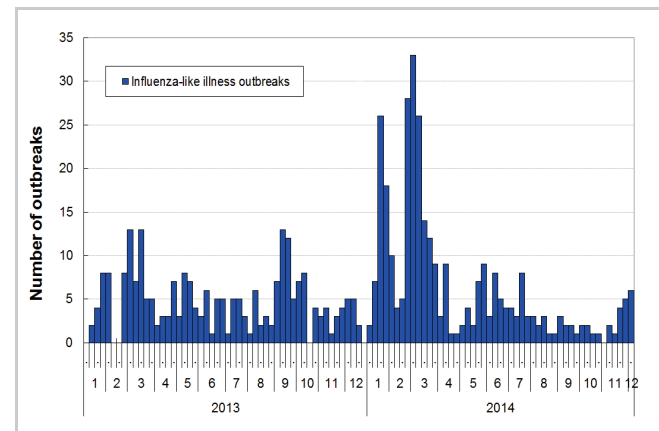


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2013-14

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

In week 49, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 150.7 (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.

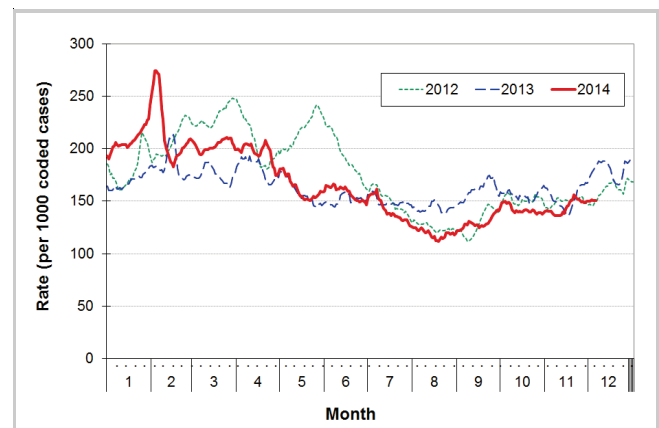


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2012-14

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

In week 49, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.08, 0.002 and 0.07 cases (per 10,000 people in the age group) respectively (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.

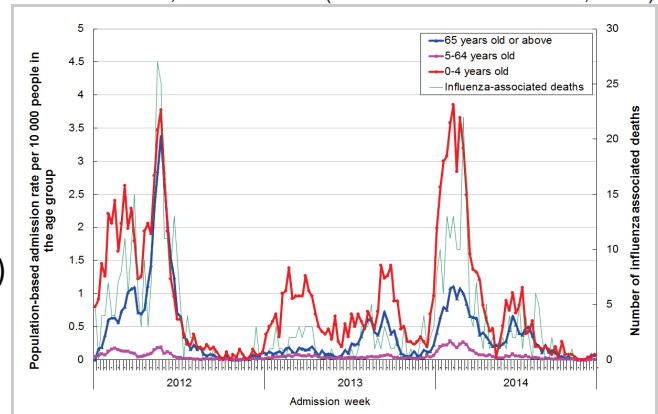


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2012-14

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

In week 49, 0.52% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

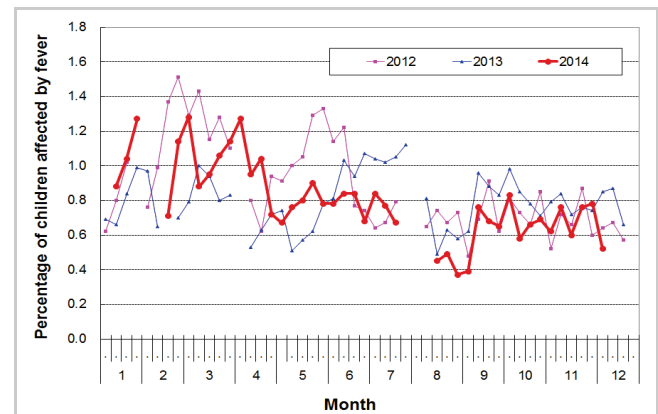


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2012-14

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

In week 49, 0.07% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

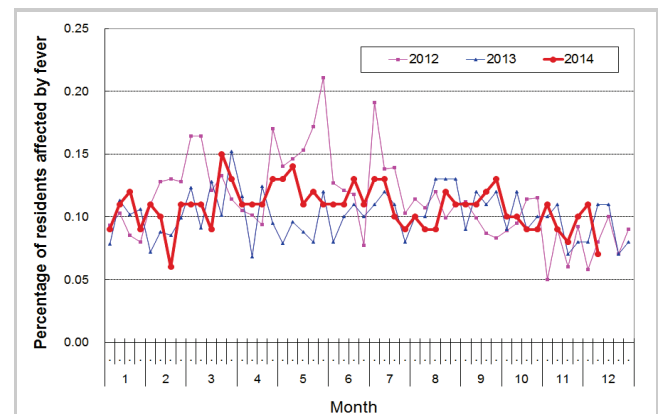


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2012-14

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

In week 49, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 3.87 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

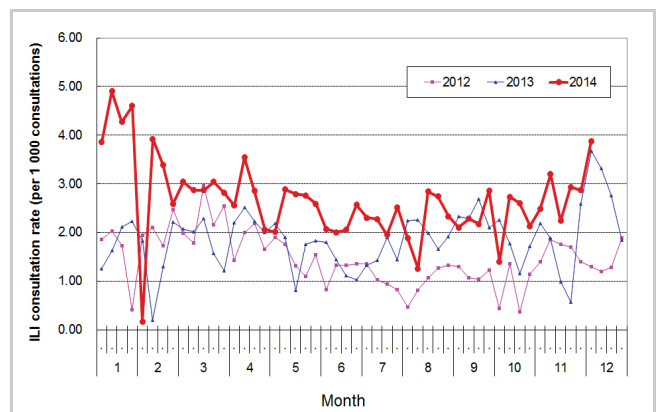


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2012-14

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

- In week 49 and the first 4 days of week 50 (Dec 7 to 10, 2014), there were no new cases of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death.

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

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

- In week 49 and the first 4 days of week 50 (Dec 7 to 10, 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 Nov 29, 2014), the influenza activity increased.
- In Canada (week ending Nov 29, 2014), laboratory detection of influenza sharply increased in past two weeks.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Nov 30, 2014), the weekly influenza consultation rates remained low in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- In Europe (week ending Nov 30, 2014), influenza activity remained low.
- In Singapore (week ending Dec 6, 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](#), [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [Public Health England](#), [Joint European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention-World Health Organization/Flu News Europe](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).