

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 Sep 11, 2013)

Reporting period: Sep 1 – 7, 2013 (Week 36)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the local influenza activity remained stable.
- 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 Jul 26, 2013. As of Sep 11, there were 31 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death, in which 22 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.

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

In week 36, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 4.1 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

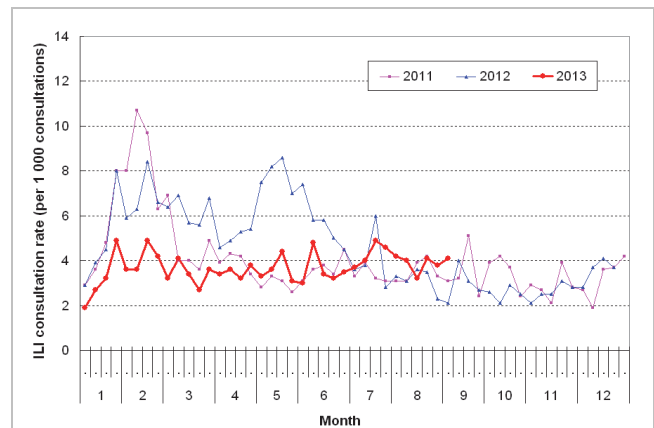


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2011-13

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

In week 36, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 37.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

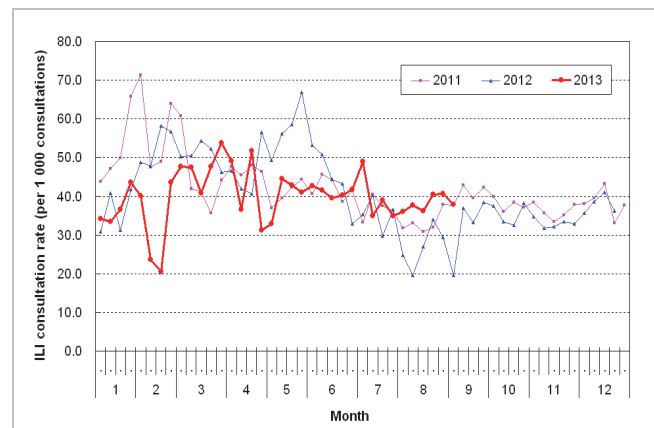


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2011-13

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2012-13

In week 36, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 183, including 161 influenza A (H3) viruses, 12 influenza A (H1N1)2009 viruses and 10 influenza B viruses (Figure 3).

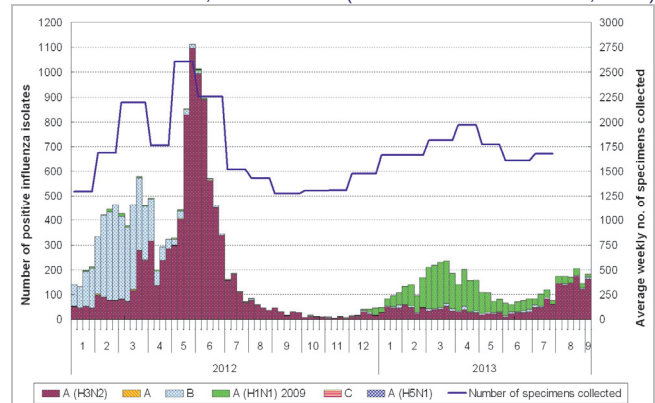


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2012-13

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2012-13

In week 36, 6 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 37 (Sep 8 to 11, 2013), 12 ILI outbreak occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4).

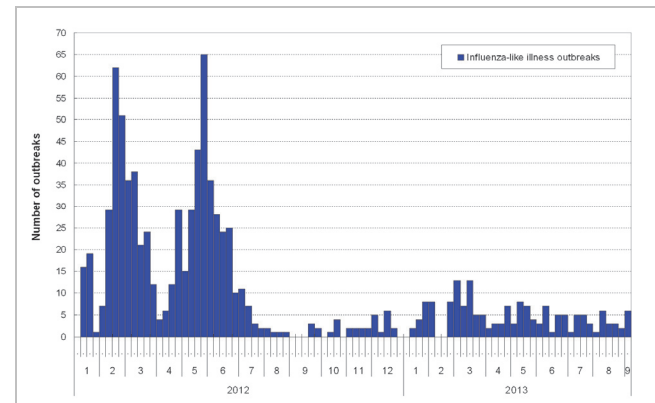


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2012-13

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

In week 36, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 154.7 (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.

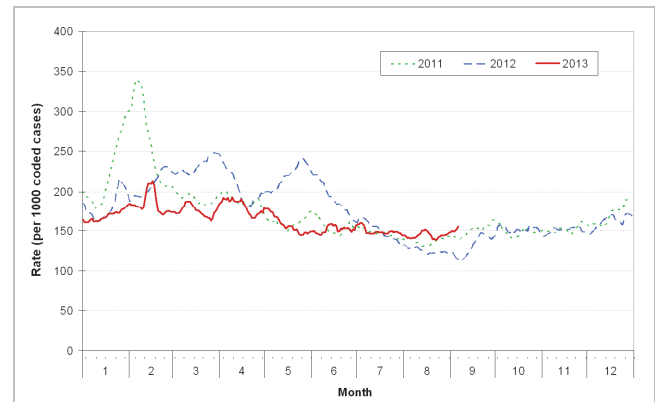


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2011-13

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

In week 36, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 1.23, 0.04 and 0.46 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.

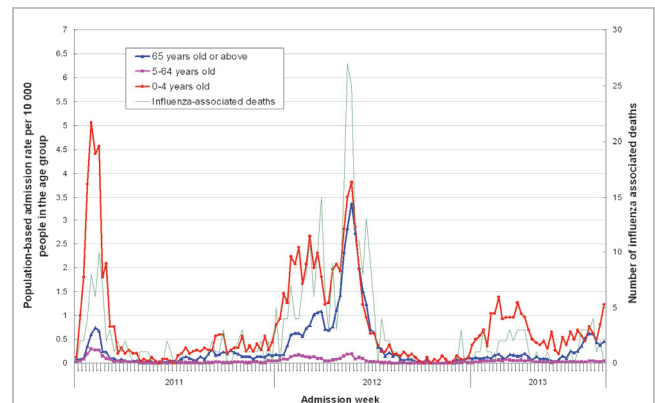


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2011-13

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

In week 36, 0.62% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 7).

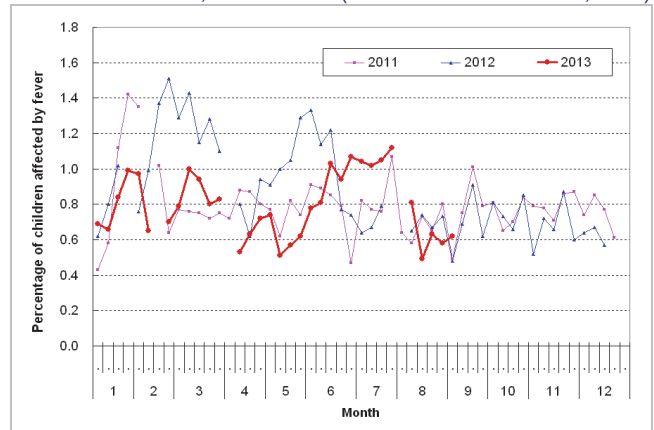


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2011-13

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

In week 36, 0.09% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 8).

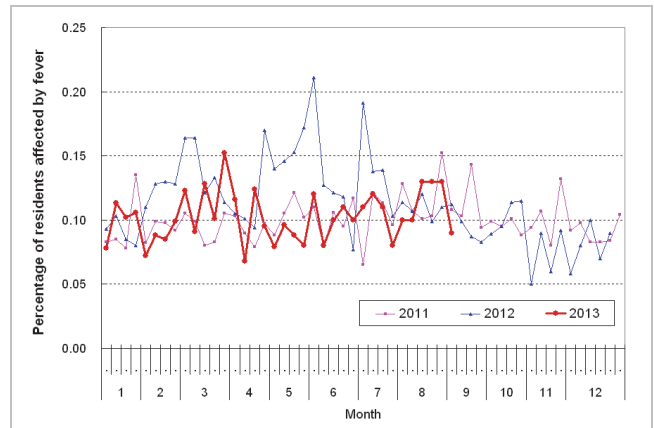


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2011-13

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

In week 36, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.33 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

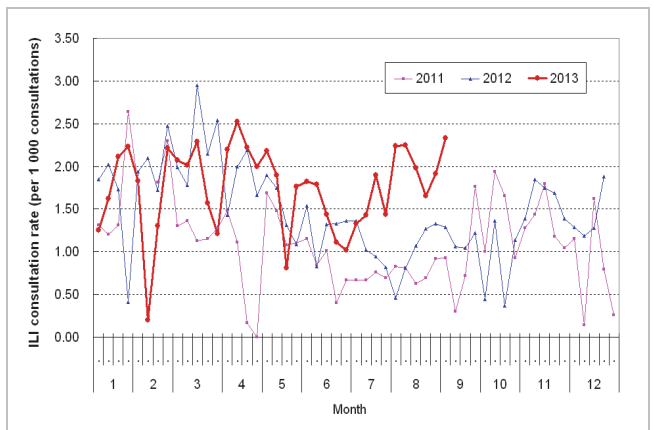


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2011-13

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

- From Sep 4, 2013, 12:00 noon to Sep 11, 2013, 12:00 noon, 5 cases of influenza associated ICU admission 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 36, one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a 2-year-old boy who had developed encephalopathy was reported. He is now in critical condition. His nasopharyngeal aspirate tested positive for influenza A(H3N2) virus. In the first 4 days of week 37 (Sep 8 to 11, 2013), there were no new reports of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death.

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

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

- In week 36 and the first 4 days of week 37 (Sep 8 to 11, 2013), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 35 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 Aug 31, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In New Zealand (week ending Sep 8, 2013), the ILI consultation rate was below the baseline.
- In Australia (week ending Aug 30, 2013), the seasonal increase in influenza activity had slowed. Influenza activity remained relatively low compared to 2011 and 2012.
- In Singapore (week ending Sep 7, 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](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#), [Australia Department of Health and Ageing](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).