

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 31, 2013)

Reporting period: Jul 21 – 27, 2013 (Week 30)

- 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 Jul 31, there were 3 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death, in which 1 of them was 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 30, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 4.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

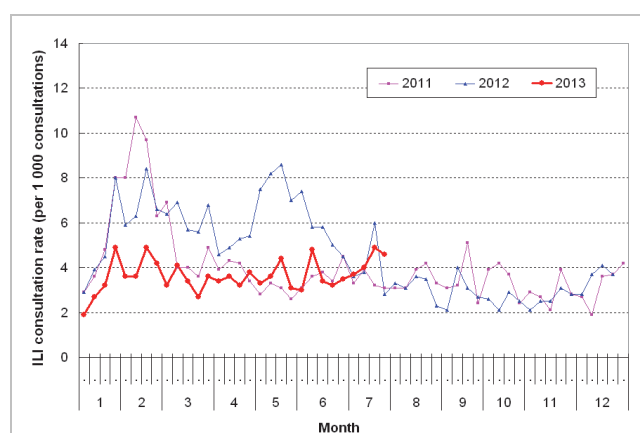


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2011-13

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

In week 30, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 34.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

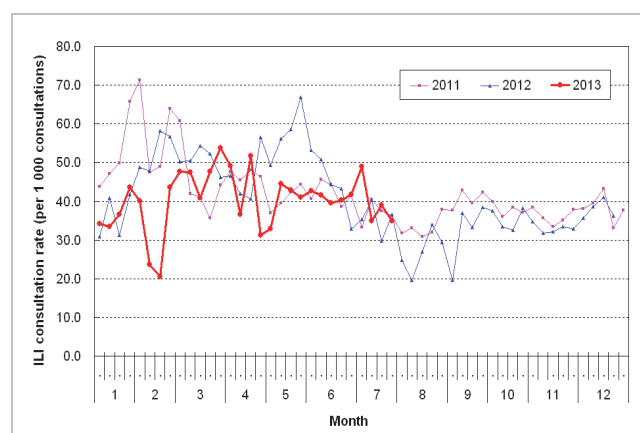


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2011-13

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2012-13

In week 30, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 75, including 59 influenza A (H3) viruses, 14 influenza A (H1N1)2009 viruses and 2 influenza B viruses (Figure 3).

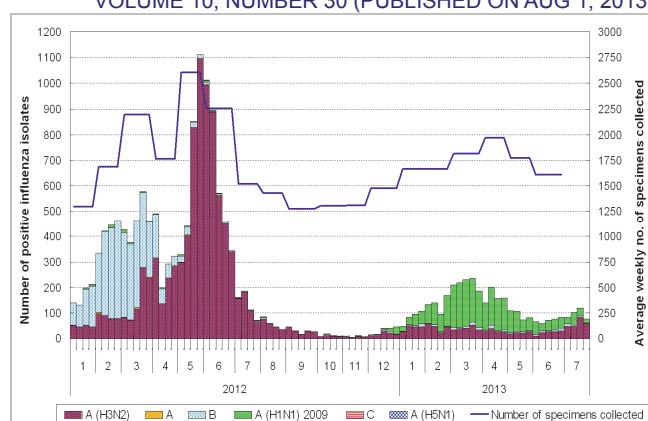


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2012-13

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2012-13

In week 30, 4 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 31 (Jul 28 to 31, 2013), 2 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4).

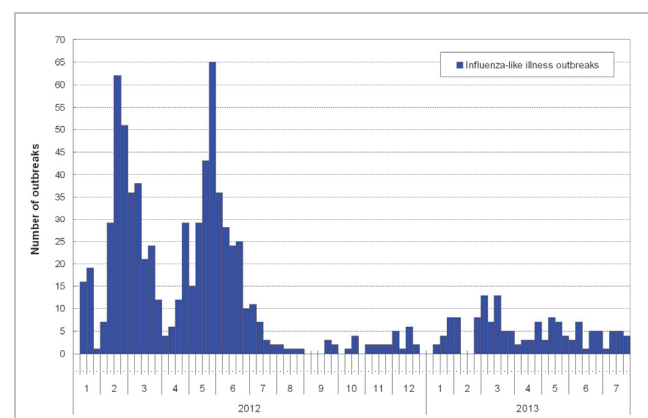


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2012-13

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

In week 30, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 149.5 (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.

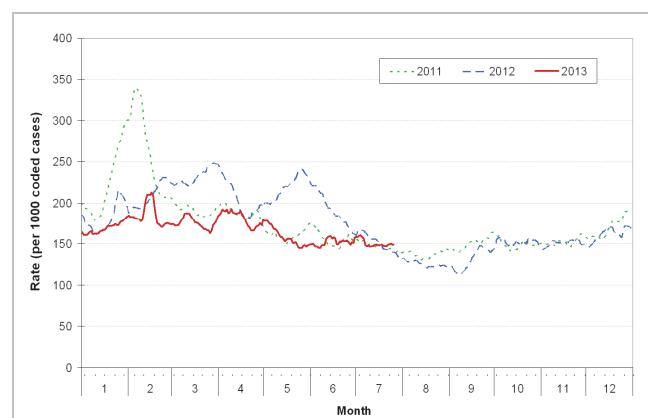


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2011-13

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

In week 30, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.66, 0.03 and 0.30 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.

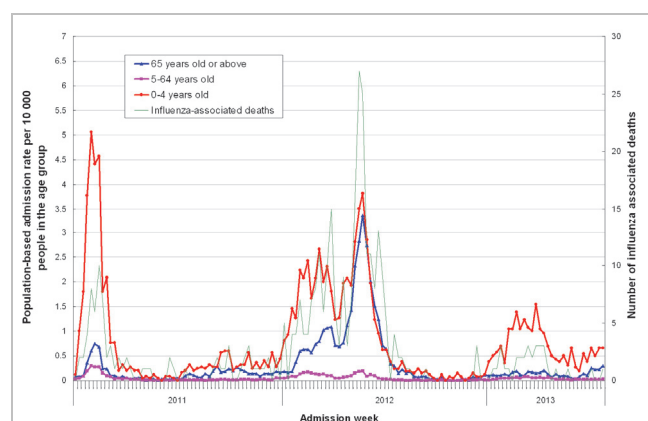


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2011-13

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

In week 30, 1.12% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 7).

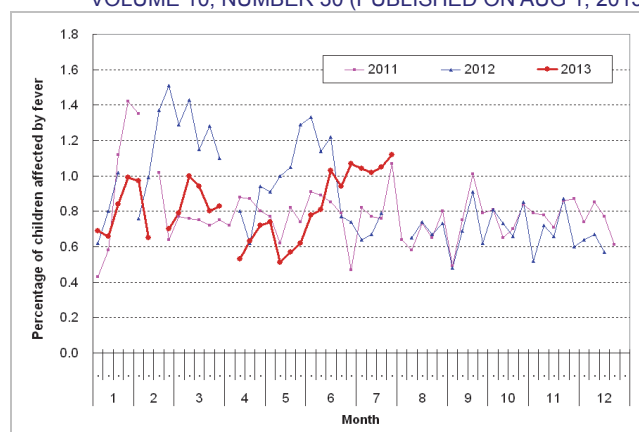


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2011-13

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

In week 30, 0.08% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 8).

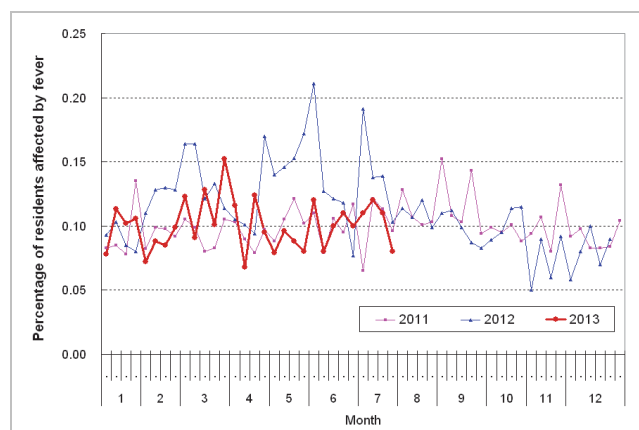


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2011-13

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

In week 30, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 1.44 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

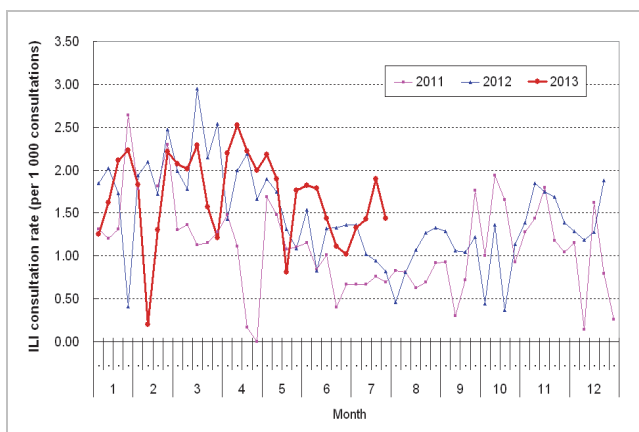


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2011-13

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

- From Jul 26, 2013, 12:00 noon to Jul 31, 2013, 12:00 noon, 3 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death were recorded, in which 1 of them was 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 30, one suspected case of severe paediatric influenza associated complication/death involving a 1-year-old boy was reported. He had developed suspected myocarditis and passed away. Preliminary specimen tests yielded negative results for influenza virus. Further laboratory test results are pending. In the first 4 days of week 31 (Jul 28 to 31, 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 30, one case of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection involving a 74-year-old female was reported. She is now in stable condition. The virus strain detected in this case was sensitive to zanamivir (Relenza). In the first 4 days of week 31 (Jul 28 to 31, 2013), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 33 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 Jul 20, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Jul 21, 2013), the ILI consultation rate remained low.
- In New Zealand (week ending Jul 21, 2013), the ILI consultation rate was below the baseline.
- In Australia (week ending Jul 5, 2013), the influenza activity has started to increase.
- In Singapore (week ending Jul 27, 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](#), [United Kingdom Health Protection Agency](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#), [Australia Department of Health and Ageing](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).