

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 Aug 20, 2014)

Reporting period: Aug 10 – 16, 2014 (Week 33)

- The overall influenza activity has returned to the baseline 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 between Jun 23 to Aug 18. During the enhanced surveillance period, a total of 31 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death were recorded, in which 17 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 (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.

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

In week 33, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 3.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

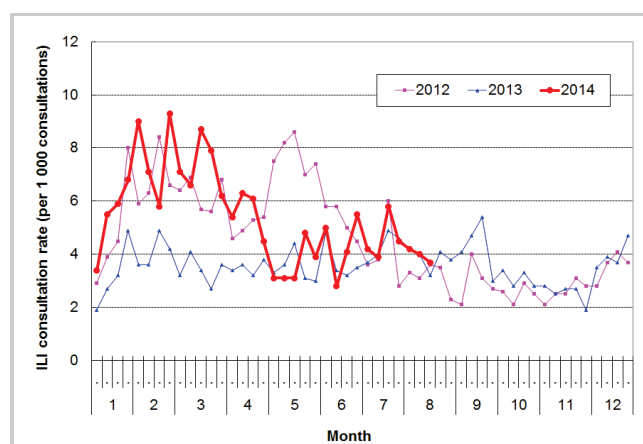


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2012-14

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

In week 33, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 10.0 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

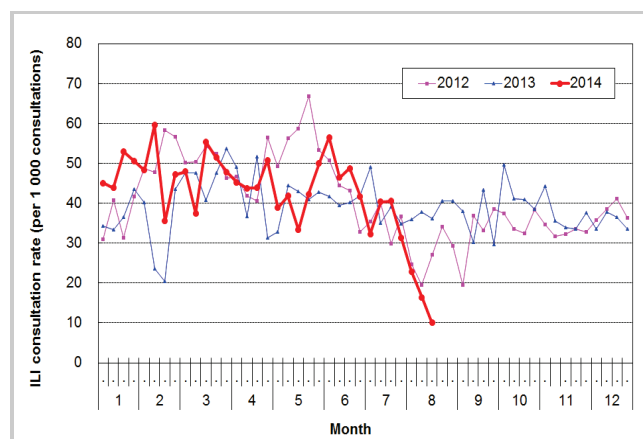


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2012-14

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2013-14

For the respiratory specimens received in week 33, 58 (3.7%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 4 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses, 43 influenza A(H3) viruses and 11 influenza B viruses (Figure 3).

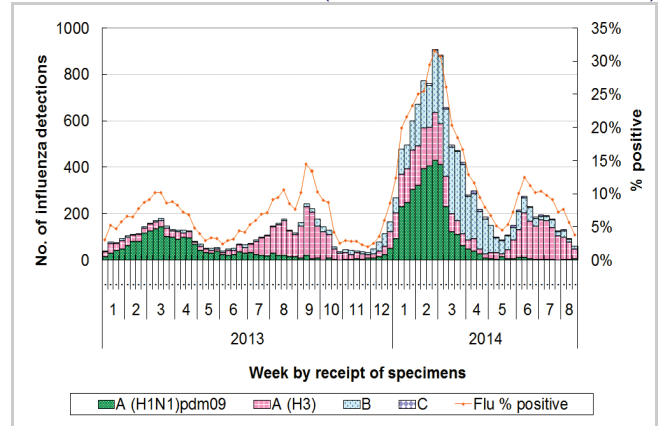


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2013-14

Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 33, 0.2% was influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 2.8% influenza A(H3) and 0.7% influenza B (Figure 4).

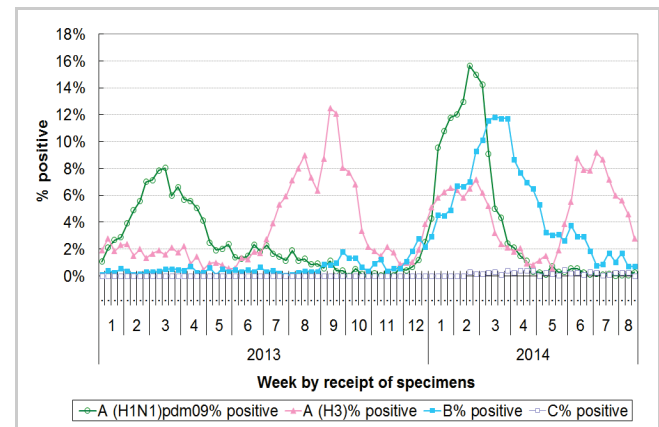


Figure 4 Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2013-14

In week 33, 3 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 34 (Aug 17 to 20, 2014), 1 ILI outbreak occurring in an institution was recorded (Figure 5).

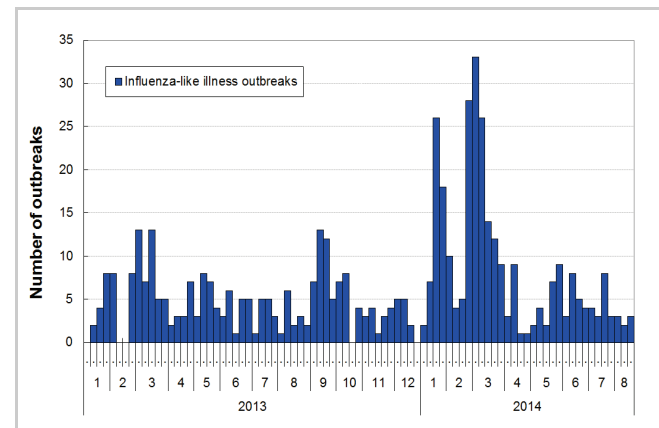


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2013-14

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

In week 33, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 117.1 (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.

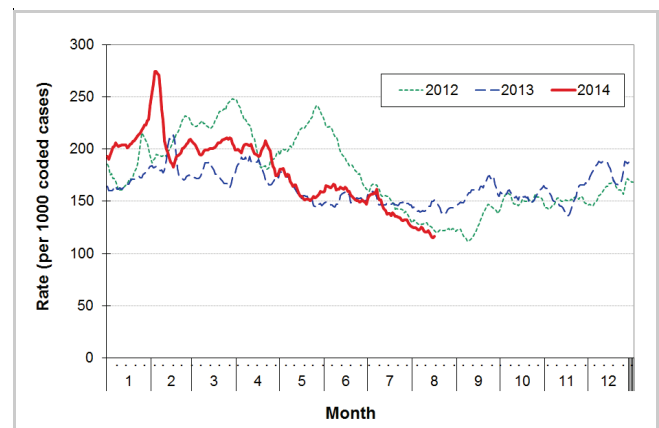


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2012-14

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

In week 33, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.12, 0.01, and 0.08 cases respectively (per 10,000 people in the age group) (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.

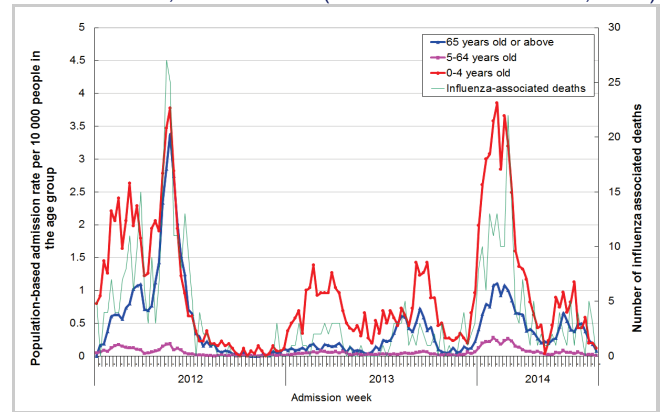


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2012-14

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

In week 33, 0.45% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

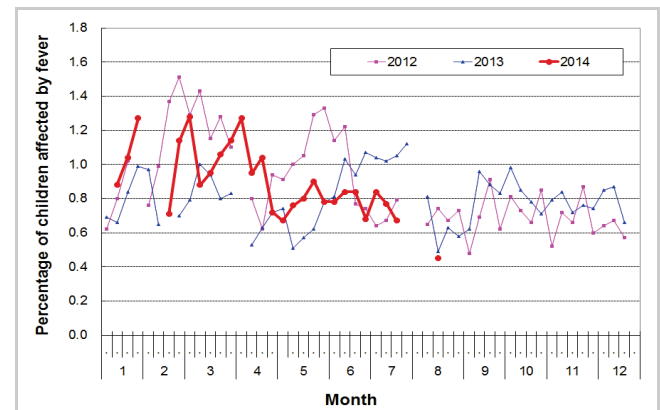


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2012-14

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

In week 33, 0.09% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

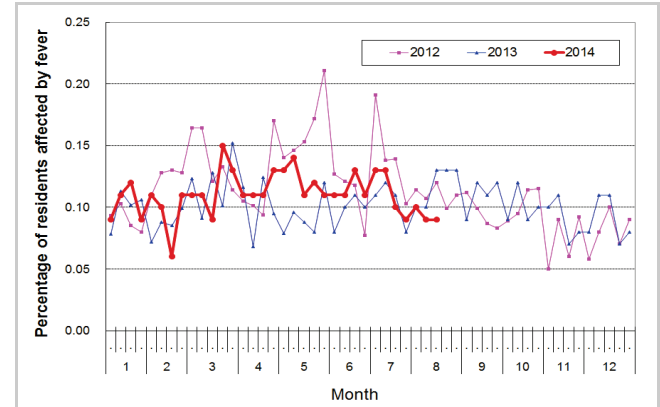


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2012-14

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

In week 33, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.84 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

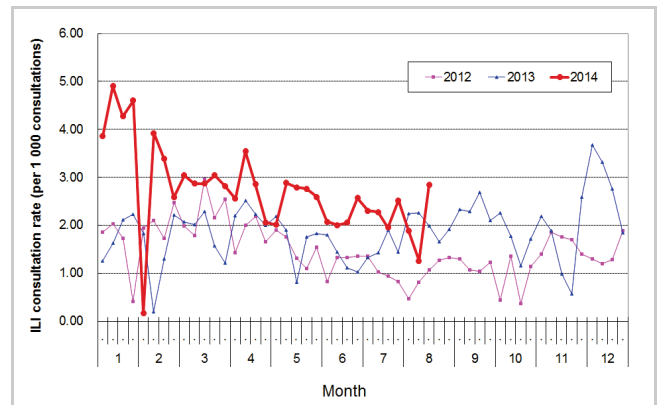


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2012-14

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

- From Aug 13, 2014, 12:00 noon, to Aug 18, 2014, 12:00 noon, one case of influenza associated ICU admissions was recorded.

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 33 and the first 4 days of week 34 (Aug 17 to 20, 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 33 and the first 4 days of week 34 (Aug 17 to 20, 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 Aug 9, 2014), the ILI consultation rate was below the national baseline.
- In Canada (week ending Aug 9, 2014), influenza activity was at inter-seasonal level.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Aug 10, 2014), the weekly influenza consultation rates remained low in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- In New Zealand (week ending Aug 10, 2014), the ILI consultation rate increased and was above the seasonal threshold.
- In Singapore (week ending Aug 16, 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](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).