

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 Jan 12, 2012)

Reporting period: Jan 1 – 7, 2012 (Week 1)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall influenza activity is increasing.

Influenza-like-illness surveillance among sentinel general outpatient clinics, 2010-12

In week 1, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 2.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

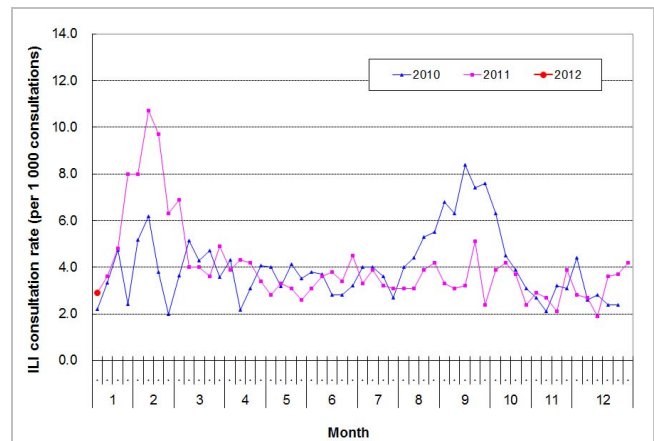


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2010-12

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel private doctors, 2010-12

In week 1, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 30.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

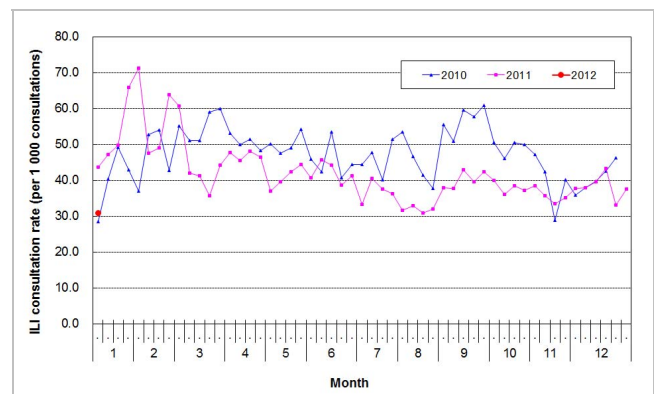


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2010-12

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2011-12

In week 1, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 141, including 87 influenza B viruses, 50 influenza A (H3) viruses, 3 influenza A viruses and 1 influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus (Figure 3).

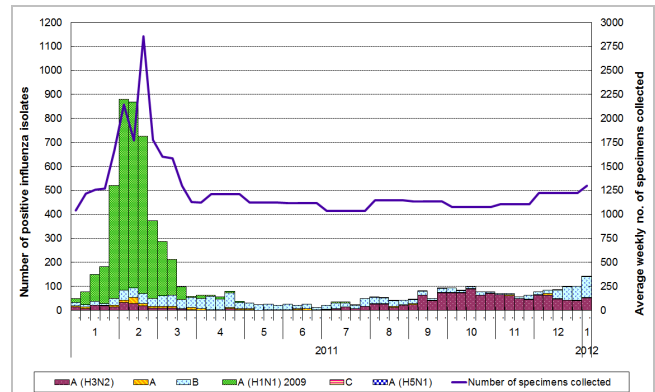


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2011-12

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2011-12

In week 1, no ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/ institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 2 (Jan 8 to 11, 2012), 9 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/ institutions were recorded.

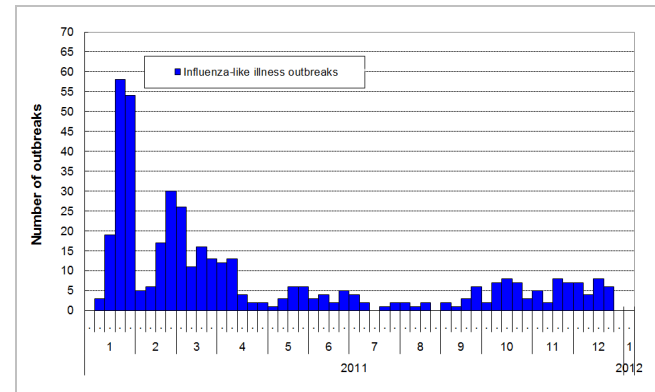


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2011-12

Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths based on discharge coding, 2010-12

In week 1, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.43, 0.03 and 0.15 case respectively (per 10,000 people in the age group) (Figure 5). Weekly number of deaths with any diagnosis of influenza in public hospitals is also shown on the right hand side.

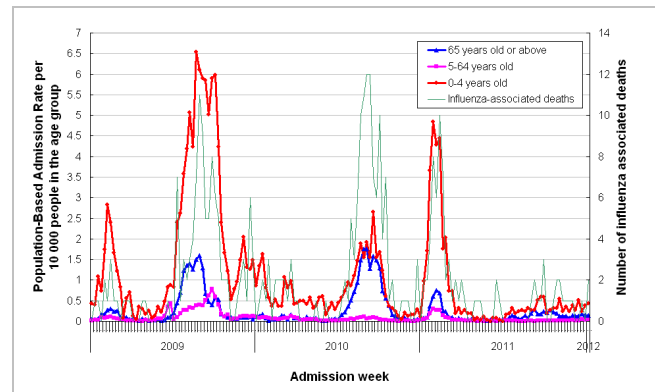


Figure 5 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2010-12

Fever surveillance at sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens, 2010-12

In week 1, 0.62% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens had fever (Figure 6).

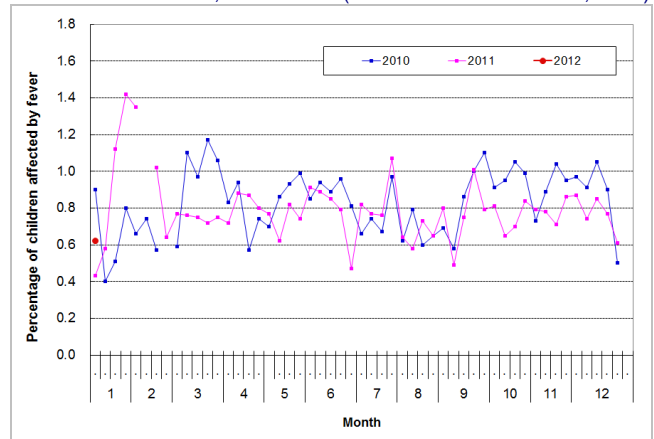


Figure 6 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/KG, 2010-12

Fever surveillance at sentinel residential care homes for the elderly, 2010-12

In week 1, 0.09% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly had fever (Figure 7).

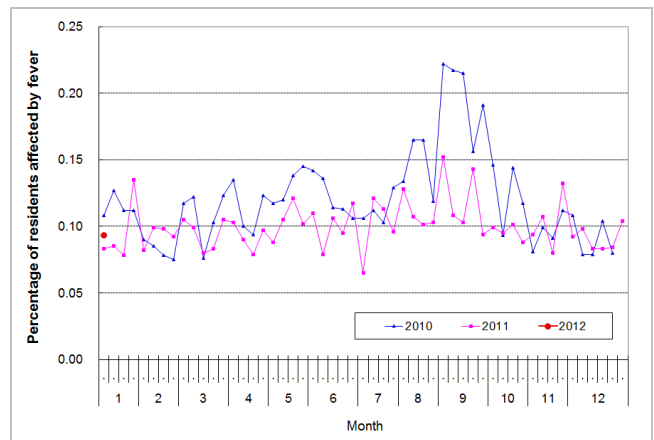


Figure 7 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2010-12

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel Chinese medicine practitioners, 2010-12

In week 1, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners was 1.85 ILI case per 1,000 consultations (Figure 8).

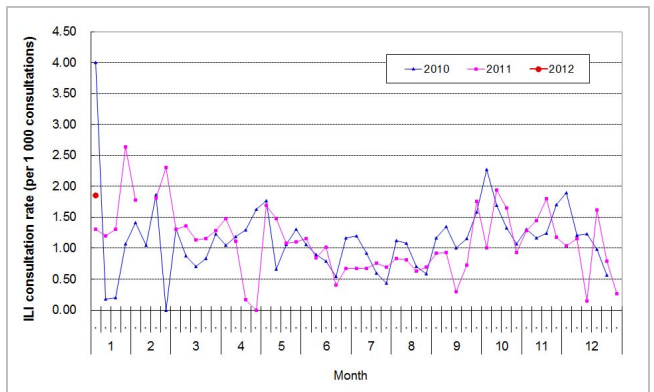


Figure 8 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2010-12

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

- In week 1, there were no new reports of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death. In the first 4 days of week 2 (Jan 8 to 11, 2012), one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication involving a 2-year-old boy was reported. He had developed high fever and convulsion. His nasopharyngeal aspirate specimen was tested positive for influenza B. He is now in stable condition.

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

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

- In week 1 and the first 4 days of week 2 (Jan 8 to 11, 2012), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 16 reports of resistance to Tamiflu in strains of influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus detected in Hong Kong since 2009.

Global Situation of Influenza Activity

- In the United States (week ending Dec 31, 2011), influenza activity increased but remained relatively low.
- In Canada (week ending Dec 31, 2011), the ILI consultation rate increased compared to previous weeks but remained within expected levels for this time of year.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Jan 1, 2012), influenza activity remained low in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- In Europe (week ending Dec 31, 2011), the ILI consultation rate was at low level in the region. However, the percentage of sentinel samples that were influenza positive increased during the previous two weeks, which may indicate the start of the influenza season.
- In Singapore (week ending Dec 31, 2011), 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](#), [United Kingdom Health Protection Agency](#), [World Health Organization/Europe Euroflu](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).