

# 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 Oct 23, 2013)

**Reporting period: Oct 13 – 19, 2013 (Week 42)**

- The latest surveillance data showed that the local influenza activity remained at relatively high 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) since Jul 26, 2013. As of Oct 23, there were 53 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death, in which 35 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, will be subsidised for seasonal influenza vaccination from enrolled private doctors participating in the Government's vaccination subsidy schemes starting from Oct 2, 2013.

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

In week 42, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 3.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

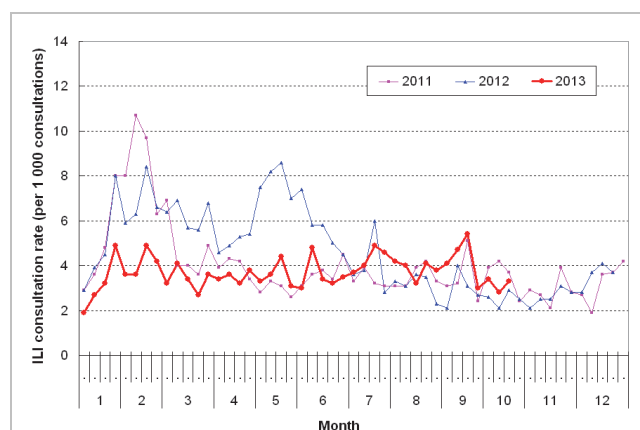


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2011-13

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

In week 42, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 41.0 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

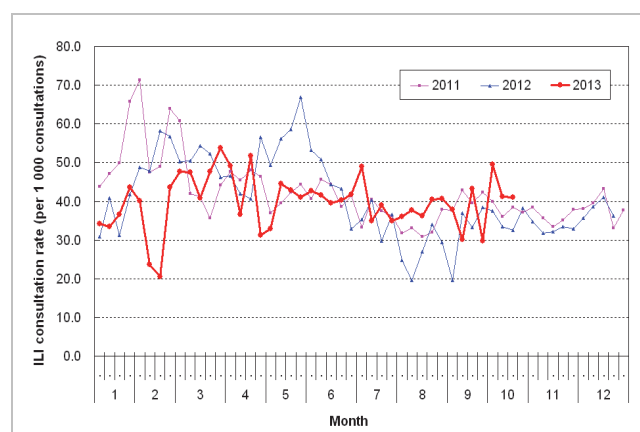


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2011-13

## Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2012-13

In week 42, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch was 156, including 134 influenza A (H3) viruses, 14 influenza B viruses and 8 influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 viruses (Figure 3).

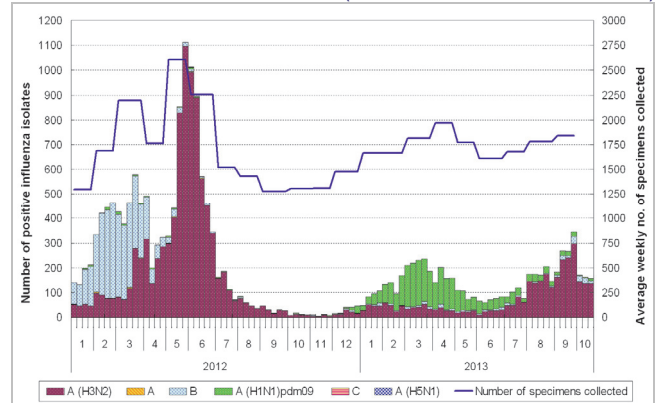


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2012-13

## Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2012-13

In week 42, no ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 43 (Oct 20 to 23, 2013), 5 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4).

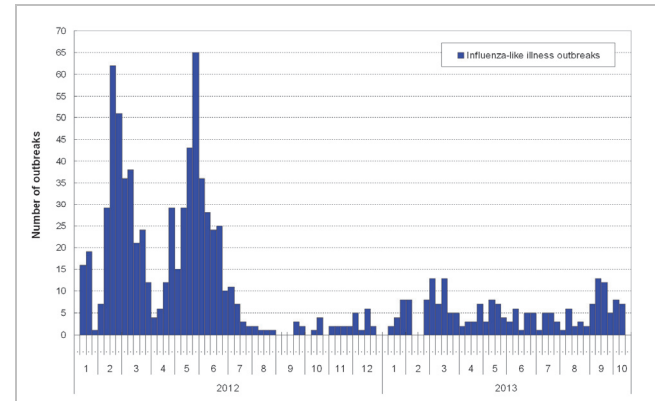


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2012-13

## Rate of influenza-like illness syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2011-13<sup>#</sup>

In week 42, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 151.1 (per 1,000 coded cases) (Figure 5).

<sup>#</sup>Note: The influenza-like illness syndrome group includes codes such as influenza, upper respiratory tract infection, fever, cough, throat pain, and pneumonia.

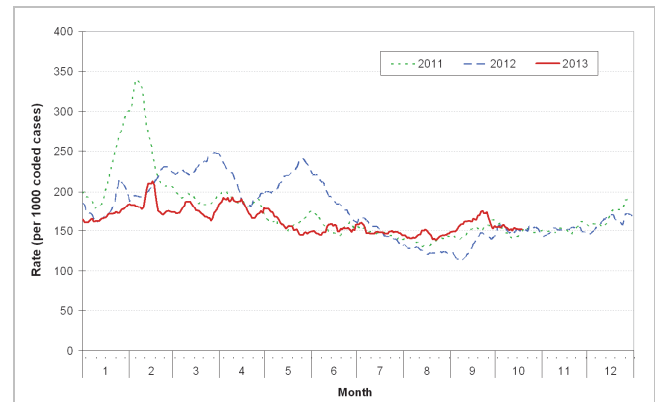


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2011-13

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

In week 42, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.39, 0.02 and 0.08 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.

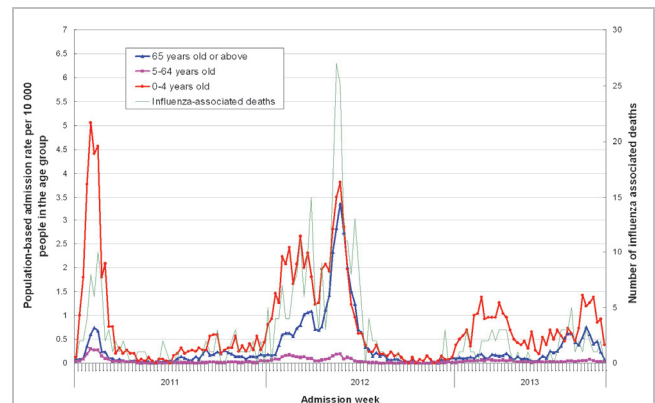


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2011-13

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

In week 42, 0.78% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 7).

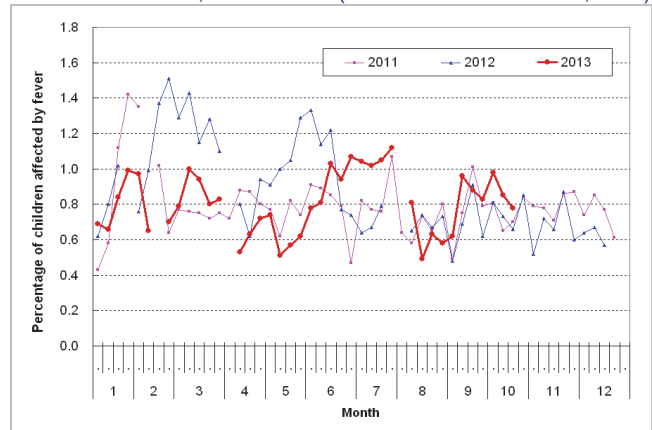


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2011-13

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

In week 42, 0.09% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 8).

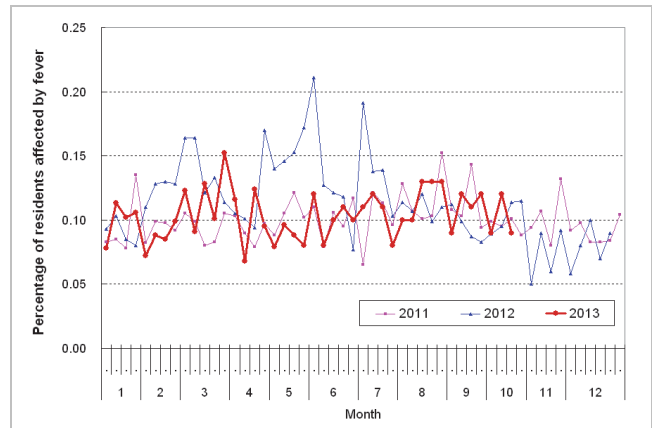


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2011-13

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

In week 42, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 1.15 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

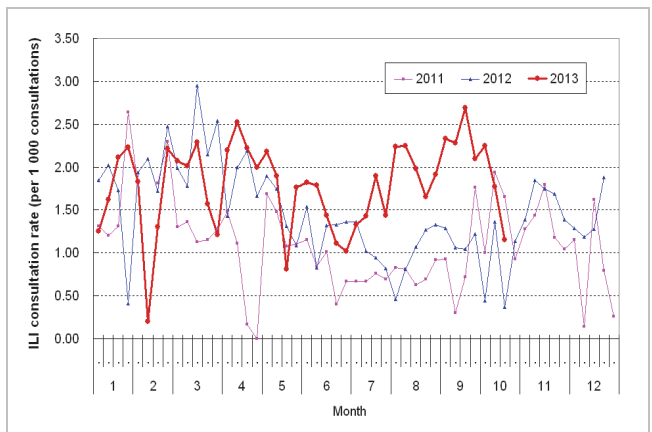


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2011-13

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

- From Oct 16, 2013, 12:00 noon to Oct 23, 2013, 12:00 noon, 2 cases of influenza associated ICU admission/death were recorded. In addition, two previously reported cases who required ICU admission passed away during this reporting period.

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 42 and the first 4 days of week 43 (Oct 20 to 23, 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 42 and the first 4 days of week 43 (Oct 20 to 23, 2013), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus infection. There are totally 37 reports of Tamiflu resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus detected in Hong Kong since 2009.

## **Global Situation of Influenza Activity**

- In the United States (week ending Oct 12, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In Canada (week ending Oct 12, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Oct 13, 2013), the ILI consultation rate remained low.
- In Europe (week ending Oct 13, 2013), the ILI consultation rates were at low levels in all countries in the Region.
- In New Zealand (week ending Oct 13, 2013), the ILI consultation rate was below the baseline.
- In Singapore (week ending Oct 19, 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](#), [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [United Kingdom Health Protection Agency](#), [World Health Organization/Europe Euroflu](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#)