

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 Mar 22, 2012)

Reporting period: Mar 11 – 17, 2012 (Week 11)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall influenza activity has gradually decreased from its peak but remained at 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 Jan 13, 2012. As of Mar 21, there were 76 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths, in which 46 of them were fatal.
- As the winter influenza season is expected to last for a few more weeks, target groups are advised to make use of the last opportunity to receive influenza vaccinations.

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

In week 11, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 5.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

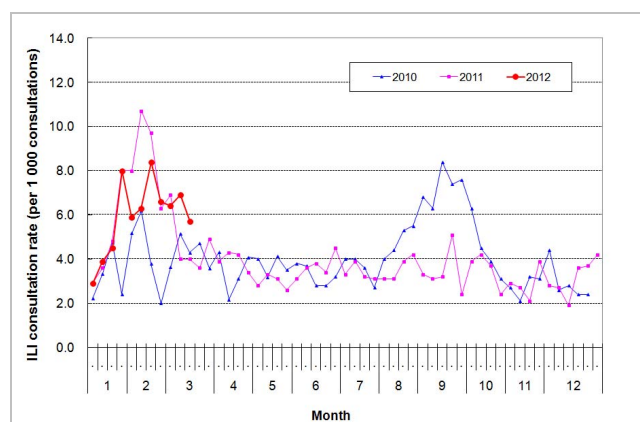


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2010-12

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

In week 11, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 54.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

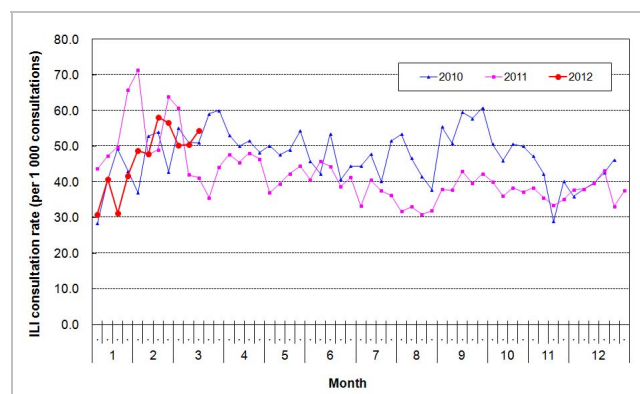


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2010-12

Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2011-12

In week 11, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 464, including 339 influenza B viruses, 117 influenza A (H3) viruses, 4 influenza A(H1N1)2009 viruses and 4 influenza A viruses (Figure 3).

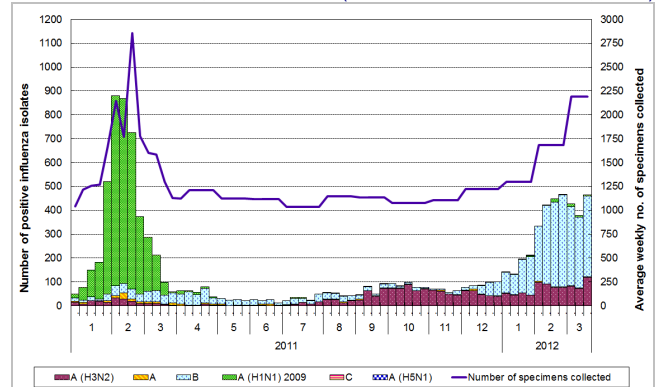


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2011-12

Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2011-12

In week 11, 20 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 12 (Mar 18 to 21, 2012), 17 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/ institutions were recorded.

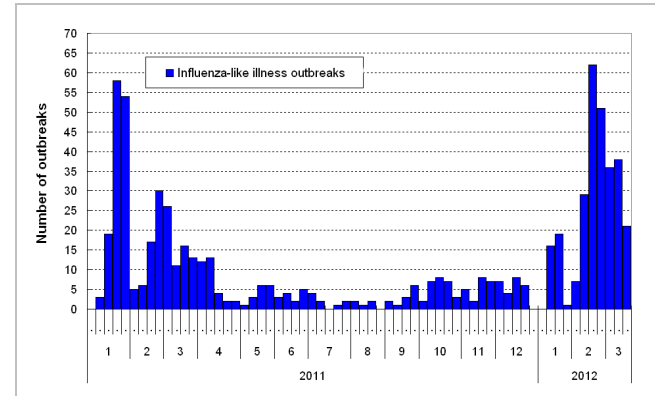


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2011-12

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

In week 11, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 1.72, 0.11 and 0.78 cases 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.

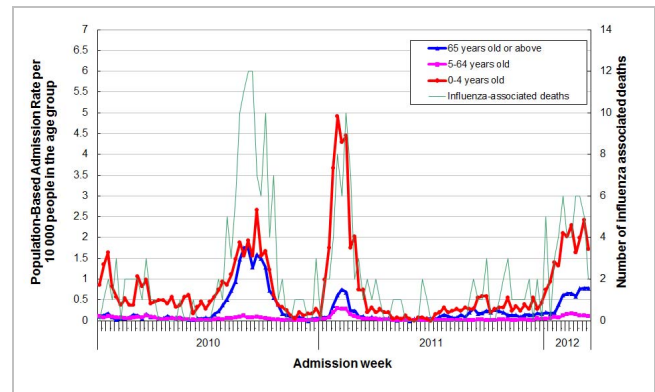


Figure 5 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2010-12

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

In week 11, 1.15% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens had fever (Figure 6).

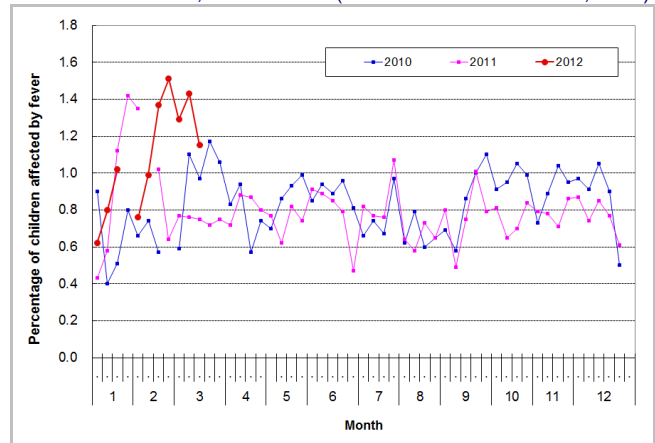


Figure 6 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/KG, 2010-12

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

In week 11, 0.12% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly had fever (Figure 7).

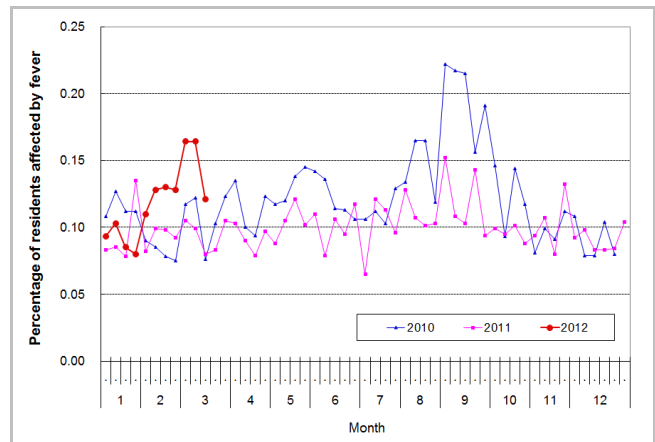


Figure 7 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2010-12

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

In week 11, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners was 2.95 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 8).

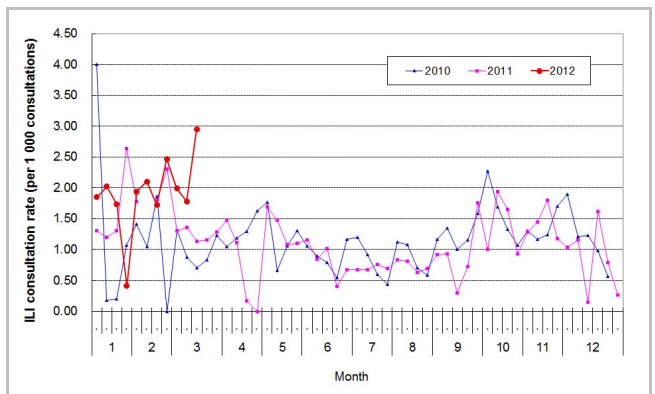


Figure 8 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2010-12

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

- From Mar 14, 2012, 12:00 noon to Mar 21, 2012, 12:00 noon, 9 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths 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 11, one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication and death involving a girl aged 4 years old who had developed haemorrhagic shock and encephalopathy syndrome was reported. Her tracheal aspirate specimen was tested positive for influenza B. In the first 4 days of week 12 (Mar 18 to 21, 2012), 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 11, one case of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection involving a 61-year-old man who had developed severe pneumonia was reported. He had been discharged. The virus strain detected was sensitive to zanamivir (Relenza). In the first 4 days of week 12 (Mar 18 to 21, 2012), there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1N1)2009 virus infection. There are totally 18 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 Mar 10, 2012), influenza activity remained elevated in some areas, but influenza-like-illness continued to be relatively low nationally.
- In Canada (week ending Mar 10, 2012), influenza activity continued to increase this week compared to the previous weeks.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Mar 11, 2012), the weekly influenza consultation rates in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland remained low.
- In Europe (as of Mar 11, 2012), most of the countries reported high or medium intensity of influenza activity, and the ILI consultation rate was increasing in some Baltic and south-eastern European countries.
- In Singapore (week ending Mar 17, 2012), 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/Euroflu](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).