

# 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 2, 2014)

**Reporting period: Jun 22 – 28, 2014 (Week 26)**

- The overall influenza activity has decreased slightly when compared to the previous two weeks but was still higher than that in May. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) will continue to closely monitor the local influenza activity.
- The CHP has collaborated with the Hospital Authority and private hospitals to reactivate the enhanced surveillance of influenza associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions or deaths aged 18 years or above since Jun 23. As of Jul 2, there were 6 cases of influenza associated ICU admission, in which 2 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 26, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 5.5 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

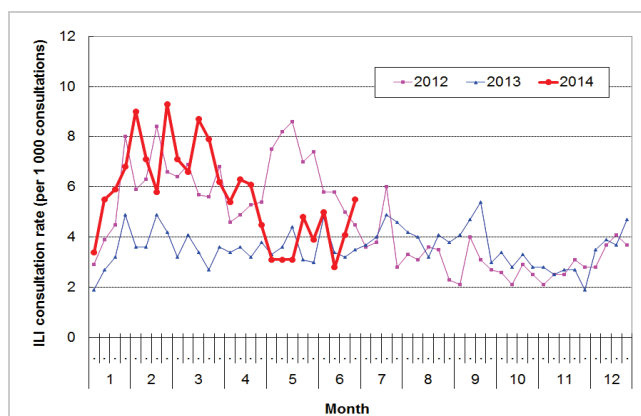


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2012-14

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

In week 26, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 41.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

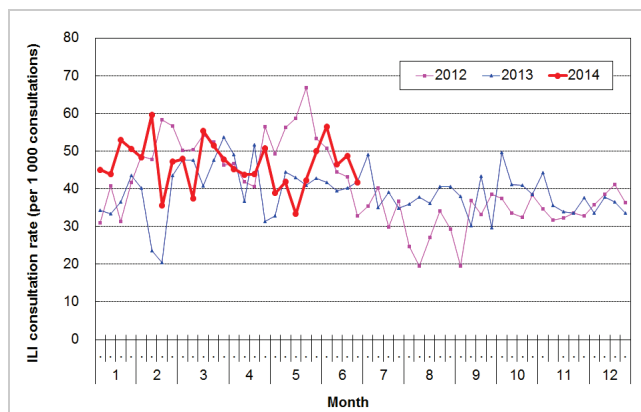


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2012-14

## Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2013-14

For the respiratory specimens received in week 26, 168 (9.2%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 2 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses, 131 influenza A(H3) viruses, 31 influenza B viruses, and 4 influenza C viruses (Figure 3).

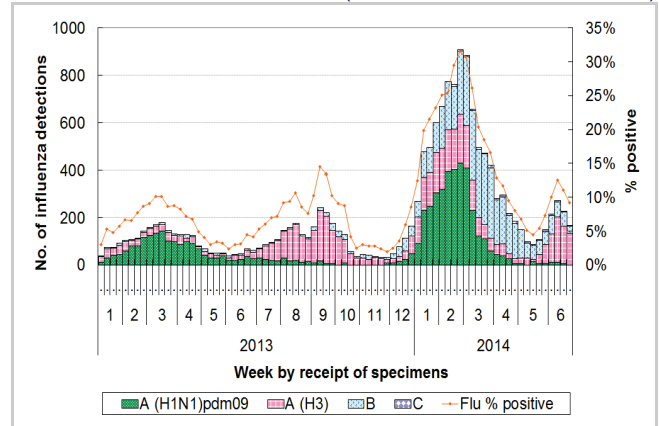


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2013-14

## Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

Among the respiratory specimens received in week 26, 0.1% was influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 7.2% influenza A(H3), 1.7% influenza B, and 0.2% influenza C (Figure 4).

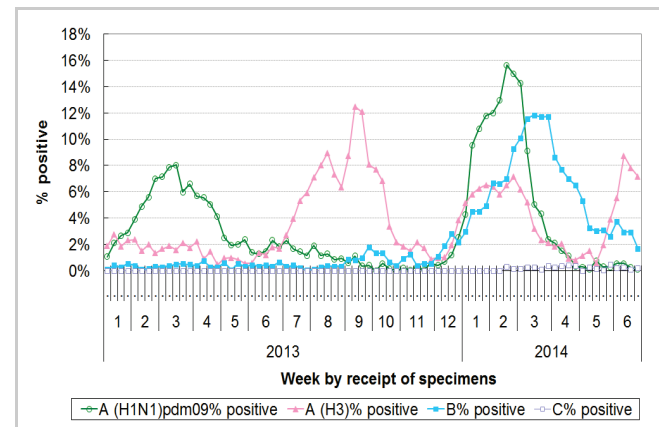


Figure 4 Percentage positive for influenza viruses, 2013-14

## Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2013-14

In week 26, 4 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 27 (Jun 29 to Jul 2, 2014), no ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 5).

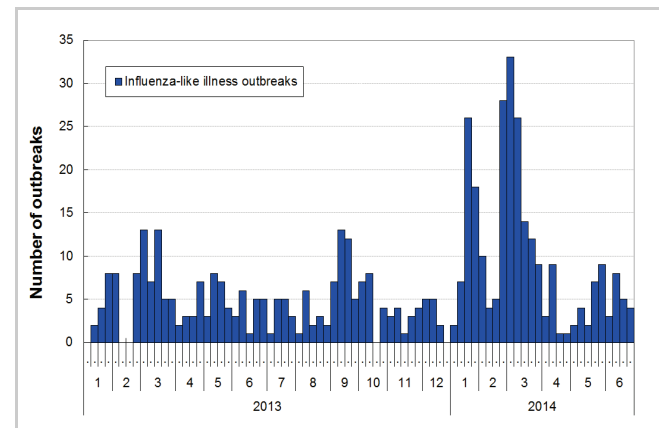


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2013-14

## Rate of influenza-like illness syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2012-14<sup>#</sup>

In week 26, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 150.5 (per 1,000 coded cases) (Figure 6).

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

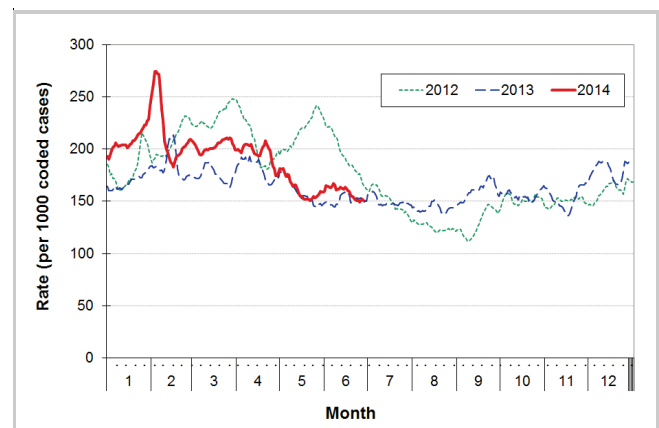


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2012-14

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

In week 26, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.51, 0.05, and 0.29 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.

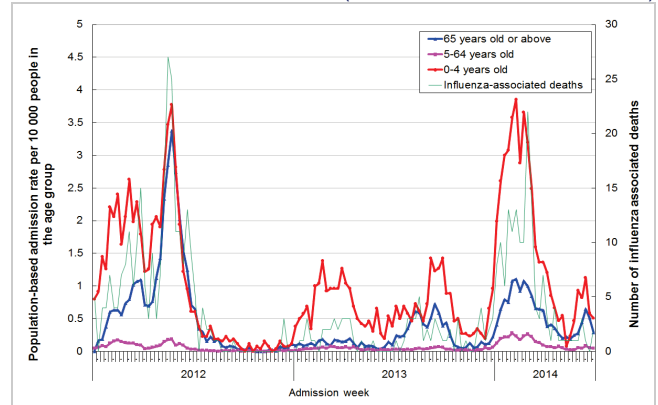


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2012-14

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

In week 26, 0.68% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

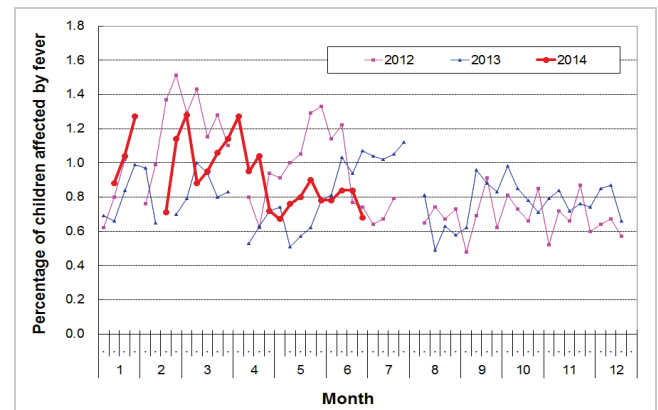


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2012-14

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

In week 26, 0.11% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

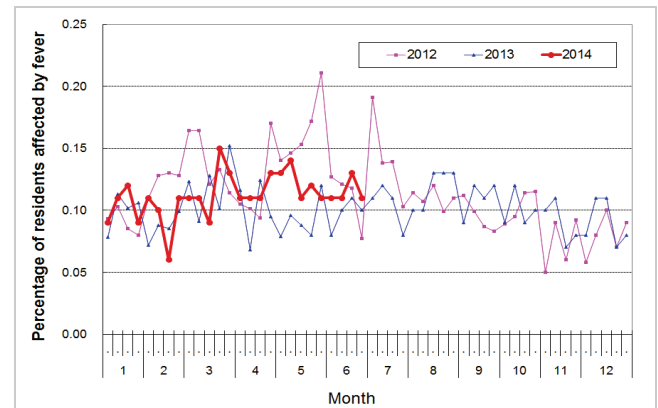


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2012-14

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

In week 26, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.57 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

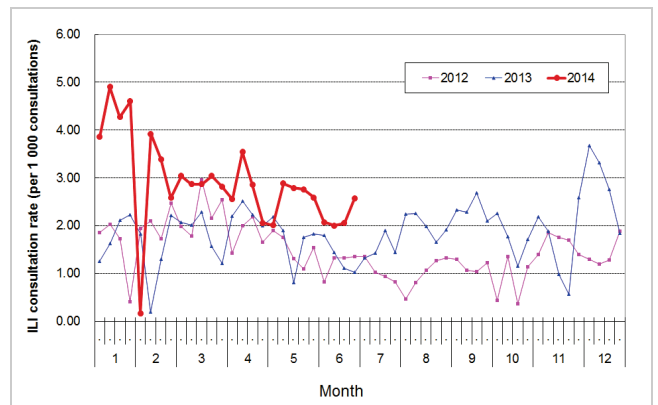


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2012-14

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

- From Jun 25 2014, 12:00 noon, to Jul 2, 2014, 12:00 noon, 4 cases of influenza associated ICU admission/death were recorded, in which one of them was fatal. In addition, one previously reported case 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 26 and the first 4 days of week 27 (Jun 29 to Jul 2, 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 26 and the first 4 days of week 27 (Jun 29 to Jul 2, 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 Jun 21, 2014), ILI consultation rate was below the national baseline.
- In Australia (week ending Jun 20, 2014), the influenza activity has started to increase, although overall activity remained relatively low.
- In New Zealand (week ending Jun 22, 2014), the ILI consultation rate has steadily increased in past few weeks but was still below the seasonal threshold.
- In Singapore (week ending Jun 28, 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](#), [Australia Department of Health](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#), [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).