

# 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 Apr 5, 2012)

**Reporting period: Mar 25 – 31, 2012 (Week 13)**

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall influenza activity 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 Apr 3, there were 106 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths, in which 61 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 13, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 6.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

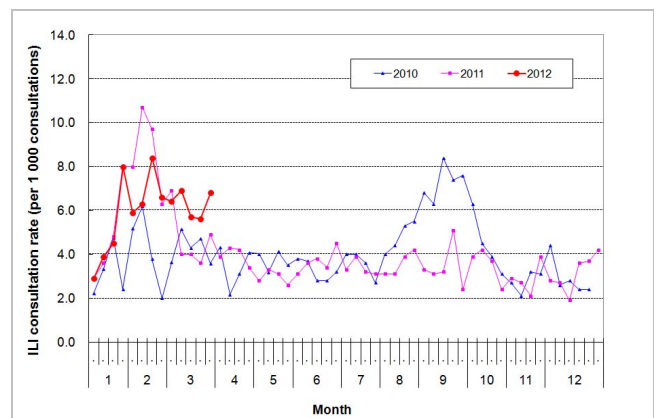


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2010-12

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

In week 13, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 46.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

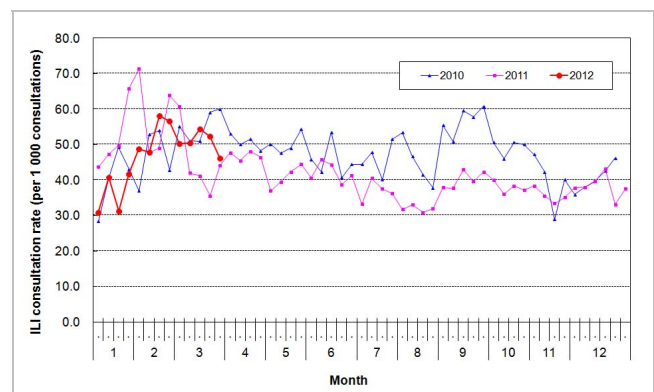


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2010-12

## Influenza virus detections (Laboratory surveillance), 2011-12

In week 13, the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Centre was 460, including 236 influenza A (H3) viruses, 218 influenza B viruses, 3 influenza A(H1N1)2009 viruses and 3 influenza A viruses (Figure 3).

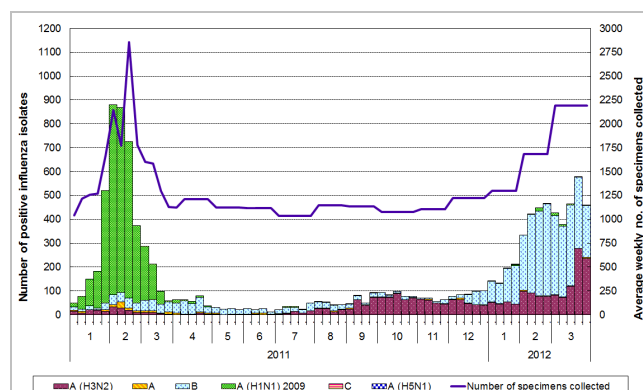


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2011-12

## Influenza-like illness outbreak monitoring, 2011-12

In week 13, 12 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 4). In the first 4 days of week 14 (Apr 1 to 4, 2012), 1 ILI outbreak occurring in an institution was recorded.

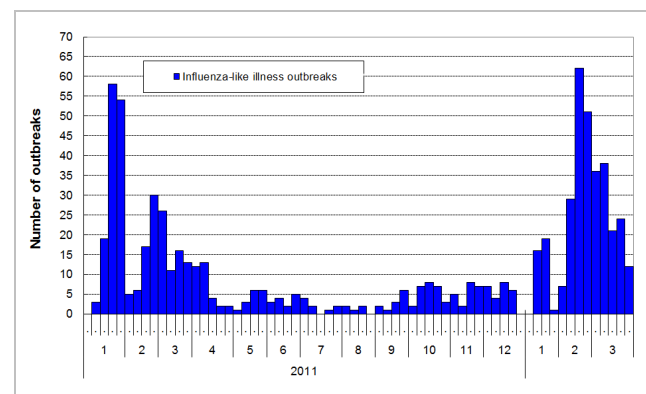


Figure 4 ILI outbreaks, 2011-12

## Rate of influenza-like illness syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2010-12<sup>#</sup>

In week 13, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments was 247.3 (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.

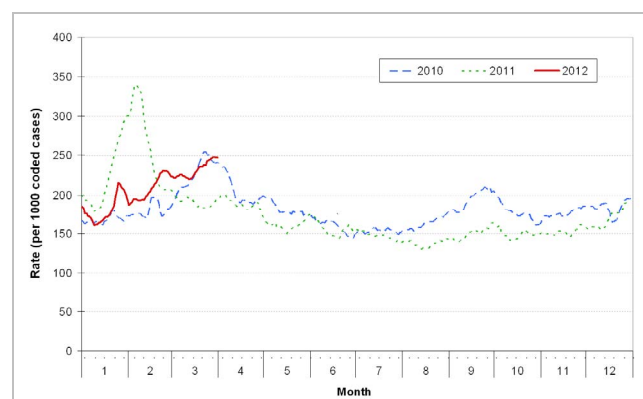


Figure 5 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2010-12

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

In week 13, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 1.48, 0.07 and 0.68 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 on the right hand side.

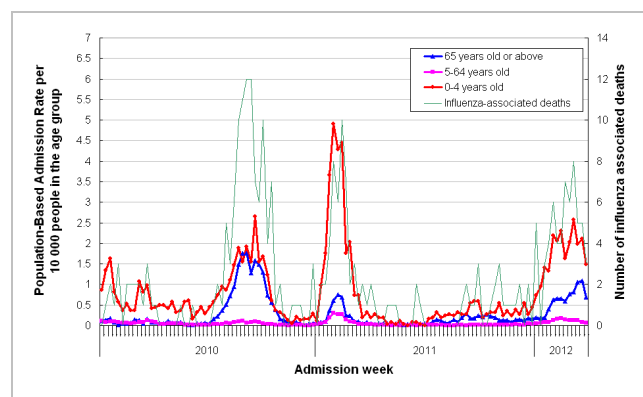


Figure 6 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2010-12

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

In week 13, 1.10% of children in the sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens had fever (Figure 7).

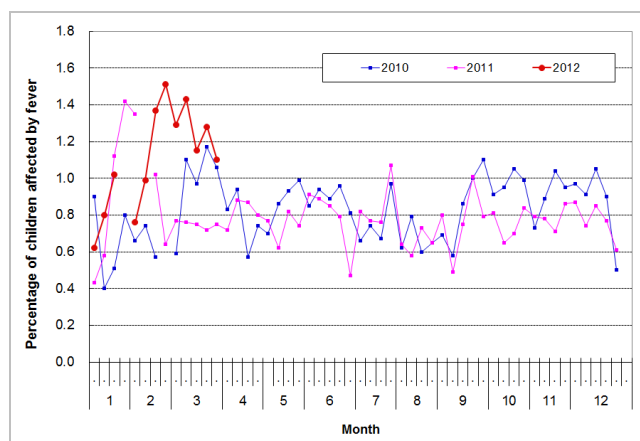


Figure 7 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2010-12

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

In week 13, 0.11% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly had fever (Figure 8).

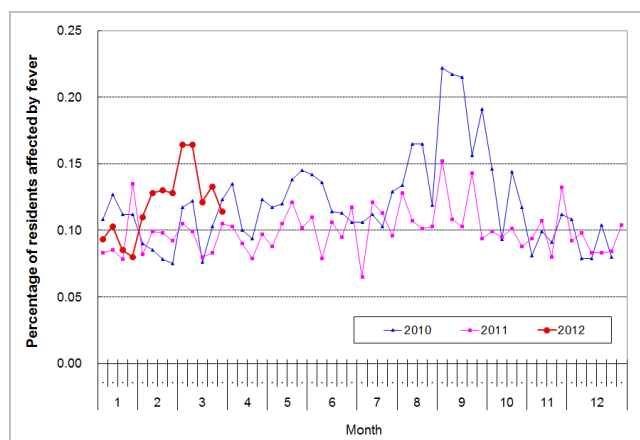


Figure 8 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2010-12

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

In week 13, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners was 2.54 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 9).

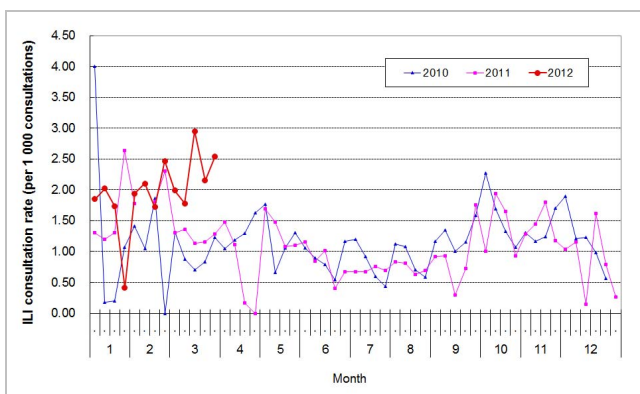


Figure 9 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2010-12

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

- From Mar 28, 2012, 12:00 noon to Apr 3, 2012, 12:00 noon, 12 cases of influenza associated ICU admissions or deaths were recorded, in which 7 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 13, there was one report of severe paediatric influenza-associated death involving a 7 year-old girl who had developed encephalitis. The case was notified on Feb 5. Her nasopharyngeal aspirate specimen was tested positive for influenza B. In the first 4 days of week 14 (Apr 1 to 4, 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 13 and the first 4 days of week 14 (Apr 1 to 4, 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 24, 2012), influenza activity was elevated in some areas, but remained relatively low nationally.
- In Canada (week ending Mar 24, 2012), influenza activity continued to increase this week compared to the previous week.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Mar 25, 2012), the weekly influenza consultation rates in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland remained low.
- In Europe (as of Mar 25 2012), most of the countries had decreasing trend of influenza activity, and the majority of them were at low or medium intensity.
- In Singapore (week ending Mar 31, 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/Europe Euroflu](#) and [Singapore Ministry of Health](#).