

# 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 Nov 6, 2013)

**Reporting period: Oct 27 – Nov 2, 2013 (Week 44)**

- The latest surveillance data showed that the local influenza activity had returned to baseline level since it started to increase in late July.
- 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 Nov 1, there were 56 cases of influenza associated ICU admission or death, in which 36 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 44, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPCs) was 2.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 1).

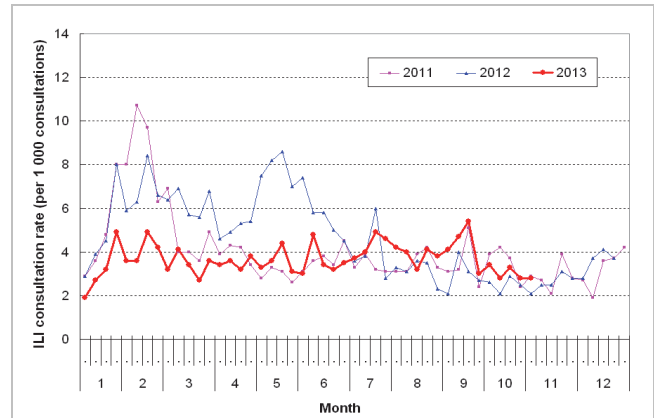


Figure 1 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GOPC, 2011-13

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

In week 44, the average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors was 44.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 2).

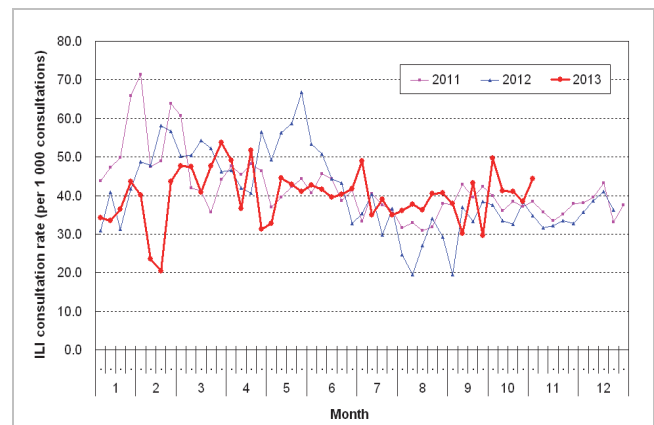


Figure 2 ILI consultation rate at sentinel GP, 2011-13

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

In week 44 (Oct 27 to Nov 2, 2013), the number of influenza viruses detected in the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch was 50, including 40 influenza A(H3) viruses, 8 influenza B viruses and 2 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 (Figure 3).

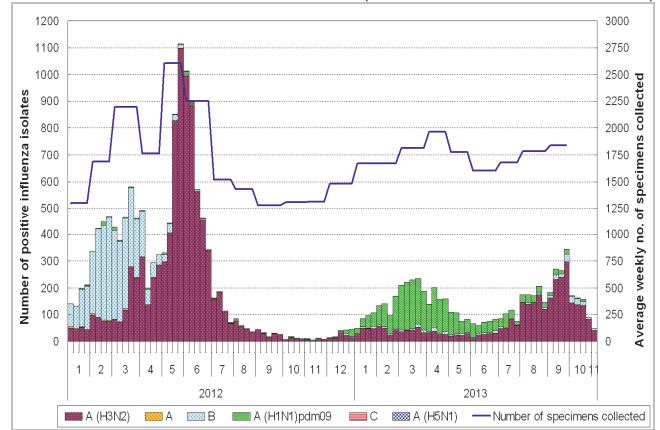


Figure 3 Influenza virus detections, 2012-13

## Percent positive for influenza viruses, 2012-13

For the respiratory specimens received between Oct 21 to 27, 2013, 2.5% were tested positive for influenza viruses, including 2.2% influenza A(H3) and 0.4% influenza B (Figure 4).

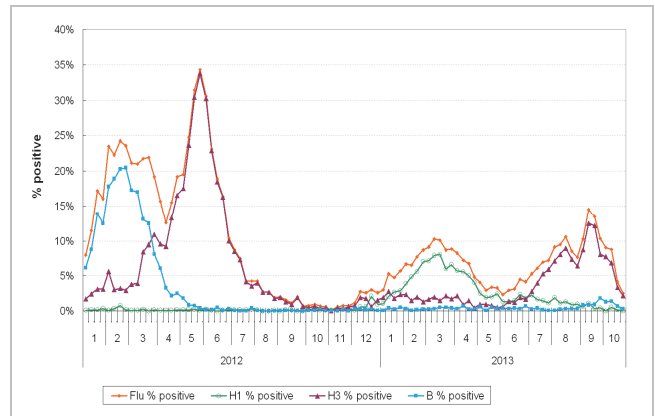


Figure 4 Percent positive for influenza viruses, 2012-13

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

In week 44, 3 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded. In the first 4 days of week 45 (Nov 3 to 6, 2013), no ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (Figure 5).

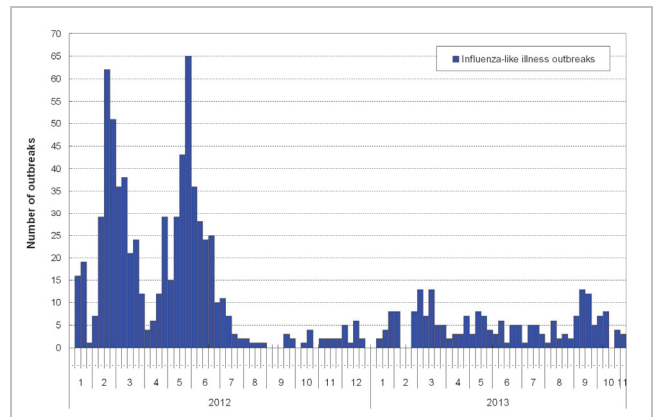


Figure 5 ILI outbreaks, 2012-13

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

In week 44, the rate of the influenza-like illness syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AED) was 158.7 (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.

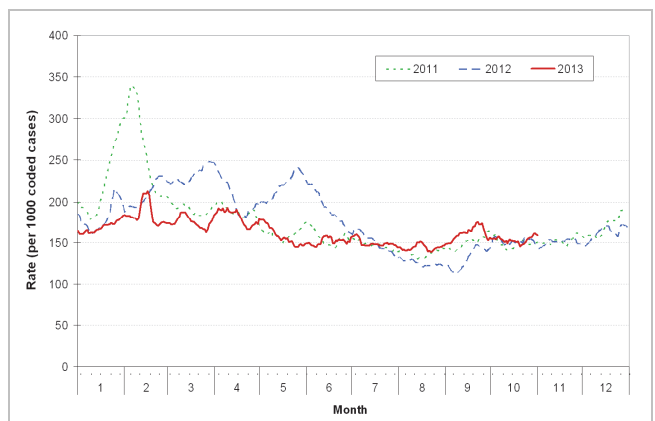


Figure 6 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AED, 2011-13

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

In week 44, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.19, 0.02 and 0.02 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.

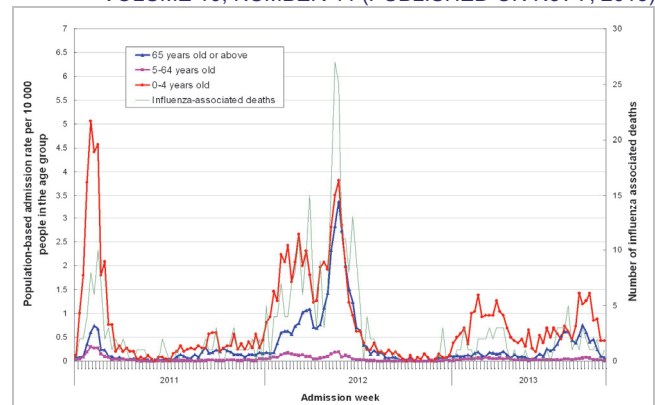


Figure 7 Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths, 2011-13

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

In week 44, 0.79% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCC/ KG) had fever (Figure 8).

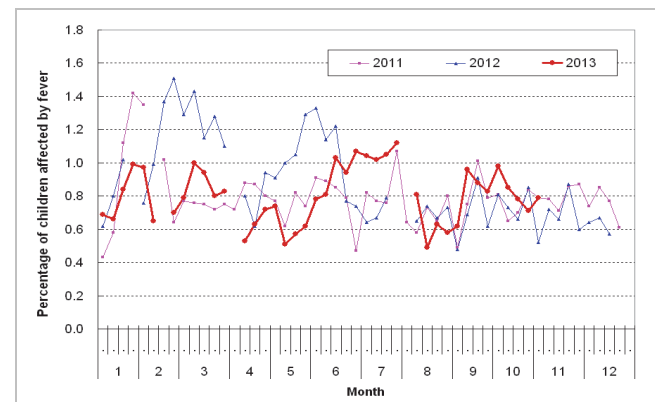


Figure 8 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCC/ KG, 2011-13

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

In week 44, 0.10% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) had fever (Figure 9).

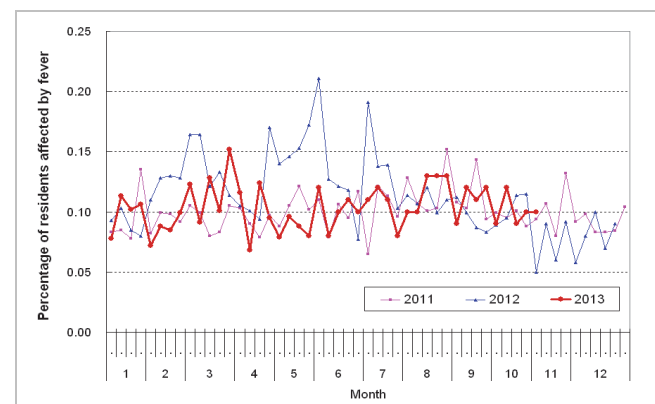


Figure 9 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHE, 2011-13

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

In week 44, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 2.18 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 10).

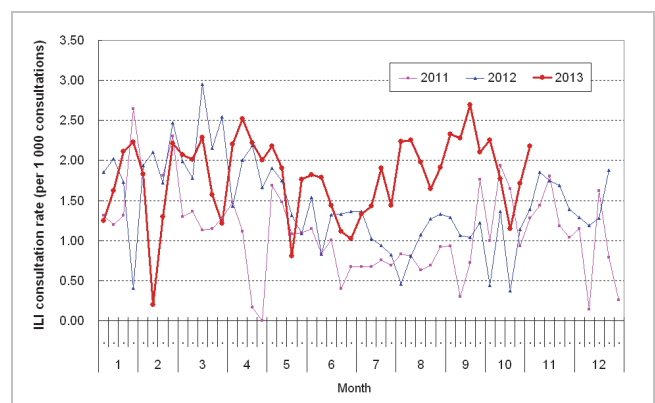


Figure 10 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMP, 2011-13

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

- From Oct 30, 2013, 12:00 noon to Nov 1, 2013, 12:00 noon, no cases of influenza associated ICU admission/death were recorded.

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 44 and the first 4 days of week 45 (Nov 3 to 6, 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 44 and the first 4 days of week 45 (Nov 3 to 6, 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 26, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In Canada (week ending Oct 26, 2013), the influenza activity increased slightly.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Oct 27, 2013), the ILI consultation rate remained low.
- In Europe (week ending Oct 27, 2013), the influenza activity remained low.
- In New Zealand (week ending Oct 27, 2013), the ILI consultation rate was below the baseline level.
- In Singapore (week ending Nov 2, 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](#)