Virological Surveillance Summary

The total number of specimens and number of positive specimens reported to FluNet by Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 7 of 2022 are presented in Table 1 below. Influenza A and B are co-circulating, however, the majority of cases reported from week 1 to week 7 2022 have been Influenza B (Figure 1). Caution should be taken when interpreting these data as there are reporting delays.

Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, week 1, 2021 to week 7, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (most recent week of report)</th>
<th>Total number of specimens processed</th>
<th>Total number of influenza positive specimens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia (7 of 2022)</td>
<td>13,126</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (5 of 2022)</td>
<td>842</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (6 of 2022)</td>
<td>69,189</td>
<td>15,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji (6 2022)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>11-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (5 of 2022)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic (7 of 2022)</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (6 of 2022)</td>
<td>3,377</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia (6 of 2022)</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Caledonia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (6 of 2022)</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (6 of 2022)</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (6 of 2022)</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (4 of 2022)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 6 2021 to week 2, 2022 (Source: WHO FLUNET)
Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient indicator based surveillance (IBS) systems, as well as event-based surveillance. Case definitions, population groups included and data formats differ among countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries and areas where routine IBS is conducted and information is available.

The WHO surveillance case definition for influenza-like illness (ILI) is an acute respiratory infection with a measured fever of ≥38°C and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days. For SARI, it is an acute respiratory infection (ARI) with a history of fever or measured fever of ≥38°C and cough, with symptom onset within 10 days that requires hospitalization. Sentinel site data should be interpreted with caution since the number of sites reporting may vary between weeks.

Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI and influenza activity continues to be lower than in previous seasons.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 6 of 2022, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Northern China (2.2%) was, lower than the last week (3.5%), lower than the same week of 2019, 2020 and 2021 (6.2%, 6.2% and 2.8%) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in Northern China, 2019-2022
(Source: China National Influenza Center)
Mongolia
During week 5 of 2022, the ILI activity in Mongolia decreased sharply to 47 ILI cases per 10,000 population. This is higher than the lower tolerance limit of 29 ILI cases per 10,000 population (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Proportion of outpatient ILI visits per 10,000 people in Mongolia, 2020-2022
(Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea
In week 7 of 2022, the overall weekly ILI rate was 2.6 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was slightly higher compared to the previous week (2.1). The ILI consultation rate has remained below the national epidemic threshold (5.8 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits) and absence of seasonal peaks since week 10 of 2020 (Figure 4). Between 16 January 2022 and 12 February 2022, of 125 samples collected from patients with Acute Respiratory Infection at sentinel surveillance sites, 8.0% and 48.8% tested positive for rhinovirus and respiratory syncytial virus, respectively.

Figure 4: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1,000 outpatient consultations, Republic of Korea, 2017-2022
(Source: Korean Centres for Disease Control and Prevention)
Sentinel influenza surveillance

**Japan**

In week 5 of 2022, the number of cases reported weekly by sentinel hospital sites remained very low in Japan. The number of cases in 2021 has been consistently low. (Figure 5).

![Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2011-2022](Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

**Countries/areas in the tropical zone**

ILI and influenza activity continued to be lower than previous seasons in some of the countries and areas in the tropical zone.

**Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance**

In week 7 of 2022, the average consultation rate for ILI at sentinel general outpatient clinics was 1.1 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than (0.6) reported in the previous week (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner clinics was 15.0 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than 13.9 recorded in the previous week. (Figure 7).

![Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2019-2022](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

![Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong SAR 2018-2022](Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)
China (South) - ILI Surveillance
During week 6 of 2022, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China was 2.5%, lower than the last week (3.7%), lower than the same week of 2019, 2020 and 2021 (6.6%, 6.0% and 3.5%) (Figure 8).

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance
In week 6 of 2022, the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in polyclinics for ARI was 2,645, higher than the previous season in 2021 (Figure 9). Of 204 samples tested for influenza in the past 4 weeks, the positivity rate in the community was 0%. The last specimen to test positive for influenza was collected in July 2021 and tested positive for influenza B (Figure 10).

Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China, 2019-2022
(Source: China National Influenza Center)

Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2020-2022
(Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

Figure 10: Monthly influenza surveillance for ARI in Singapore, 2020-2022
(Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)
Lao PD
From 29 January to 4 February 2022, 54 ILI cases presented to sentinel sites, which was higher than the previous week (red line). The number of ILI cases has been lower than previous years from week 18, 2021. Of 46 samples tested for influenza in week 5, 2022, zero (0) cases tested positive. (Figure 11).

![Figure 11: Weekly number of ILI cases at sentinel sites (2018 to 2022) (Source: Lao National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)](image)

Cambodia
In week 6 of 2022, Ministry of Health received data from all seven sentinel sites in Cambodia. At present, the number of ILI cases remained low in Cambodia. In 2021, there was one human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) detected in week 8 of 2021. There have been no positive case in this 2022 (Figure 12).

![Figure 12: Number of ILI cases from seven sentinel sites and influenza positivity rate by week, 2020-2022, Cambodia (Source: Communicable Disease Control Department, Cambodia Ministry of Health)](image)
Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity is reported during the influenza season, usually starting in May in Australia and New Zealand.

**Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza (no update)**

From 25 October to 7 November 2021, there were 14 laboratory-confirmed influenza notifications to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the year to date, there have been 598 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza to the NNDSS. The number of confirmed cases reported has remained low since April 2020 and is lower than the five-year average (Figure 13).

![Figure 13: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza by month and week from 2016 to 2021 in Australia](Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

**New Zealand – Influenza like Illness (no update)**

Overall, based on multiple sources of surveillance information, influenza-like illness (ILI) activity has remained low in the week ending 1 October 2021. Community ILI activity remains very low for this time of year. The rates of Healthstat consultations for ILI are lower than the levels seen at the same time in 2020. The ILI consultation rates in most age groups in the week ending 1 October are below the historical rates (Figure 14). Public Health Units routinely investigate respiratory outbreaks, including laboratory testing of a sample of cases. There are currently five influenza cases detected through the surveillance system in 2021 (source).

![Figure 14: Weekly rates of general practice ILI consultations per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2020-2021](Source: New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research)
In week 6, 2022, low levels of influenza-like illness activity continue to be reported across the Pacific Island Countries and Areas. (Figure 15)
* Caution should be taken in interpreting these data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.

Figure 15: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2020-2022
(Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)
Global influenza situation updates

Virological update

Global update

Others:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2022 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link]
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2020-2022 northern hemisphere influenza season [Link]

WHO's YouTube Channel: film exploring a number of key aspects of the constant evolution of influenza viruses and associated impacts on public health. [Arabic], [Chinese], [English], [French], [Russian], [Spanish]