World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

Influenza Situation Update

6 January 2015

http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/Influenza/en/index.html

Influenza surveillance summary

This influenza surveillance summary includes countries where routine surveillance is conducted and information is available.

Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) activity is increasing following seasonal patterns.

Japan

In Japan the ILI activity has been increasing, following seasonal patterns. (Figure 1)

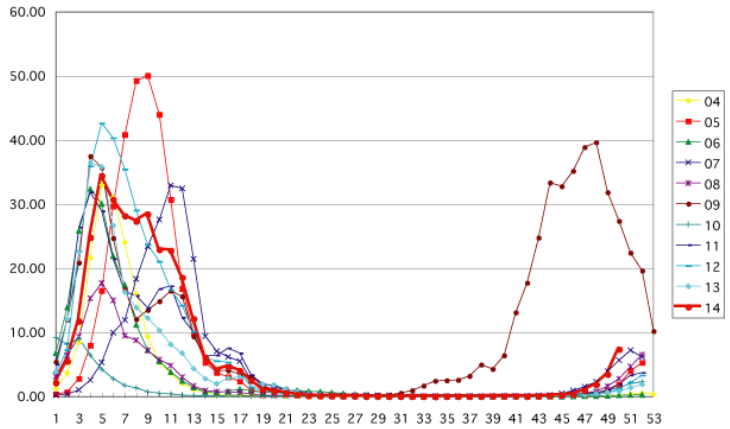

Figure 1: Influenza cases reported per sentinel weekly
(Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Mongolia

ILI activity in Mongolia, in week 51, has been following seasonal patterns however has surpassed the upper tolerance limit. (Figure 2)

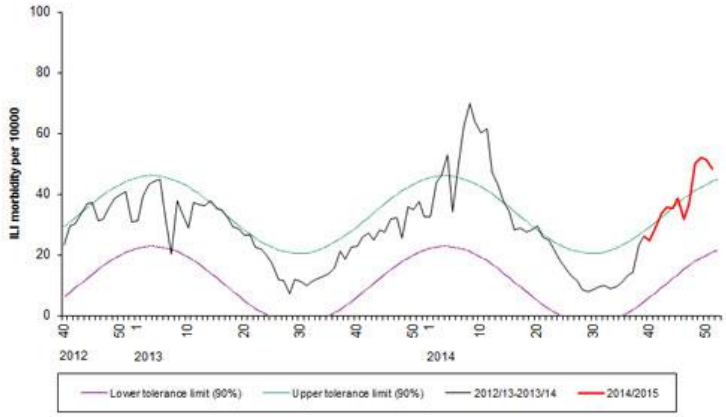

Figure 2: Proportion of outpatients that were ILI (per 10,000 people)
(Source: National Influenza Center of Mongolia)

The proportion of patients with pneumonia among hospitalized patients has increased, following seasonal patterns and has similarly exceeded the upper tolerance limit. (Figure 3)

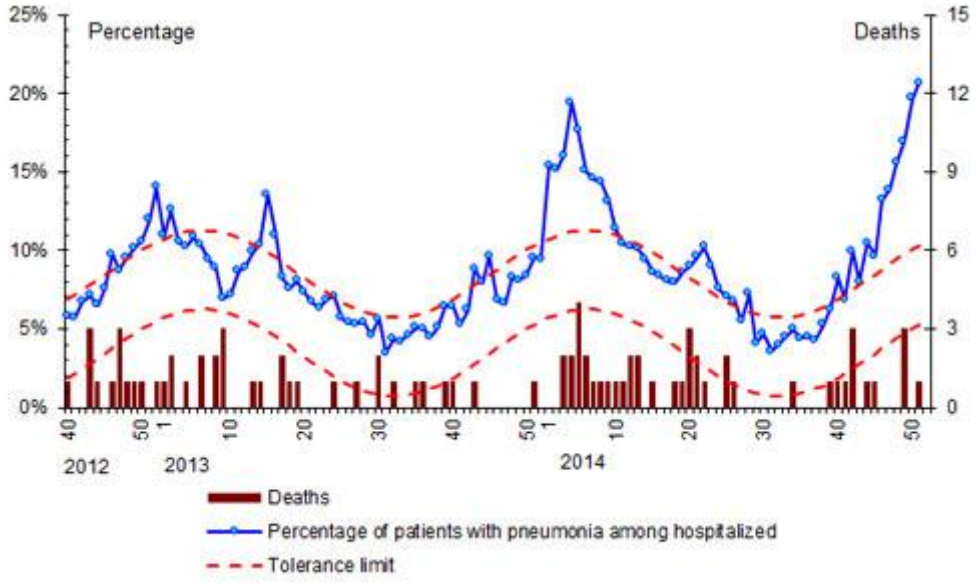

Figure 3: Proportion of patients with pneumonia among hospitalized
(Source: National Influenza Center of Mongolia)

North China

During week 51, ILI% at national sentinel hospitals in north China was 4.1%, higher than the previous week and the same week of 2010-2013 (2.7-3.9%) (Figure 4)

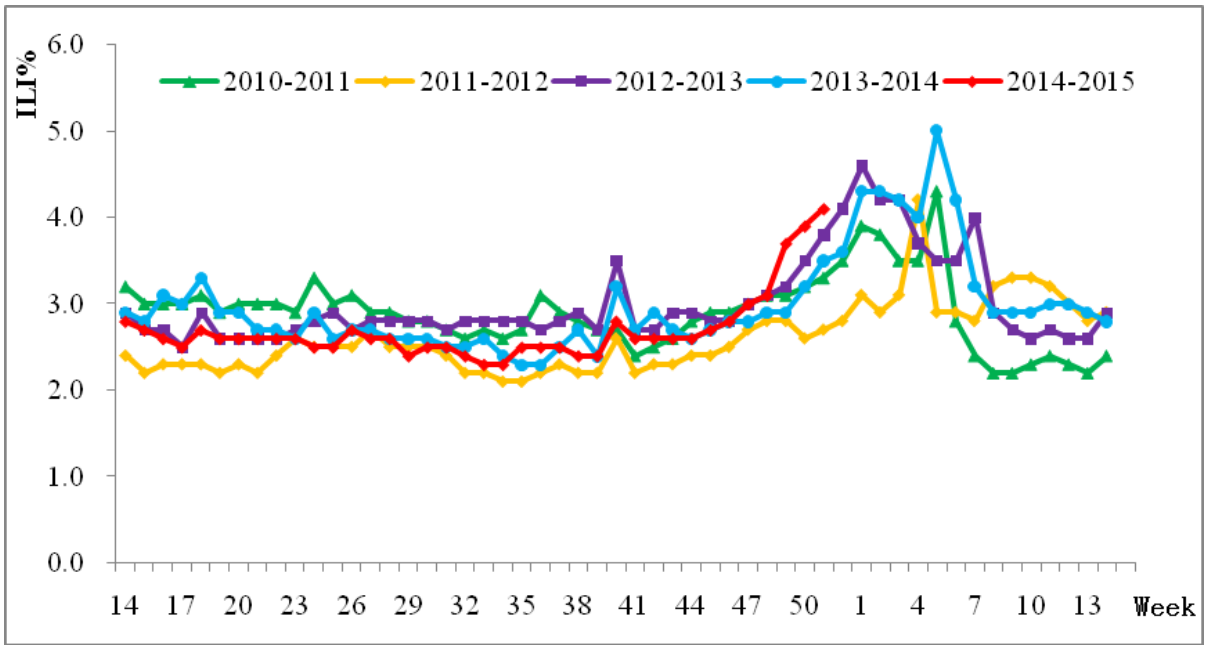

Figure 4: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in north China
(Source: China National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea

In week 52, the overall proportion of patients who visited sentinel physicians for ILI was 8.9 cases per 1,000, below the national baseline of 12.2‰. This was lower than the same week for 2011 to 2013. (Figure 5)

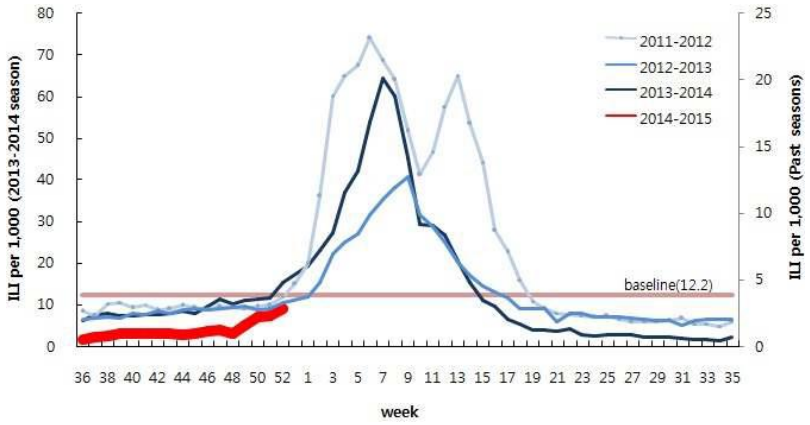

Figure 5: The weekly proportion of ILI visits per 1,000 patients
(Source: Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

In countries/areas in the tropical zone, the overall ILI activity was variable.

Hong Kong (China)

The ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics have increased in the past two weeks. The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel general outpatient clinics was 5.4 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations (Figure 6).

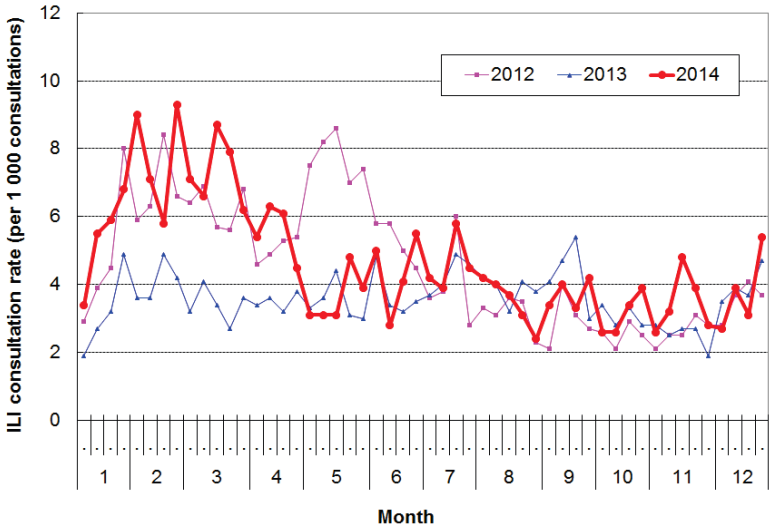

Figure 6: Consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics
(Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private doctors has decreased in the past two weeks. The average consultation rate was 32.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations in week 52. (Figure7)

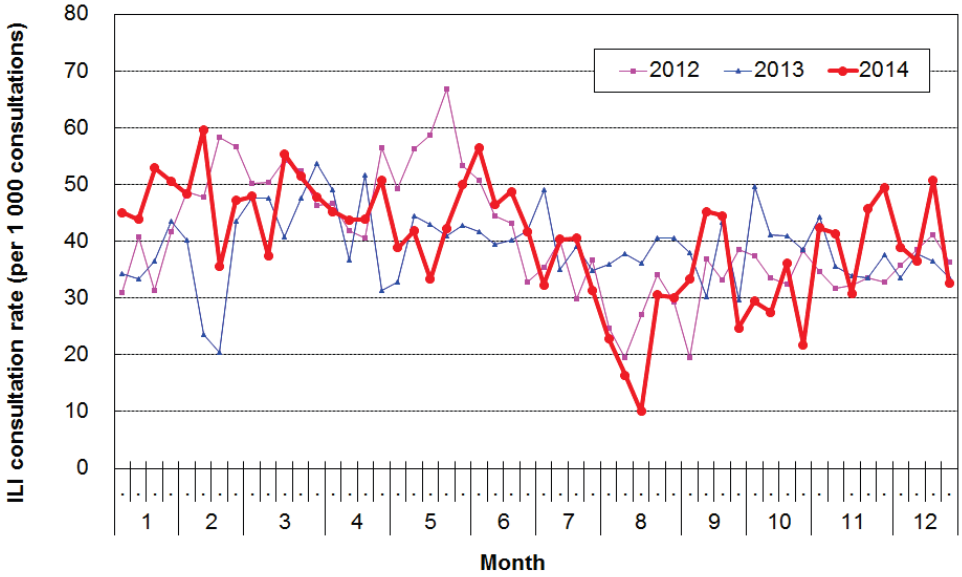

Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors
(Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

In week 52, hospital admission rates with principal diagnosis of influenza for persons aged 0-4 years, 5-64 years and 65 years or above were 0.82, 0.04 and 0.46 cases (per 10,000 people in the age group), respectively (Figure 8).

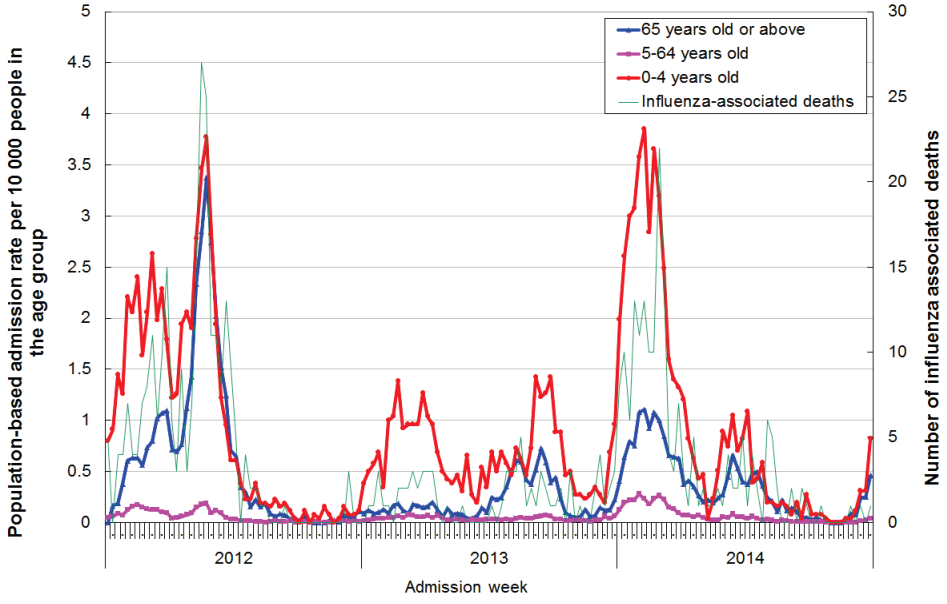

Figure 8: Influenza associated hospital admission rates and deaths
(Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

Singapore

The average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI increased from 2,177 (over 5.5 working days) in week 51 to 2,407 (over 5.5 working days) in week 52. (Figure 9)

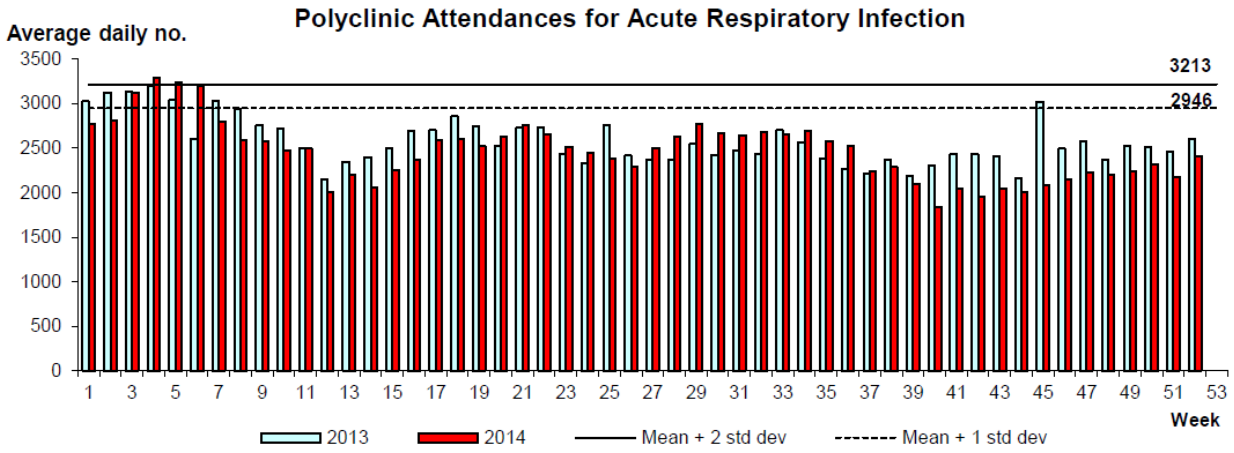

Figure 9: Singapore average daily attendances for ARI (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

South China

During week 51, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in south China was 2.5%, higher than the last week and the same week of 2010 and 2012 (2.4%) and lower than the same week of 2011 and 2013 (2.7%-3.1%) (Figure 10).

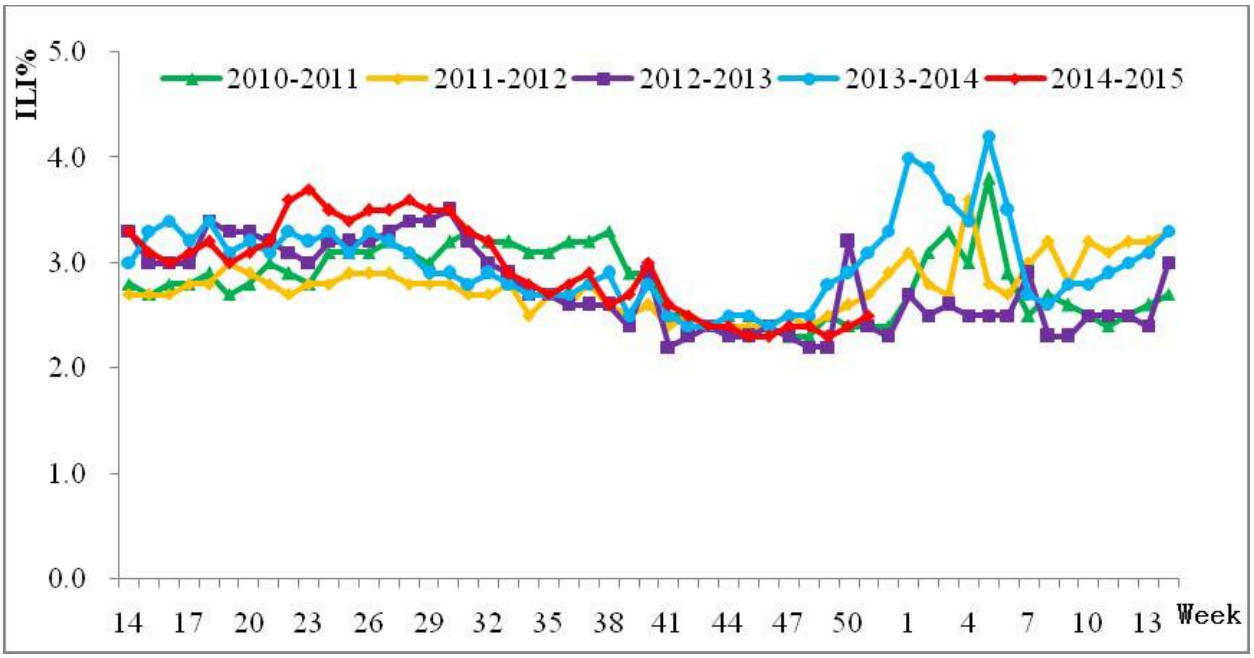

Figure 10: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in south China, (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In Australia and New Zealand, the flu season has ended. Reporting from these Member States in the Influenza Situation Update will commence during the beginning of the next flu season.

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs)

In the PICs, ILI activity was variable with an increasing trend observed in a number of islands especially in American Samoa, Kiribati and Vanuatu. (Figure 11)

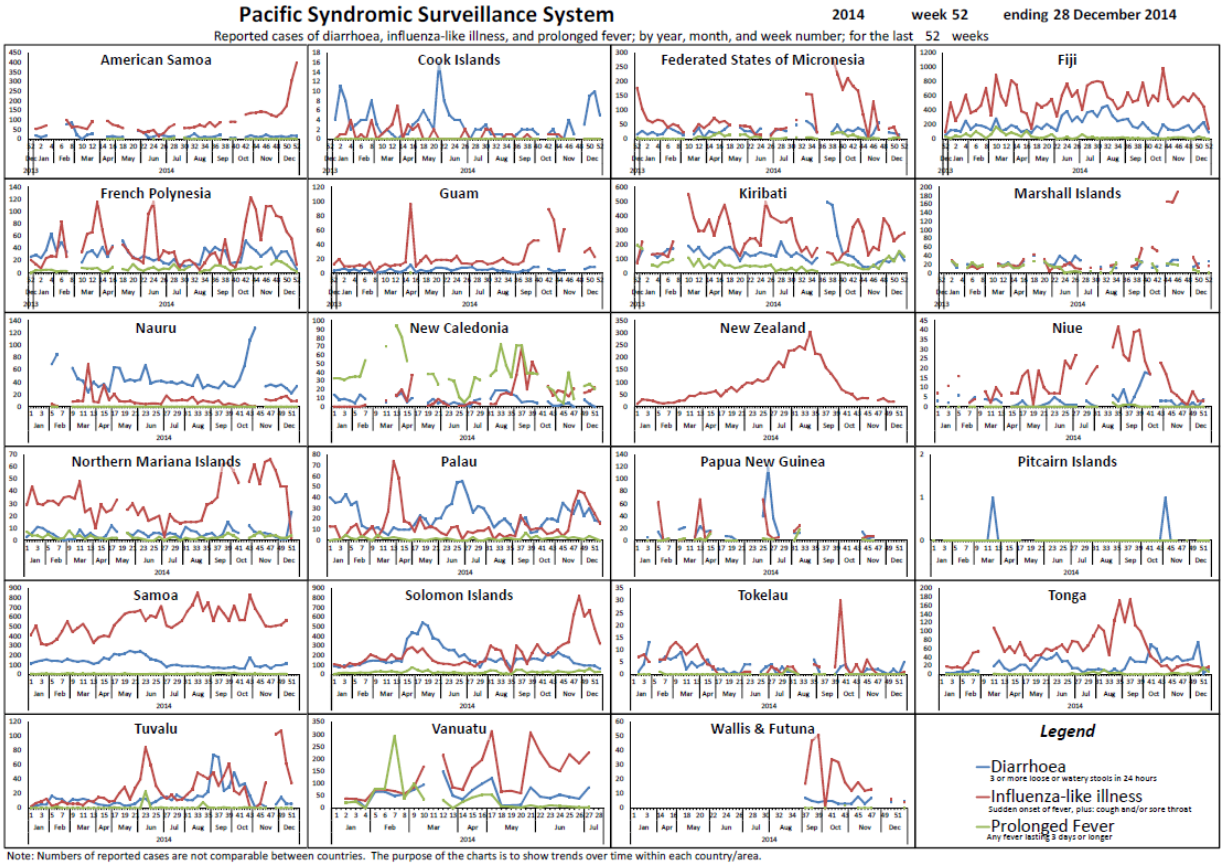

Figure 11: Pacific Islands Countries and Areas reported cases of diarrhea, influenza-like illness and prolonged fever by year, month and week number.

*Note: Numbers of reported cases are not comparable between countries. The purpose of the charts is to show trends over time within each country/area.

Virological Surveillance Summary

Country	Reporting period	Samples received	Influenza									
			A						B			C
	2014		H1	(H1N1)pdm09	H3	H5	H7	unknown	Victoria	Yamagata	unknown	
Northern Hemisphere Temperate zone												
Northern China	15 Dec-21 Dec	2263	0	0	798	0	0	6	0	2	4	0
Republic of Korea	21 Dec-27 Dec	219	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Northern Hemisphere Tropical zone												
Hong Kong	21 Dec-27 Dec	2497 (209 positive)	0	13	185	0	0	0	0	0	6	5
Singapore	1 Dec-27 Dec	48 ILI specimens	0	0.0%	100.0%	0	0	0		0	0.0%	0
Southern China	15 Dec-21 Dec	2871	0	3	82	0	0	1	0	91	6	0
Northern Hemisphere Mekong area												
Viet Nam	21 Dec-27 Dec	57	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

Table 1: Data from WHO FluNet, MOH and Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System, WHO

Countries in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere

Mongolia

The number of specimens has been decreasing and Influenza virus continued to circulate at low levels in week 51. (Figure 12)

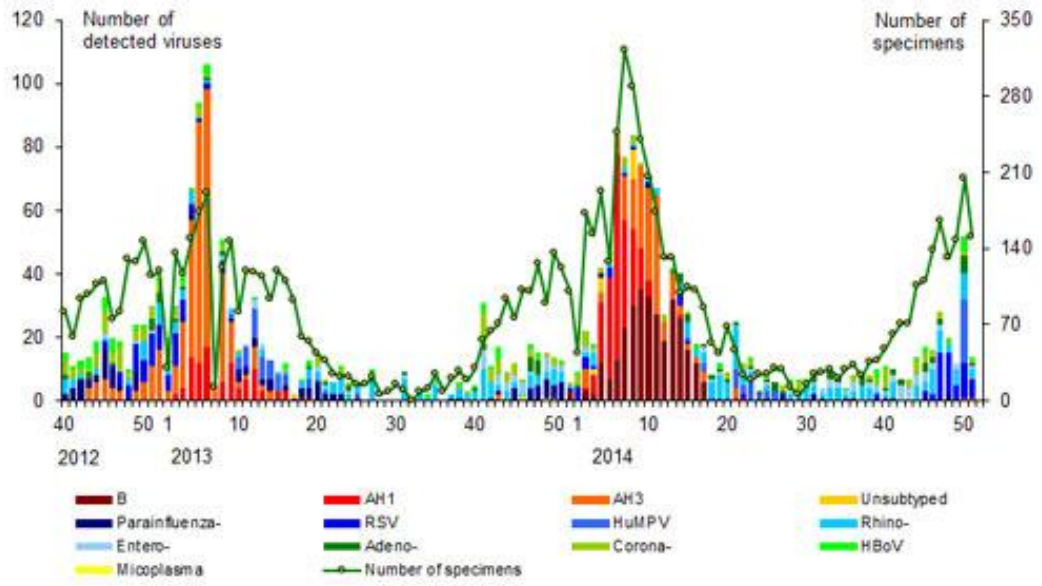

Figure 12: Viruses detected (Source: National Influenza Center of Mongolia)

North China

During week 51, the percentage of specimens that were tested positive for influenza in north China was 35.8%, which was higher than the previous week (30.2%) (Figure 13). Influenza A (H3N2) was the predominant strain reported.

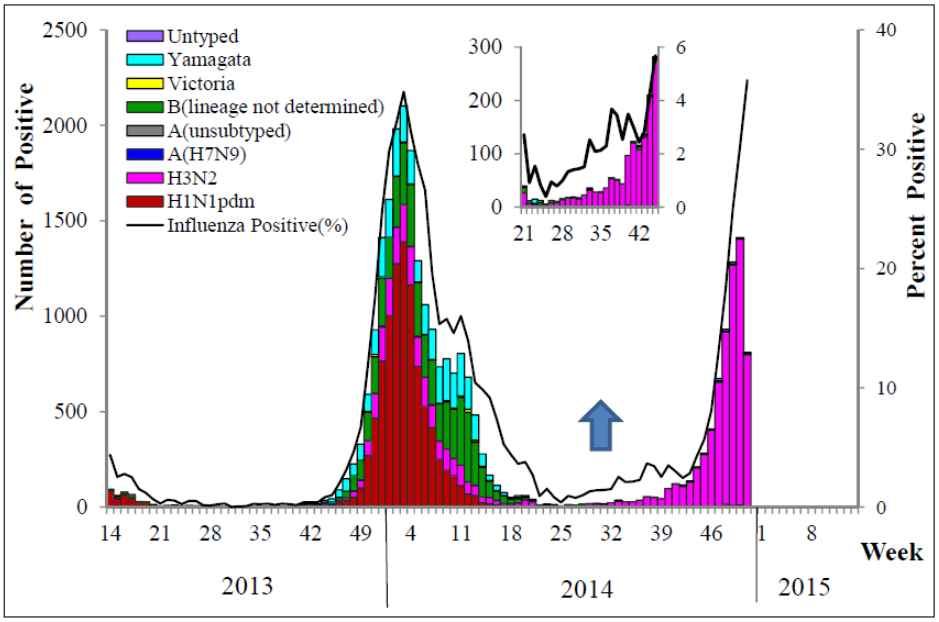

Figure 13: Influenza Positive Tests Reported by Northern Network Laboratories
(Data from China National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea

Fifteen influenza viruses were isolated until week 52 in 2014-2015 season. Six viruses were identified as A/H3N2, 7 were identified as A/H1N1pdm09 and 2 were identified as influenza B. (Figure 14).

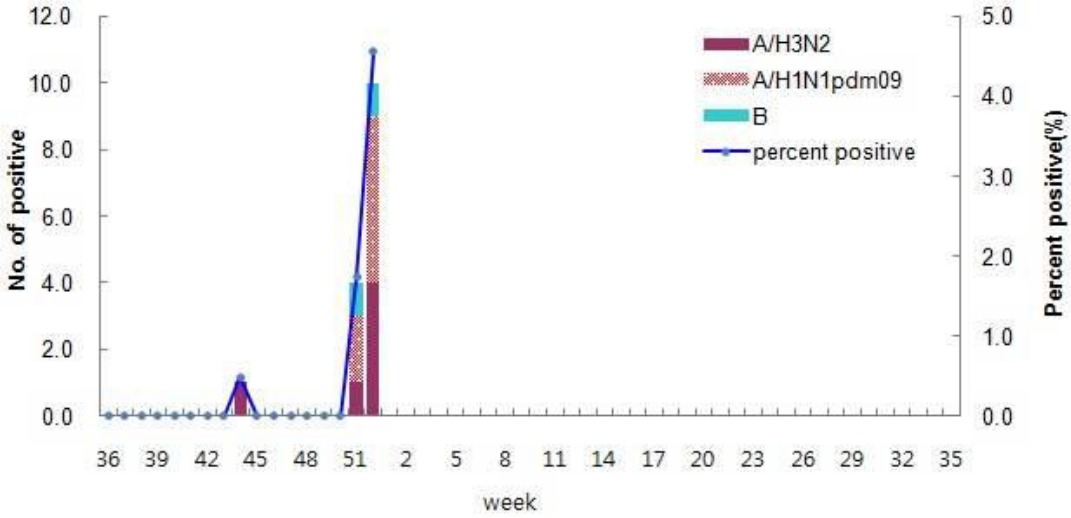

Figure 14: Data from Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

Hong Kong (China)

In week 52, 209 (8.37%) samples tested positive for seasonal influenza viruses, including 13 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 185 influenza A(H3), 6 influenza B and 5 influenza C. (Figure 15)

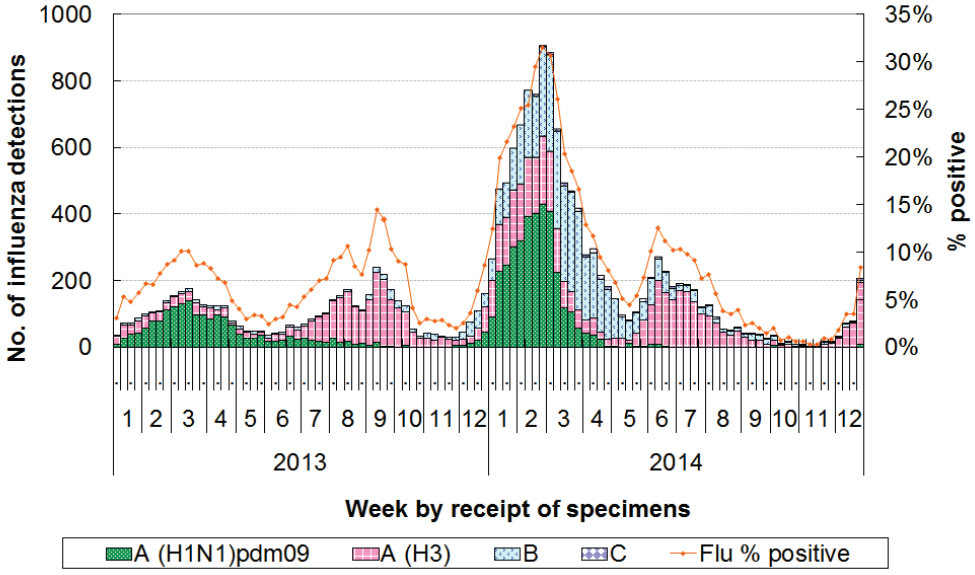

Figure 15: Data from Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection

Singapore

The overall prevalence of influenza among ILI samples (n=48) in the community was 18.8% in the past 4 weeks. Of the specimens that tested positive for influenza in November 2014, all were influenza A(H3N2). (Figure 16)

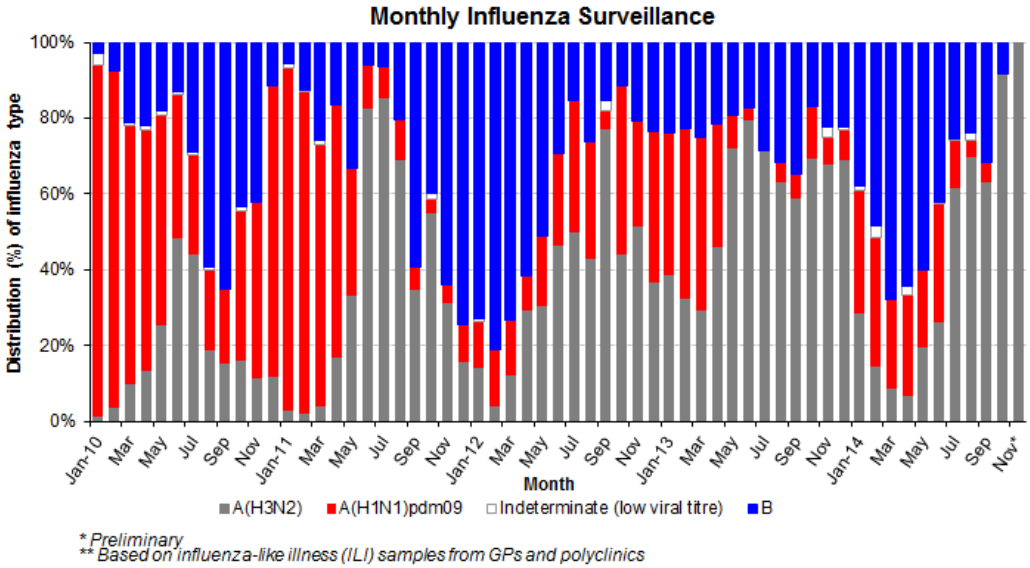

Figure 16: Data from Singapore Ministry of Health

South China

During week 51, the percentage of specimens that tested positive for influenza in south China was 6.5%, which was higher than the previous week (5.5%). Influenza A (H3N2) and Influenza B (Yamagata) were the predominant strains reported. (Figure 17)

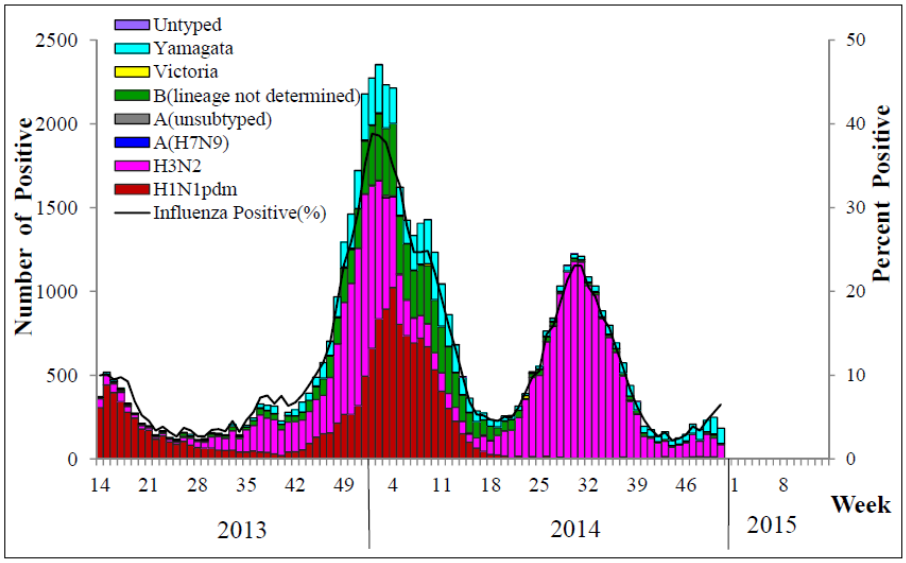

Figure 17: Influenza Positive Test Reported by Southern Network Laboratories
(Data from China National Influenza Center)

Global influenza situation updates:
Epidemiological update:
http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/
Virological update:
http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/updates/summaryreport