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 41 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 41 2022 have been Influenza A (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, 2022 to week 41, 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 (40 of 2022)</td>
<td>265,502</td>
<td>11,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (38 of 2022)</td>
<td>7,423</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (39 of 2022)</td>
<td>54,5602</td>
<td>68,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji (39 of 2022)</td>
<td>1,757</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (40 of 2022)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao People’s Democratic Republic (38 of 2022)</td>
<td>3,708</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia (39 of 2022)</td>
<td>29,442</td>
<td>3,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia (38 of 2022)</td>
<td>4,692</td>
<td>275</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 (38 of 2022)</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea (40 of 2022)</td>
<td>6,820</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore (40 of 2022)</td>
<td>5,904</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam (37 of 2022)</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 41, 2021 to week 41, 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 is similar to the corresponding period from previous years.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 40 of 2022, sentinel hospitals in the northern provinces reported an ILI % of 2.6%, unchanged from the previous week's level of 2.6% and lower than in 2019. Year-over-year level (2.9%), higher than the 2020-2021 same period (2.5% and 2.2%). (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 39 of 2022, the ILI activity in Mongolia decreased to 49 ILI cases per 10,000 population. This is higher than the upper tolerance limit of 20 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 41 of 2022, the overall weekly ILI rate was 7.0 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, which is slightly lower than previous week (7.1). (Figure 4).

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

![Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2012-2022](Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone
ILI and influenza activity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years in some of the countries and areas in the tropical zone.

Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance
The latest surveillance data showed that the overall seasonal influenza activity in Hong Kong remained low. In week 41, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPC) was 0.3 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 0.4 recorded in the previous week (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner (PMP) clinics was 19.4 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 24.6 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).
China (South) - ILI Surveillance

During week 40 of 2022, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China was 2.9%, lower than the last week (3.2%), and lower than the same period in 2019-2021 (3.5%, 3.6% and 3.3%). (Figure 8).

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance

In week 40 of 2022, the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI is 2,865 (over 5.5 working days) (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) among the polyclinic attendances for ARI is 0.8. Of 1,102 samples tested for influenza in the past 4 weeks, the positivity rate in the community was 22.8%. Of the 253 specimens tested positive for influenza in Sep 2022, 244 were positive for Influenza A(H3N2) (96.4%), 2 were positive for Influenza A(pH1N1) (0.8%) and 7 were positive for Influenza B (2.8%).
Lao PDR
During week 40 of 2022, the influenza activity has similar presented to sentinel sites compared to the previous week. There were 106 samples tested for influenza in week 40, 2022. Of these, 36 samples tested positive for influenza, including 18 cases for Influenza B Victoria and 18 cases for Flu A/H3 (Figure 11).

Cambodia
In week 40 of 2022, Ministry of Health received data from all seven-sentinel sites in Cambodia. The number of ILI cases decreased in Cambodia slightly decreased in week 40 of 2022 (123 cases) compared to week 39 of 2022 (113 cases). However, the influenza positive rate increased significantly in this week 40 of 2022 (61.90%) compared to last week (week 39 of 2022) (28.57%). (Figure 12).
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**

In the year to date, there have been 225,332 notifications reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) in Australia, of which 698 notifications had a diagnosis date this fortnight. The weekly number of notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza in 2022 has decreased to below the weekly 5 year average since mid-July. *(Figure 13).*
New Zealand – Influenza like Illness

In the fortnight to 30 September, influenza like illness (ILI) activity has increased slightly. (Figure 14). The ILI consultation rate remained stable in the week to 30 September at the lowest point since May, lower than the historical rate for this time of year. The districts with the highest ILI consultation rates were Counties Manukau and Tairawhiti.

Figure 13: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza by month and week from 2017 to 2022 in Australia
(Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

Figure 14: Weekly rates of general practice ILI consultations per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2020-2022
(Source: New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research)
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In week 40, 2022, only 14 out of 18 PICs reported the data and showed low levels of influenza-like illness activity continue to be reported across the Pacific Island Countries and Areas except for CNMI, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, T and Solomon Islands. (Figure 15).

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**Cook Islands ILI Trend 2019-2022 (WK 40)**

**Fiji ILI Trend 2019-2022 (WK 40)**

**French Polynesia ILI trend 2019-2022 (WK 12)**

**FSM ILI trend 2019-2022 (WK 39)**
Influenza Situation Update

19 October 2022

**Pitcairn Islands ILI Trend 2019 - 2022 (WK 40)**

**Samoa ILI Trend 2019-2022 (WK 40)**

**Solomon Islands ILI Trend 2019 -2021 (WK 40)**

**Tokelau ILI Trend 2019 -2022 (WK 40)**

**Tonga ILI trend 2019 -2022 (WK 40)**

**Tuvalu ILI trend 2019 -2022 (WK 37)**
Bi-weekly Influenza Situation Update

19 October 2022

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.

** FSM: Federated States of Micronesia, CMNI: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Figure 15: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2019-2022
(Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

Global influenza situation updates

Virological update

Global update

Others:

- New recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2023 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link]
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2022-2023 northern hemisphere influenza season [Link]
- WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Virus Vaccines for Use in the 2023 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Season 19-22 September 2022 [Link]
- WHO issues updated influenza vaccines position paper [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]