Summary：Week 19 (May 10 – May 16, 2015)

The whole trend of influenza activity has declined in recent weeks. Influenza A(H3N2) virus was the predominant virus subtype in 2014-2015 flu season.

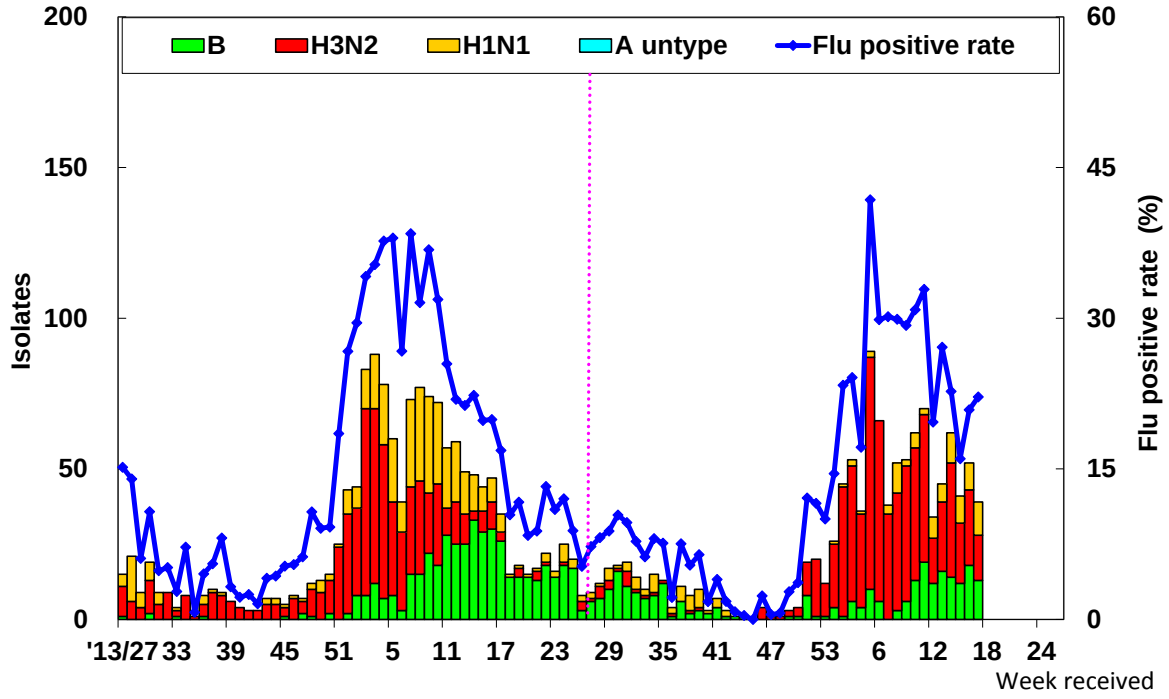
- The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza was 22.2% during week 17, 2015. 66.7% of positive specimens were influenza A viruses.
- During week 19, 2015, there were 18 new severe complicated influenza cases and 6 new reports of death from severe complicated influenza. Since August 1, 2014, there were 73 reports of death among 446 severe complicated influenza cases.
- The whole trend of both proportions of outpatient and emergency room visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased recently.

Viral Surveillance

	Data for week 17, 2015	Cumulative data since 7/1/2014
Number of specimens tested	176	7800
Number of positive specimens (%)	39(22.2)	1102(14.1)
Positive specimens by type/subtype (%)		
Influenza A (% of all positive specimens)	26(66.7)	826(75)
A (H1N1) (% of all Influenza A)	11(42.3)	128(15.5)
A (H3N2)	15(57.7)	698(84.5)
A (unable to subtype)	0(0)	0(0)
A (subtyping not performed)	0(0)	0(0)
Influenza B	13(33.3)	276(25)

Antigenic Characterization: Taiwan CDC has antigenically characterized 207 human influenza viruses. Since October 1, 2014. 100% influenza A (H1N1) viruses tested were related to the A (H1N1) component of the 2014-15 influenza vaccine (A/California/7/2009pdm09). 43% of influenza A (H3N2) viruses tested were related to the A (H3N2) component of the 2014-15 influenza vaccine (A/Texas/50/2012). 49% of influenza B viruses tested were related to the B component of the 2014-15 trivalent influenza vaccine (B/Massachusetts/2/2012).

Influenza positive tests reported to Taiwan CDC by contracted laboratories, 2013–2015



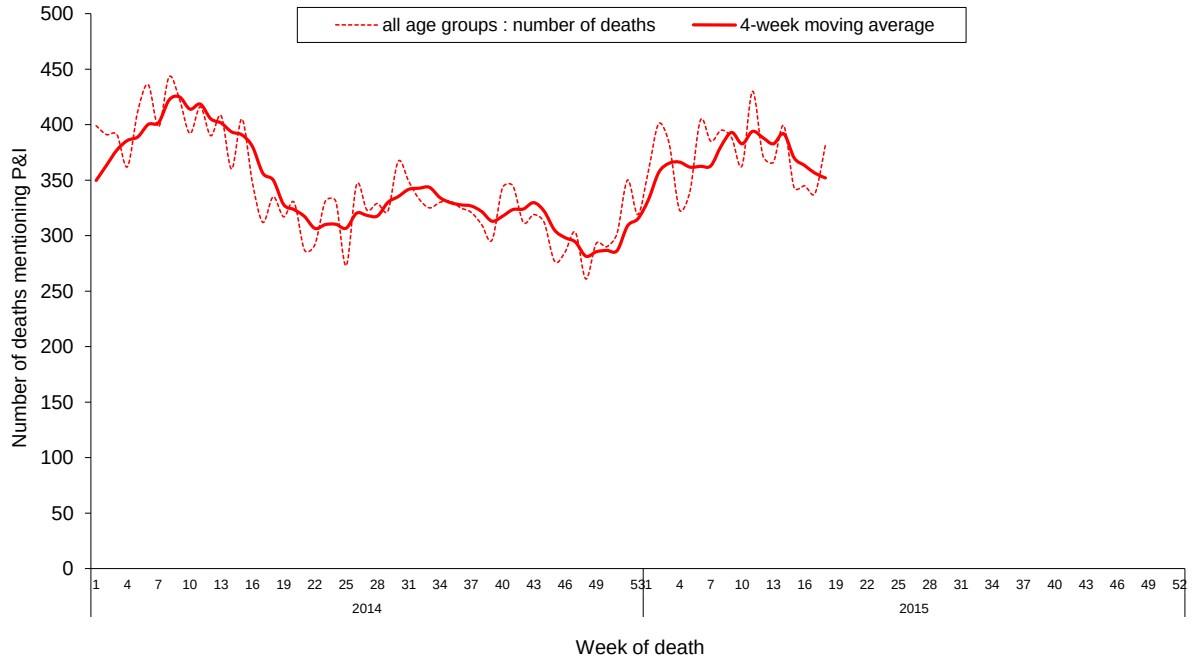
Antiviral Resistance: Since October 1, 2014, the results of antiviral resistance to neuraminidase inhibitor (Oseltamivir) are summarized in the table below.

	Isolates tested (n)	Resistance Viruses, n (%)
		Oseltamivir
Influenza A (H1N1)	24	1 (4%)
Influenza A (H3N2)	111	0
Influenza B	22	0

Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) mortality surveillance

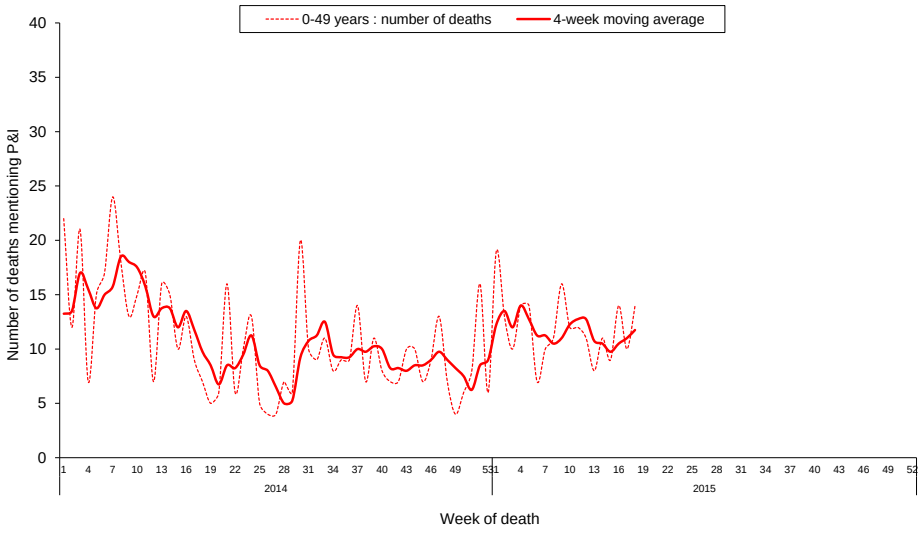
The whole trend of P&I was going down in recent weeks. The number of deaths related to P&I for adults aged 65 years or greater was the highest among the three age groups (0–49, 50–64, and 65+).

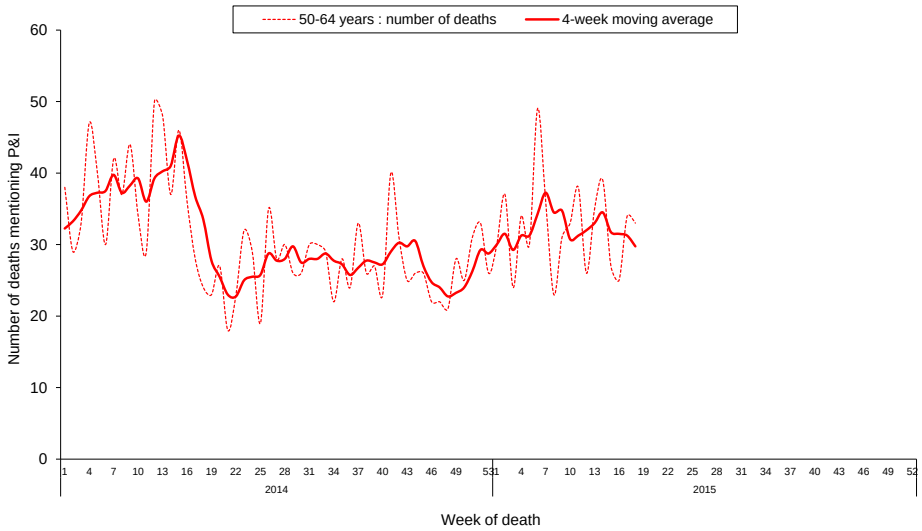
National pneumonia and influenza mortality
Week ending at May 9, 2015

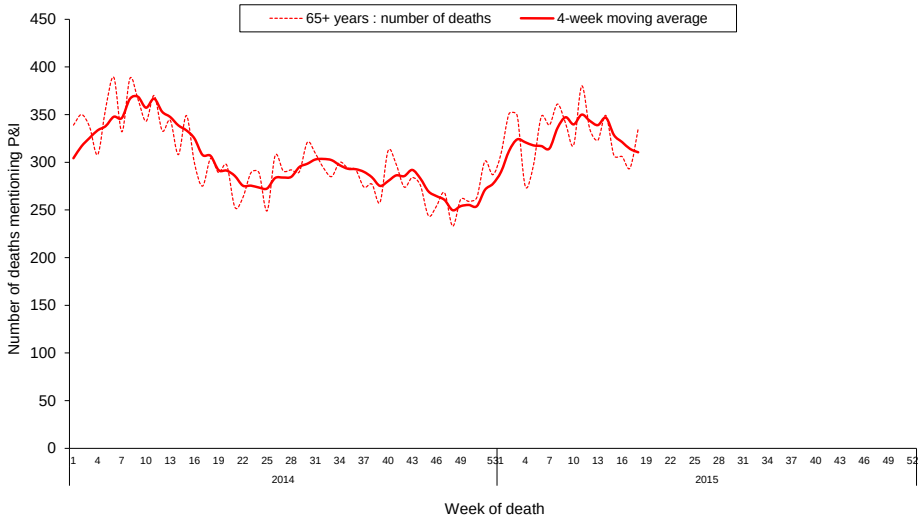


* Medical institutions were required to report any mortality case to Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) within 7 days after a death certification is issued through the Internet System for Death Reporting (ISDR). The last field of immediate cause or the underlying cause of death was used to identify P&I death cases. Only those with keywords texts containing ‘pneumonia’, ‘influenza’ or ‘common cold’ were counted as a P&I death. Since January 1, 2014, the ISDR has been improved in coverage.

National pneumonia and influenza mortality by age group
Week ending at May 9, 2015



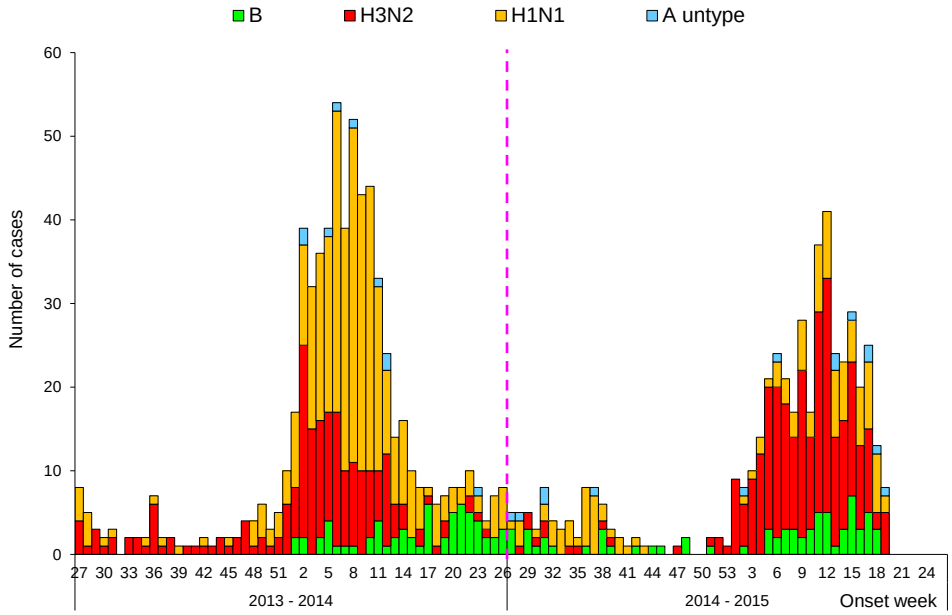




Reports of severe complicated influenza

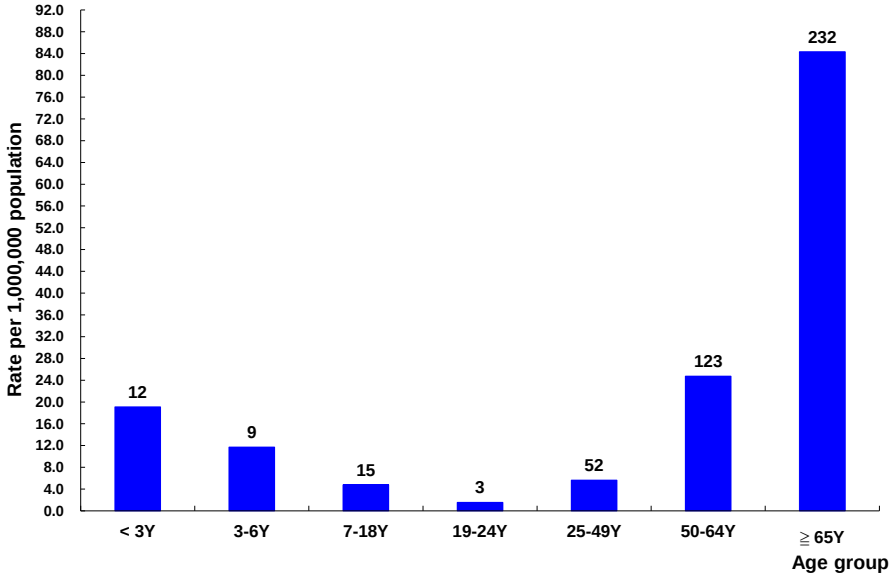
During week 19, there were 18 new severe complicated influenza infections, including 5 influenza A(H1N1) cases, 7 influenza A(H3N2) cases, 2 un-typed influenza A cases and 4 influenza B cases. There were 6 new reports of death from 1 influenza A(H1N1) case, 2 influenza A(H3N2) cases and 3 influenza B cases. Since August 1, 2014, 446 cases of severe complicated influenza have been confirmed, including 116 influenza A(H1N1) cases, 258 influenza A(H3N2) cases, 11 un-typed influenza A cases, 61 influenza B cases. There have been 73 reports of death from severe complicated influenza infection, including 20 influenza A(H1N1) cases, 45 influenza A(H3N2) cases, and 8 influenza B cases.

Number of severe complicated influenza reports by week of onset
July 1, 2013 to present



*A confirmed severe complicated influenza case is defined as influenza viruses infection with complication (pulmonary complication, neurologic complication, myocarditis, invasive bacterial infection, or pericarditis), and requiring intensive care or resulting in death within 14 days after the onset of influenza-like illness.

Rate of severe complicated influenza reports by age groups
Aug 1, 2014 to present



*Numbers represent number of complicated influenza reports for that specific age stratum.

Outpatient and Emergency Room Influenza-like Illness Surveillance

Nationwide during week 19, 2015, the proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) according to the National Health Insurance Database was comparable to the proportion of previous week. The proportion of emergency room (ER) visits for ILI was higher than the proportion of previous week.

Proportions of outpatient and emergency room (ER) visits for influenza-like illness (July 1, 2013 to present)