



Summary : Week 44 (Oct. 28– Nov. 3, 2012)

Influenza activity was low in Taiwan during week 44. Seasonal influenza virus type AH3 is predominant in the community.

- Of the 138 specimens tested during week 42, 2012, 3 (2.2%) were positive for influenza viruses, 2 (1.5%) were positive for influenza AH3 virus, 1 (0.7%) was positive for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus.
- There were 2 new cases of complicated influenza with type B during week 44. Since July 1, 2012, 262 cases of complicated influenza infections have been confirmed, including 245 cases from influenza AH3 (H3N2) virus infection, 12 cases from pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infection, 3 cases due to un-typed influenza A virus infection, and 2 cases from influenza B virus infection. 74 cases of complicated influenza infections received the intensive care. Since July 1, 2012, there have been 25 reports of death from complicated influenza infection; 24 cases from the seasonal AH3 (H3N2) strain infection and 1 case from pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infection, respectively.
- The number of deaths related to pneumonia and influenza during week 43 was 227, which was below the number of the previous week (239 deaths).
- The rate of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness is 1.02%, which was comparable with the rate of previous week (1.01%).
- The rate of emergency room visits for ILI is 7.57%, a 5.0% decrease compared with the rate of previous week (7.95%).

Virologic surveillance

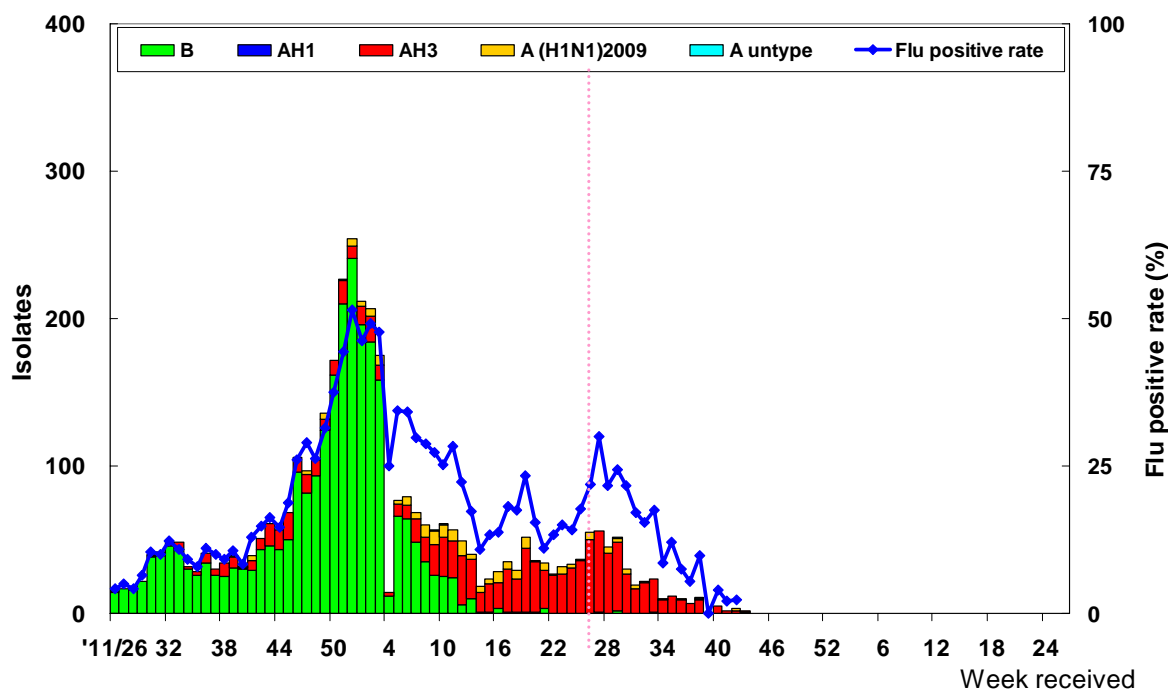
The results of tests performed during week 42 are summarized in the table below.

| | Data for week 42 | Cumulative data since 7/1/2012 |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of specimens tested | 138 | 2202 |
| Number of positive specimens (%) | 3(2.2) | 309(14) |
| Positive specimens by type/subtype (%) | | |
| Influenza A (% of all positive specimens) | 3(100) | 304(98) |
| A (pandemic [H1N1] 2009) (% of all Influenza A) | 1(33) | 17(6) |
| A (H3) | 2(67) | 285(94) |
| A (H1) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| A (unable to subtype) | 0(0) | 2(<1) |
| A (subtyping not performed) | 0(0) | 0(0) |
| Influenza B | 0(0) | 5(2) |



Antigenic characterization: Taiwan CDC has antigenically characterized 6 human influenza viruses [1 pandemic (H1N1) 2009, 5 influenza A (H3)] since October 1, 2012. All of the 5 influenza A (H3N2) viruses tested were related to the A (H3N2) component of the 2012-13 influenza vaccine (A/Victoria/361/2011), and one pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus tested was related to A (H1N1)pdm09 component of the 2012-13 influenza vaccine (A/California/7/2009(H1N1)pdm09).

Influenza positive tests reported to Taiwan CDC by contracted laboratories, 2011–2013



Antiviral resistance: Since October 1, 2012, 5 pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and 18 influenza A (H3N2) have been tested for resistance to the neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir). The results of antiviral resistance testing performed on these viruses are summarized in the table below.

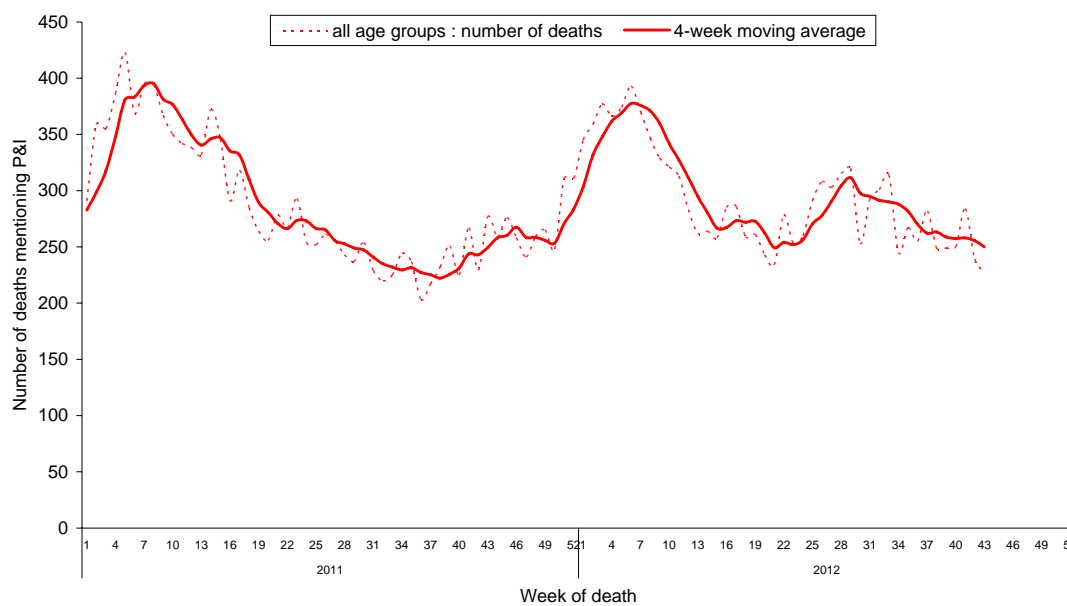
| | Isolates tested (n) | Resistance Viruses, n (%) |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Oseltamivir |
| A (pandemic [H1N1] 2009) | 5 | 0 (0) |
| A (H3) | 18 | 0 (0) |
| B | 0 | 0 (0) |



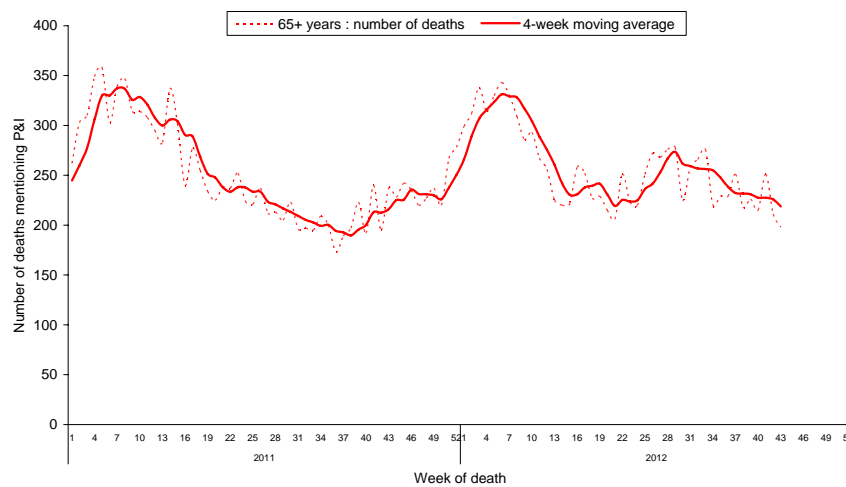
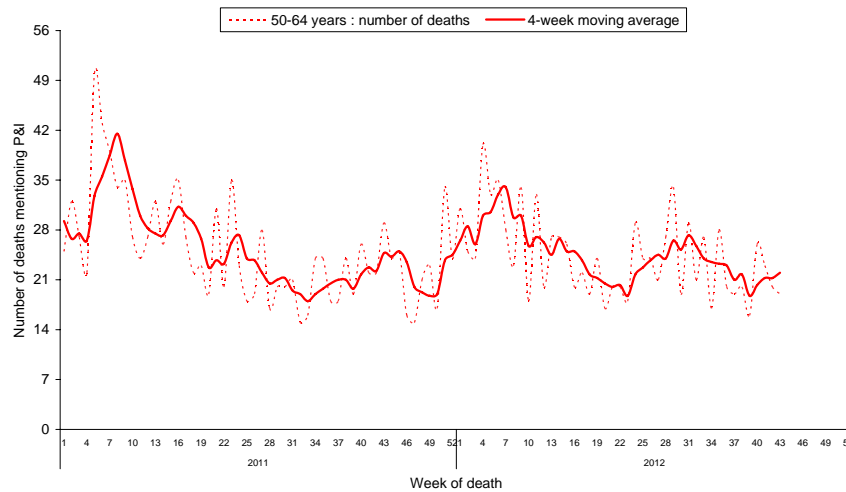
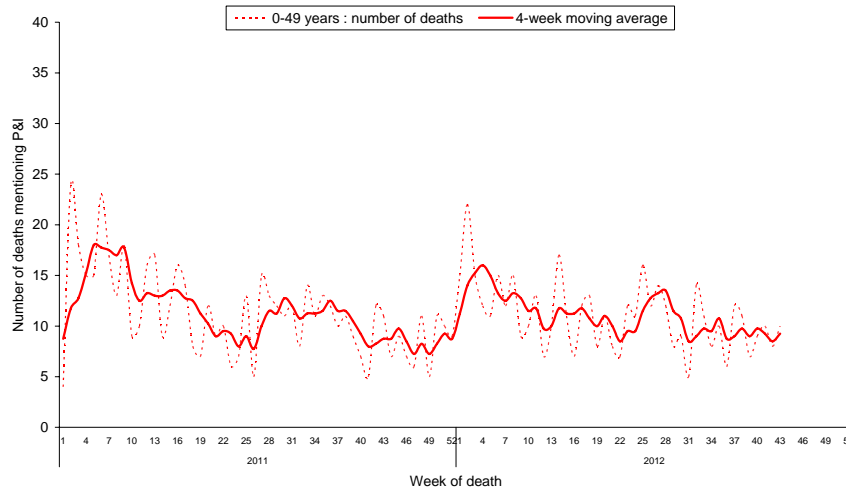
Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) mortality surveillance

During week 43, 2012, 227 deaths reported through the National Death Certificate System mentioned P&I as the cause of death. This number was below the number of previous week (239 deaths). The number of deaths related to P&I for adults of 65 or greater is the highest among the three age groups (0–49, 50–64, and 65⁺).

National pneumonia and influenza mortality Week ending October 27, 2012



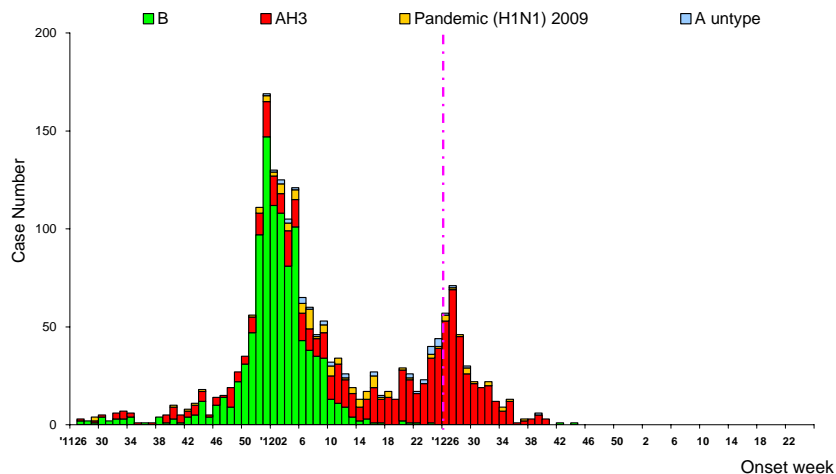
National pneumonia and influenza mortality by age group Week ending October 27, 2012



Reports of complicated influenza*

There were 2 new cases of complicated influenza with type B during week 44. Since July 1, 2012, 262 cases of complicated influenza infections have been confirmed, including 74 cases requiring intensive care. Since July 1, 2012, there have been 25 reports of death from complicated influenza infection; 24 cases from the seasonal AH3 (H3N2) strain infection and 1 case from pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infection, respectively.

Number of complicated influenza reports by week of onset June 26, 2011 to present



Outpatient and emergency room influenza-like illness surveillance

Nationwide during week 44, 1.02% of outpatient visits reported through the National Health Insurance Database were due to influenza-like illness (ILI), which was comparable with the rate of previous week (1.01%).

The rate of emergency room visits for ILI is 7.57%, a 5.0% decrease compared with the rate of previous week (7.95%).

Rate of outpatient and emergency room (ER) visits for influenza-like illness

June 26, 2011 to present

