



Summary : Week 8 (Feb. 17–Feb. 23, 2013)

During week 8, 2013, influenza activity in Taiwan is still at low to moderate level. Both of the proportions of outpatient visits and emergency room visits for influenza-like illness have decreased and restored to the level before the Chinese New Year holidays. Influenza A (H3N2) virus is predominant in community.

- Of the 171 specimens tested during week 6, 2013, 23 (13.5%) were positive for influenza viruses, 21 (12.3%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2) virus and 2 (1.2%) were positive for influenza A (H1N1) virus.
- During week 8, 2013, there were 35 new cases of complicated influenza, including 25 cases with influenza A (H3N2) virus infection, 9 cases with influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, and 1 case with influenza B virus infection; 2 reports of death from complicated influenza with A (H1N1) virus infection. Since July 1, 2012, 365 cases of complicated influenza infection have been confirmed, including 305 cases from influenza A (H3N2) virus infection, 52 cases from influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, 3 cases due to un-typed influenza A virus infection, and 5 cases from influenza B virus infection. 101 cases of complicated influenza infection received the intensive care. Since July 1, 2012, there have been 29 reports of death from complicated influenza infection; 26 cases from influenza A (H3N2) virus infection and 3 cases from influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, respectively.
- During week 7, 2013, the number of deaths related to pneumonia and influenza was 318, which was above the number of the previous week (278 deaths).
- The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness is 1.19%, a 27% decrease compared with the rate of previous week (the Chinese New Year holidays, 1.63%).
- The proportion of emergency room visits for ILI is 10.59%, a 31% decrease compared with the rate of previous week (the Chinese New Year holidays, 15.35%).

Virologic surveillance

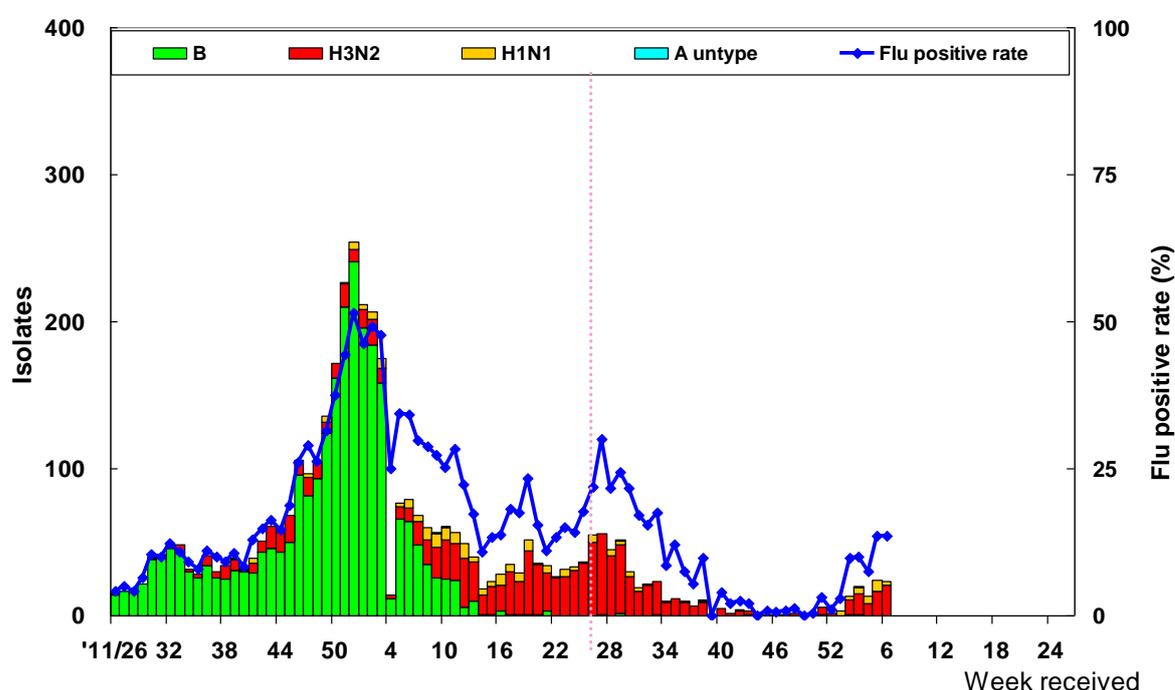
During week 6, 2013, the results of tests performed are summarized in the table below.

	Data for week 6	Cumulative data since 7/1/2012
Number of specimens tested	171	4769
Number of positive specimens (%)	23(13.5)	421(9)
Positive specimens by type/subtype (%)		
Influenza A (% of all positive specimens)	23(100)	413(98)
A (H1N1) (% of all Influenza A)	2(9)	40(10)
A (H3N2)	21(91)	370(90)
A (unable to subtype)	0(0)	3(<1)
A (subtyping not performed)	0(0)	0(0)
Influenza B	0(0)	8(2)



Antigenic characterization: Taiwan CDC has antigenically characterized 39 human influenza viruses [9 influenza A (H1N1) viruses, 26 influenza A (H3N2) viruses, and 4 influenza B viruses] since October 1, 2012. 96.2% (n=25) of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses tested were related to the A (H3N2) component of the 2012-13 influenza vaccine (A/Victoria/361/2011(H3N2)). All of the 9 influenza A (H1N1) viruses tested were related to the A (H1N1) component of the 2012-13 influenza vaccine (A/California/7/2009(H1N1)pdm09). All of the 4 influenza B viruses tested belonged to the B/Yamagata lineage and were related to the B component of the 2012-13 influenza vaccine (B/Wisconsin/1/2010).

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



Antiviral resistance: Since October 1, 2012, 16 influenza A (H1N1), 40 influenza A (H3N2) and 2 influenza B viruses 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.

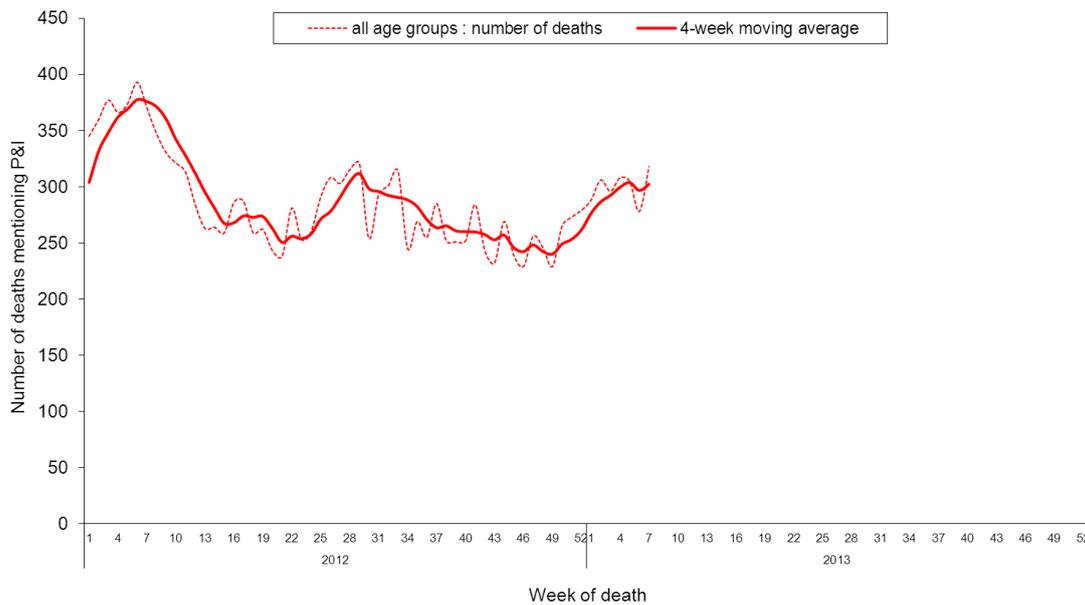
	Isolates tested (n)	Resistance Viruses, n (%)
		Oseltamivir
Influenza A (H1N1)	16	0 (0)
Influenza A (H3N2)	40	0 (0)
Influenza B	2	0 (0)



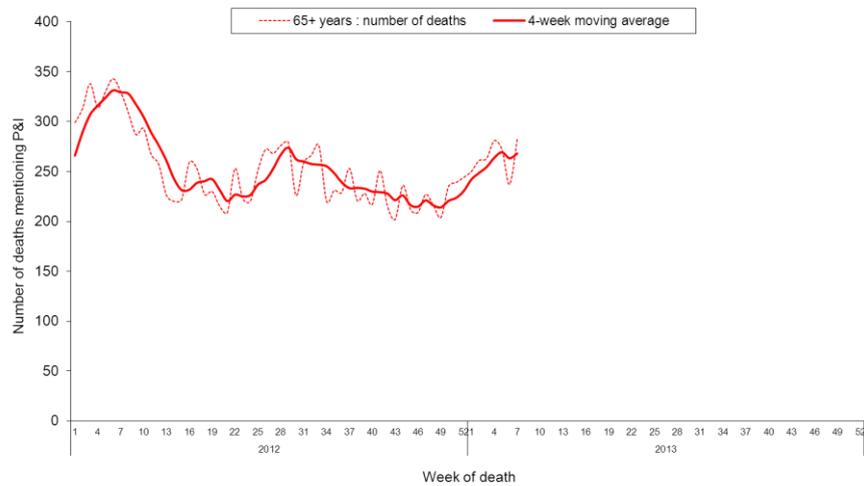
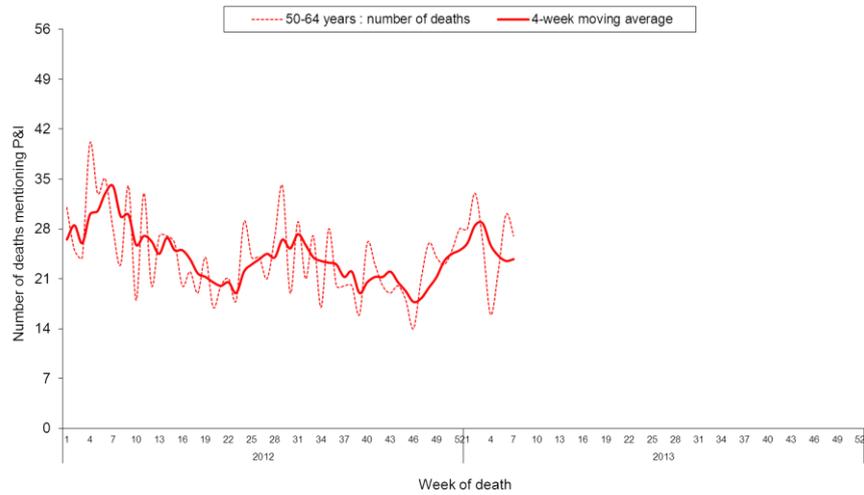
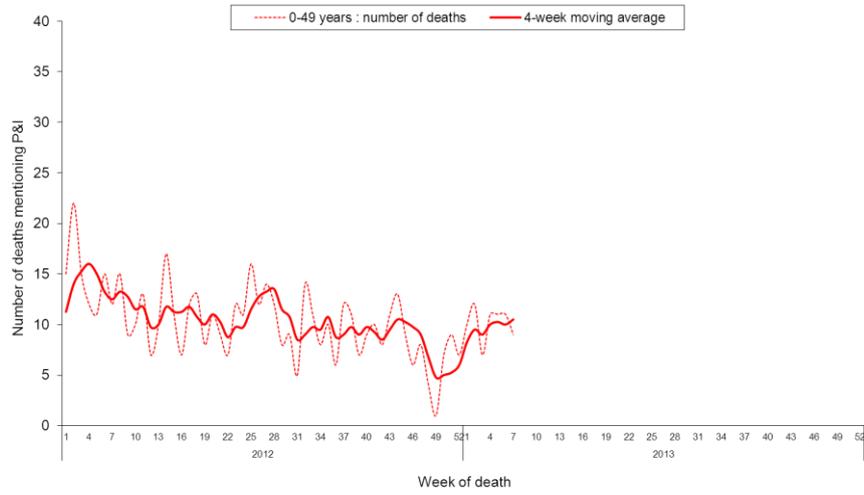
Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) mortality surveillance

During week 7, 2013, 318 deaths reported through the National Death Certificate System mentioned P&I as the cause of death. This number was above the number of previous week (278 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 February 16, 2013



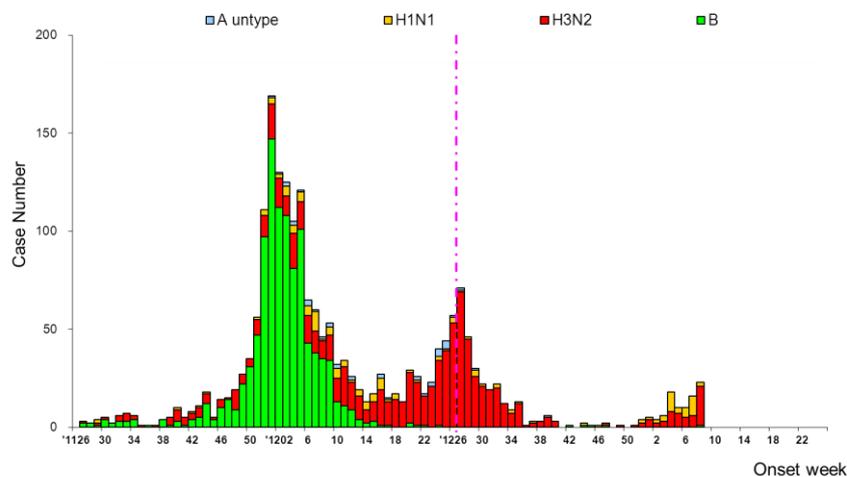
National pneumonia and influenza mortality by age group Week ending February 16, 2013



Reports of complicated influenza*

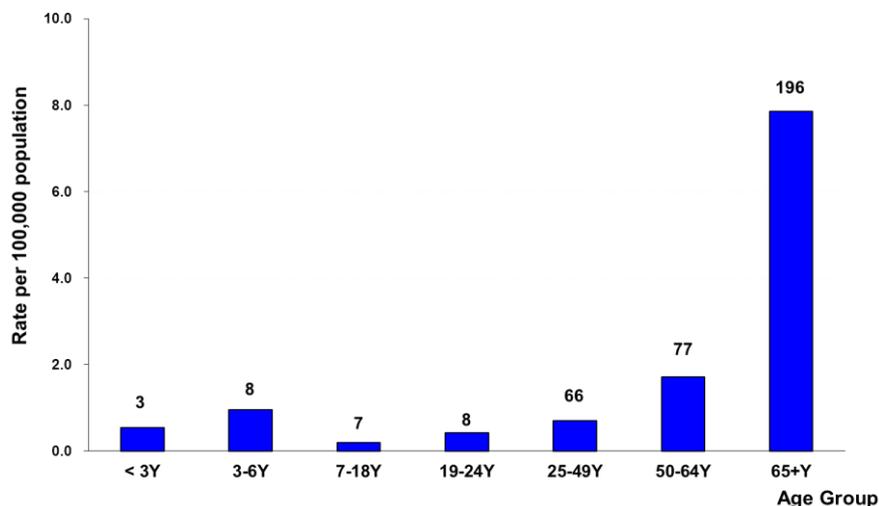
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Number of complicated influenza reports by week of onset June 26, 2011 to present



*Defined as influenza infection with pulmonary complication, neurologic complication, myocarditis, pericarditis, invasive bacterial infection requiring hospitalization, intensive care or resulting in deaths.

Rate of complicated influenza reports by age groups July 1, 2012 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 8, 2013, 1.19% of outpatient visits reported through the National Health Insurance Database were due to influenza-like illness (ILI), a 27% decrease compared with the proportion of previous week (the Chinese New Year holidays, 1.63%).

The proportion of emergency room visits for ILI is 10.59%, a 31% decrease compared with the proportion of previous week (the Chinese New Year holidays, 15.35%).

Proportions of outpatient and emergency room (ER) visits for influenza-like illness (June 26, 2011 to present)

