



Summary : Week 8 (Feb 22 – 28, 2015)

Influenza activity was still high in Taiwan. Influenza A(H3N2) virus was the predominant virus subtype recently in Taiwan.

- The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza was 29.9% during week 6, 2015. 90.9% of positive specimens were influenza A viruses.
- During week 8, 2015, there were 14 new severe complicated influenza cases and 2 new reports of death from severe complicated influenza. Since August 1, 2014, there were 26 reports of death among 159 severe complicated influenza cases.
- During week 8, 2015, the proportions of outpatient and emergency room visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) were lower than the proportions of previous week.

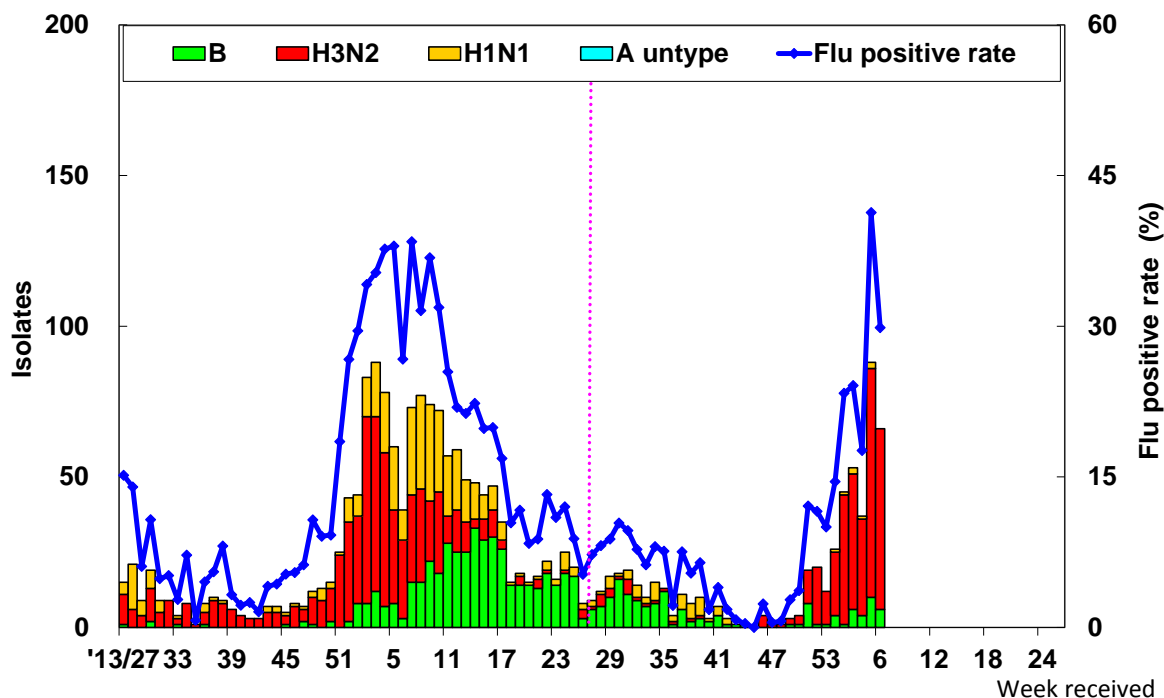
Viral Surveillance

	Data for week 6, 2015	Cumulative data since 7/1/2014
Number of specimens tested	221	5612
Number of positive specimens (%)	66(29.9)	554(9.9)
Positive specimens by type/subtype (%)		
Influenza A (% of all positive specimens)	60(90.9)	404(72.9)
A (H1N1) (% of all Influenza A)	0(0)	54(13.4)
A (H3N2)	60(100)	350(86.6)
A (unable to subtype)	0(0)	0(0)
A (subtyping not performed)	0(0)	0(0)
Influenza B	6(9.1)	150(27.1)



Antigenic Characterization: Taiwan CDC has antigenically characterized 60 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). 57% of influenza A (H3N2) viruses tested were related to the A (H3N2) component of the 2014-15 influenza vaccine (A/Texas/50/2012). 67% 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.

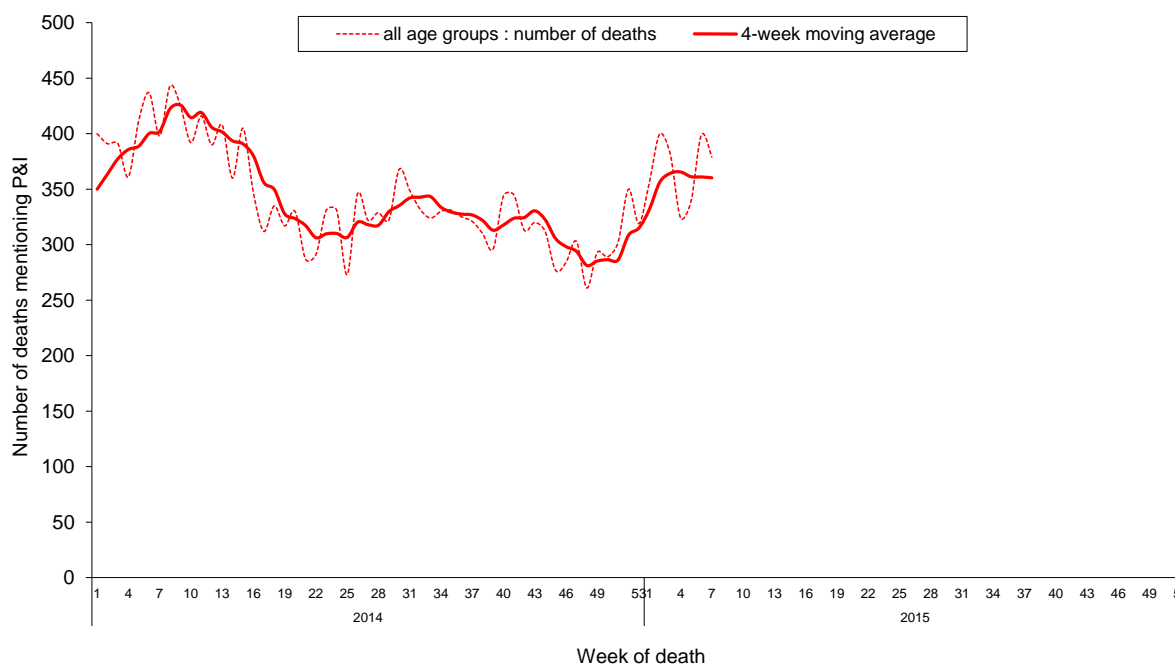
	Isolates tested (n)	Resistance Viruses, n (%)
		Oseltamivir
Influenza A (H1N1)	6	0
Influenza A (H3N2)	16	0
Influenza B	9	0



Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) mortality surveillance

The trend of P&I was stable recently. 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+).

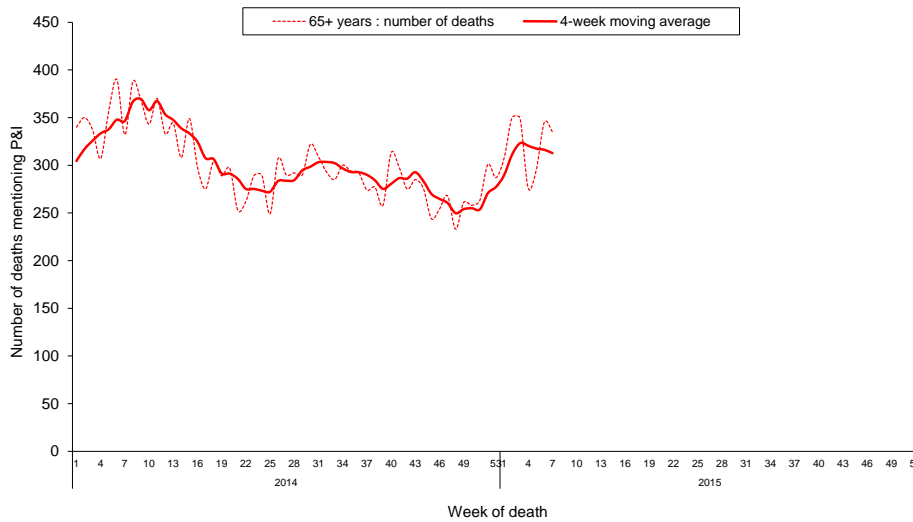
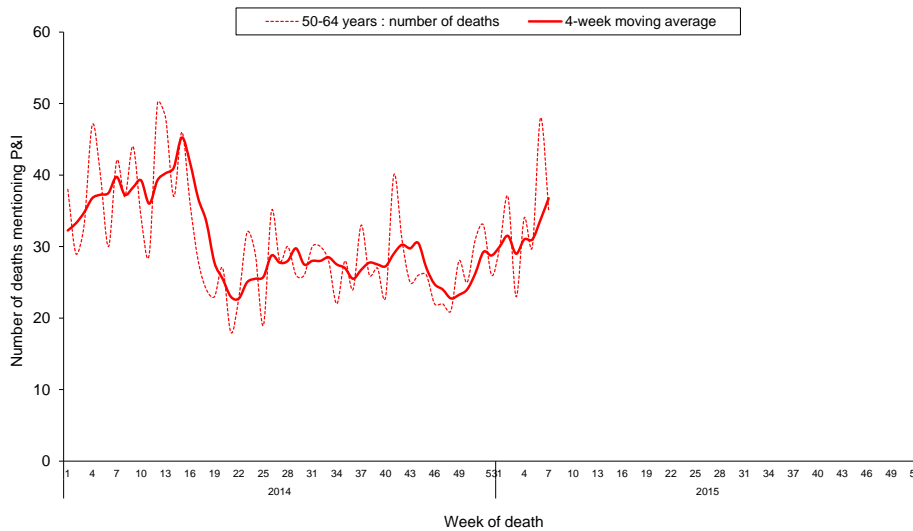
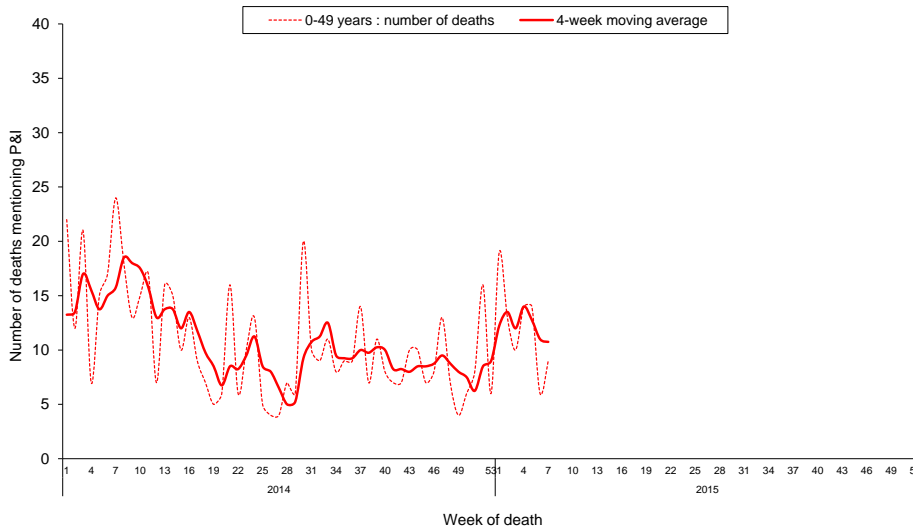
National pneumonia and influenza mortality Week ending at Feb 21, 2015



* 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.



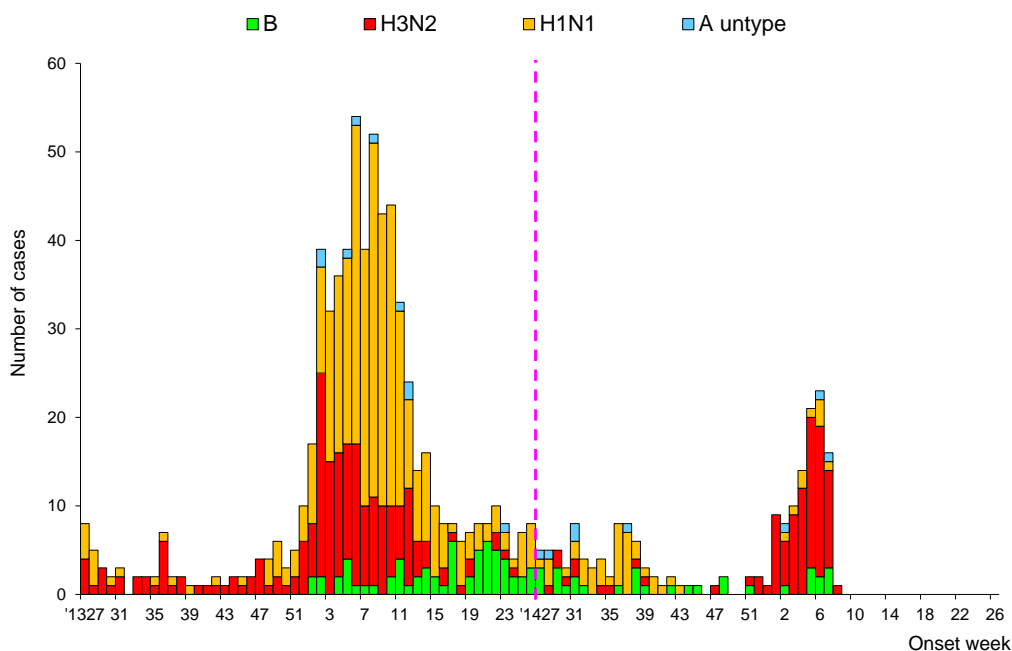
National pneumonia and influenza mortality by age group Week ending at Feb 21, 2015



Reports of severe complicated influenza

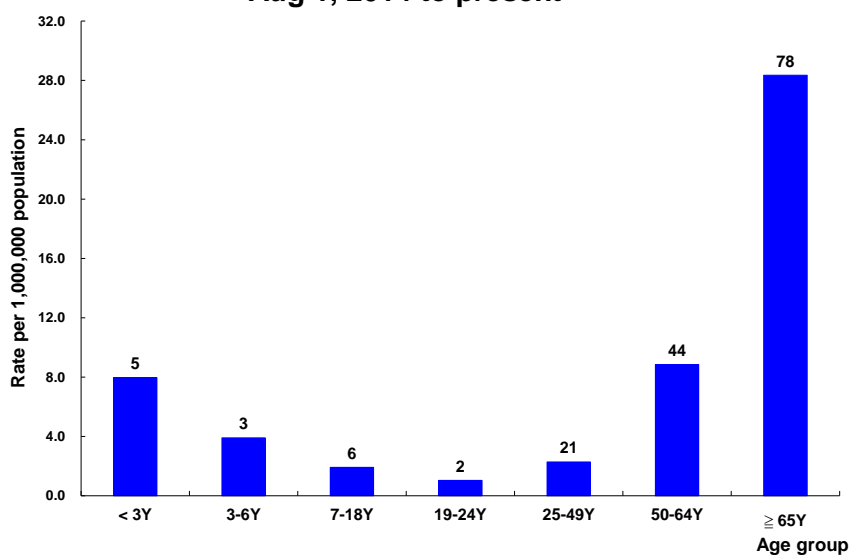
During week 8, there were 14 new severe complicated influenza infections, including 9 influenza A(H3N2) cases, 1 influenza A(H1N1) case, 1 un-typed influenza A case and 3 influenza B cases. There were 2 new reports of death from influenza A(H3N2) virus infection. Since August 1, 2014, 159 cases of severe complicated influenza have been confirmed, including 42 influenza A(H1N1) cases, 91 influenza A(H3N2) cases, 5 un-typed influenza A cases, 21 influenza B cases. There have been 26 reports of death from severe complicated influenza infection, including 12 influenza A(H1N1) cases, 12 influenza A(H3N2) cases, and 2 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 8, 2015, the proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) according to the National Health Insurance Database was 1.4%, which was lower than the proportion of previous week (1.6%). The proportion of emergency room (ER) visits for ILI was 11.0%, which was lower than the proportion of previous week (14.0%).

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

