



Summary

During week 41 (October 10–October 16, 2010), influenza activity decreased in Taiwan, and seasonal influenza virus type AH3 is predominant in the community. Most of the influenza viruses match the 2010–11 vaccine component.

- Of the 505 specimens tested during week 39–41, 105 (21%) were positive for influenza viruses, 92 (18%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2) viruses and 13 (3%) were positive for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 viruses.
- Since July 1, 2010, there have been 547 reports of complicated influenza virus infections, including 461 reports of seasonal influenza virus type H3N2 infections and 59 reports of complicated pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infections. There were 11 new seasonal H3N2 cases and 1 complicated pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza case during week 41. Since July 1, 2009, there have been 998 reports of complicated pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infections (51 deaths). Since July 1, 2010, there have been 23 reports of death from complicated influenza infection; 7 from the pandemic H1N1 2009 and 16 from the seasonal H3N2 strain, respectively.
- The number of deaths related to pneumonia and influenza during week 40 was 241, which was below the number for the average of the previous 3 weeks (267 deaths).
- The rate of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness is 1.08%, a 3% decrease compared with the previous week (1.11%).
- The rate of emergency room visits for influenza-like illness is 10.52%, a 5% decrease compared with the previous week (11.09%).

Virologic surveillance

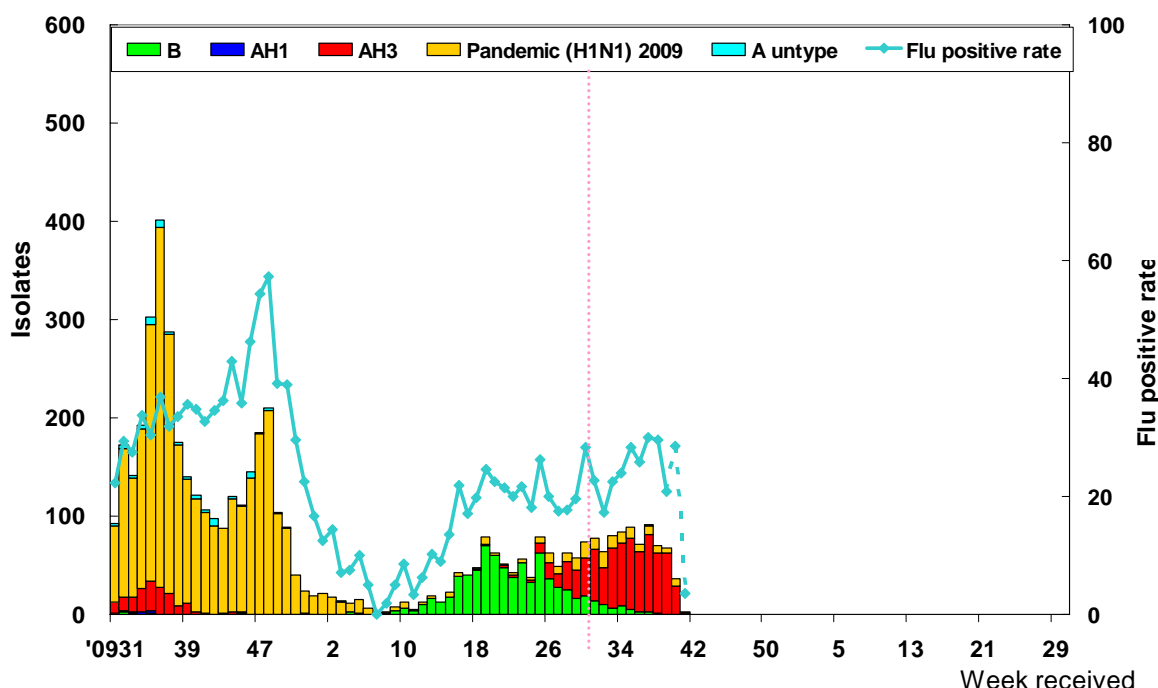
The results of tests performed during the past 3 weeks are summarized in the table below.

	Data for weeks 39–41	Cumulative data since 7/1/2010
Number of specimens tested	505	4,545
Number of positive specimens (%)	105(21)	1036(23)
Positive specimens by type/subtype (%)		
Influenza A (% of all positive specimens)	105(100)	863(83)
A (pandemic [H1N1] 2009) (% of all Influenza A)	13(12)	152(18)
A (H3)	92(88)	710(82)
A (H1)	0(0)	0(0)
A (unable to subtype)	0(0)	1(<1)
A (subtyping not performed)	0(0)	0(0)
Influenza B	0(0)	173(17)



Antigenic characterization: Taiwan CDC has antigenically characterized 131 human influenza viruses [74 influenza A (H3), 28 pandemic (H1N1) 2009, 29 influenza B] since July 1, 2010. Seventy-three (99%) of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses tested were related to the A (H3N2) vaccine component (A/Perth/16/2009). Twenty-six (93%) of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 viruses tested were related to the A/California/07/2009 vaccine component. Twenty-five (86%) of the influenza B viruses tested belonged to the B/Victoria lineage and were related to the B component of the 2010–11 influenza vaccine (B/Brisbane/60/2008) .

Influenza positive tests reported to Taiwan CDC by contracted laboratories, 2009–2011



Antiviral resistance: Since July 1, 2010, 134 influenza A (H3N2), 39 pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and 6 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.

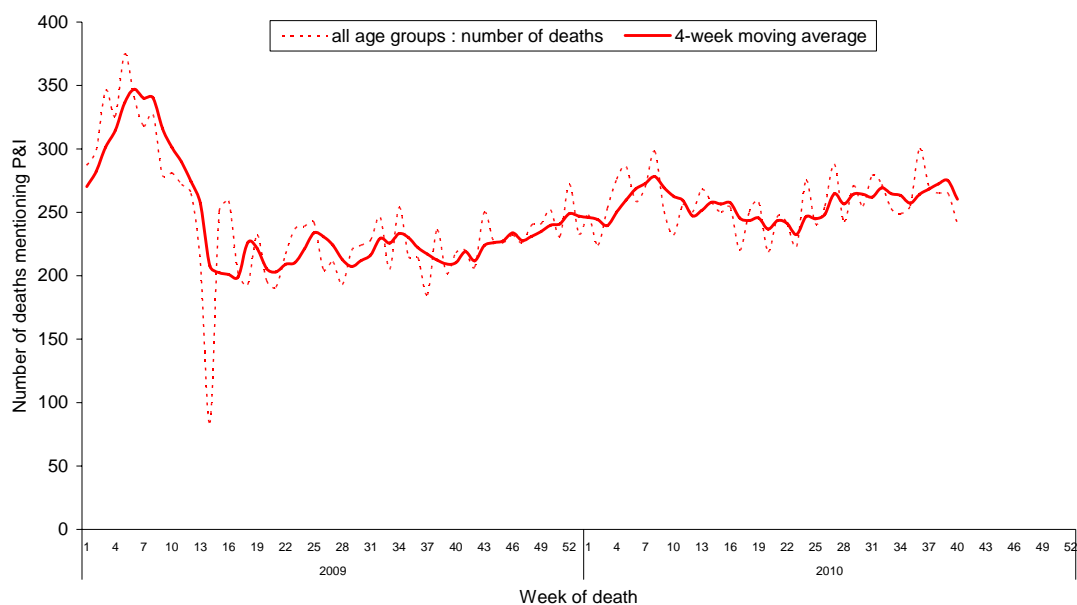
	Isolates tested (n)	Resistance Viruses, n (%)
		Oseltamivir
A (H3)	134	0 (0)
A (pandemic [H1N1] 2009)	39	0 (0)
B	6	0 (0)



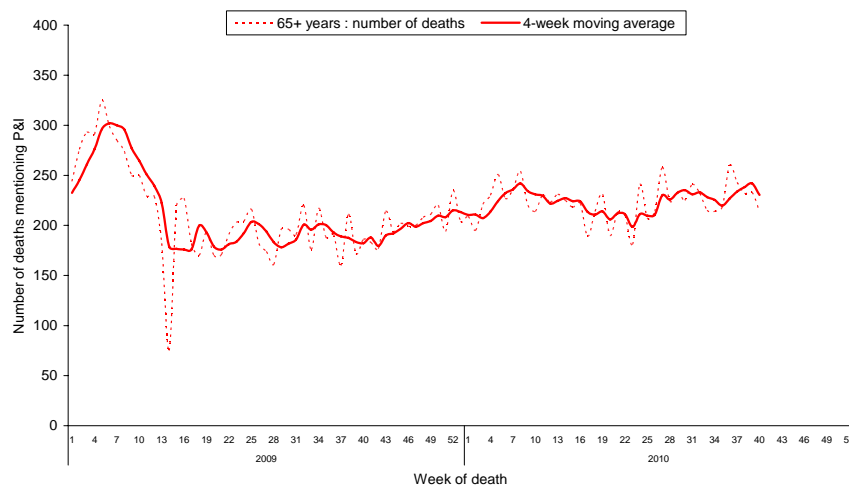
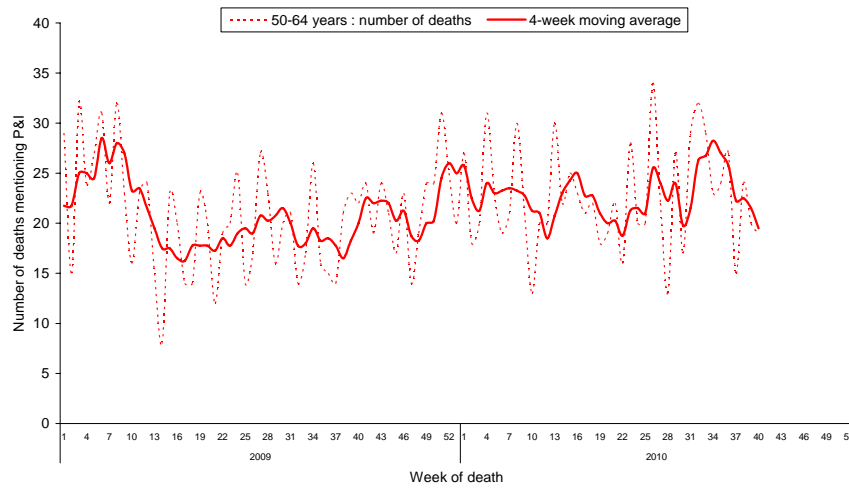
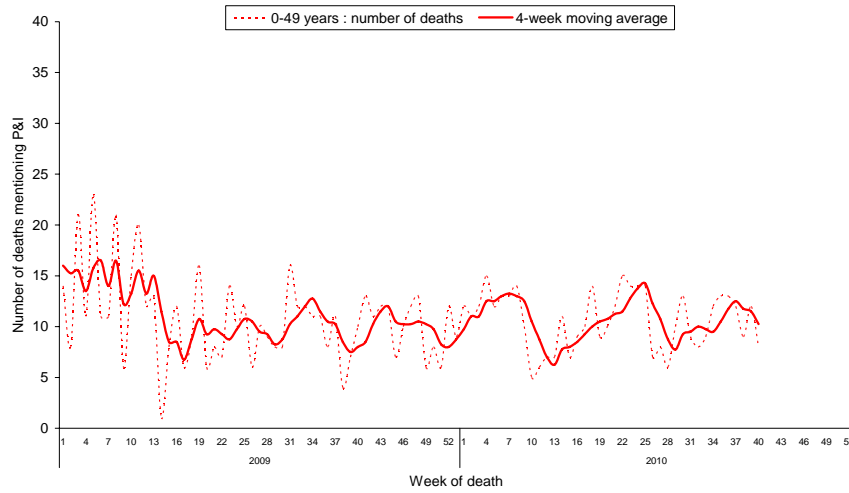
Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) mortality surveillance

During week 40, 241 deaths reported through the National Death Certificate System mentioned P&I as the cause of death. This number was below that for the average of the previous 3 weeks (267 deaths). The number of deaths related to P&I for age groups 0–49, 50–64, and greater than 65 years was the highest for adult greater than 65 years of age.

National pneumonia and influenza mortality Week ending 10/9/2010



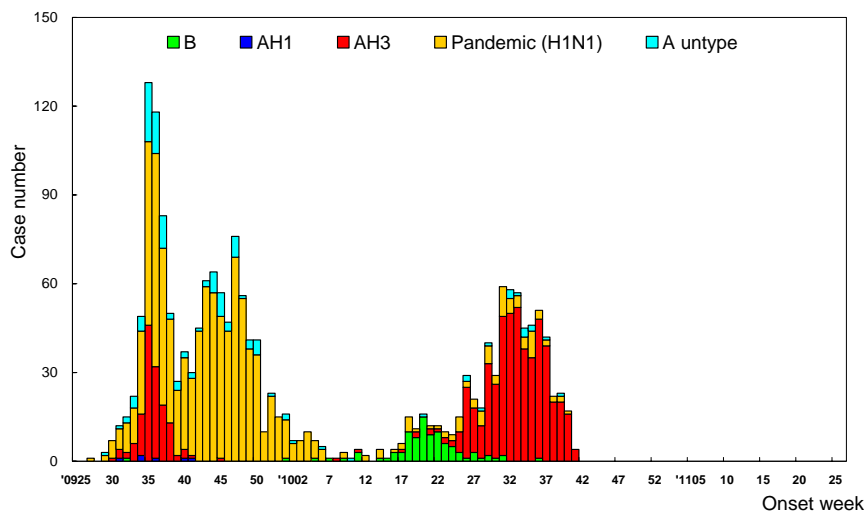
National pneumonia and influenza mortality by age group Week ending 10/9/2010



Reports of complicated influenza*

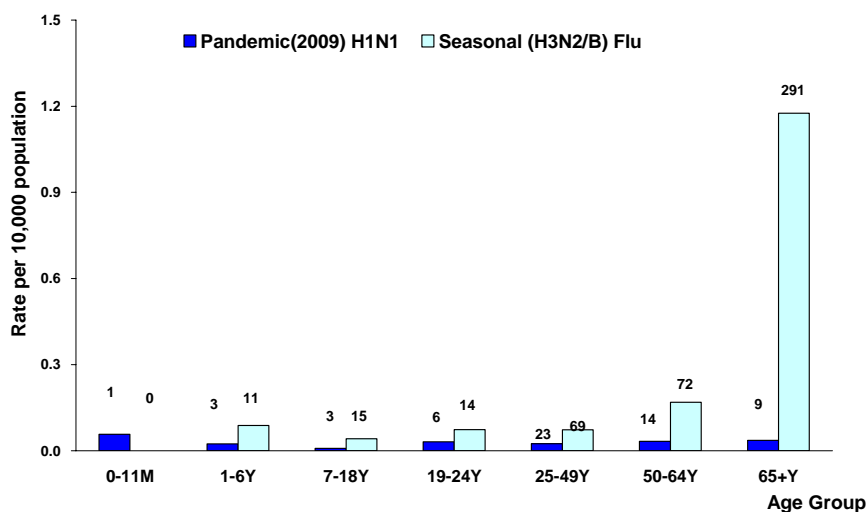
Since July 1, 2010, there have been 547 reports of complicated influenza virus infections, including 461 reports of seasonal influenza virus type H3N2 infections and 59 reports of complicated pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infections. There were 11 new seasonal H3N2 cases and 1 complicated pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza case during week 41. Since July 1, 2009, there have been 998 reports of complicated pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus infections (51 deaths). Since July 1, 2010, there have been 23 reports of death from complicated influenza infection; 7 from the pandemic H1N1 2009 and 16 from the seasonal H3N2 strain, respectively.

Number of complicated influenza reports by week of onset 7/1/2009 to present



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

Rate of complicated influenza reports by age groups 7/1/2010 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 41, 1.08% of outpatient visits reported through the National Health Insurance Database were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This rate has decreased by 3% compared with the previous week (1.11%).

Nationwide during week 41, 10.52% of emergency room patient visits reported through the Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance System (RODS) were due to ILI. This rate has decreased by 5% compared with the previous week (11.09%).

Rate of outpatient and emergency room (ER) visits for influenza-like illness 6/14/2009 to present

