

Influenza Activity – Taiwan

Influenza viruses were isolated from 12 persons in Taipei City from January 7 to February 11, 1985. Five isolates were type A (H3N2) strains similar to A/Bangkok/1/79 (H3N2); seven were type B strains. The isolates were from unrelated persons living in different parts of Taipei City and County. Nine isolates were from children ages 8 months to 9 years. The other three isolates were from adults ages 21, 44, and 55 years. At this time clinical information on these individuals is unavailable.

Reported by National Institute of Preventive Medicine, Nankong, and the Bureau of Disease Control, Department of Health, Executive Yuan.

Editorial note: This is the first time influenza viruses have been isolated in the Taiwan Area this year. Since few laboratories outside Taipei City are equipped for influenza virus isolation and typing, the extent of illness in the rest of the island is unknown. Beginning in December and January, widespread influenza A (H3N2) activity was reported in many countries in the northern hemisphere including the USA, United Kingdom, France, Norway, USSR, Japan, Hong Kong and mainland China.¹ Most countries are reporting widespread influenza A (H3N2) with sporadic outbreaks of influenza B. In

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