



Synopsis

Influenza is currently in an epidemic period and shows an increasing trend recently, with A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 co-circulating in the community.

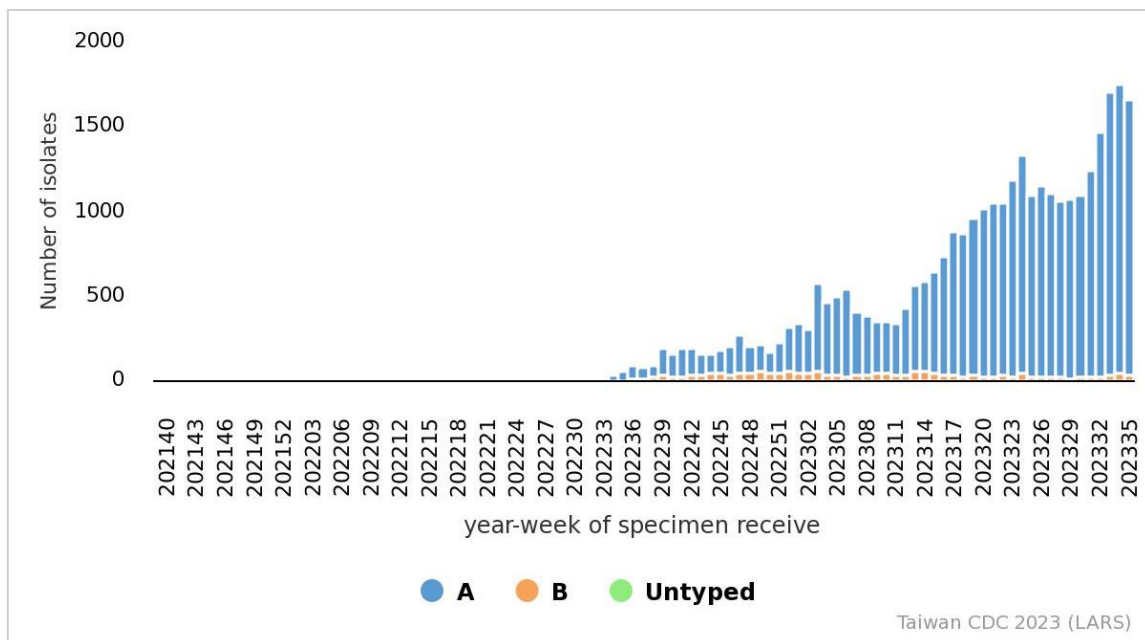
- Influenza A virus is circulating within the community. During the last four weeks, H1N1 and H3N2 were co-circulating.
- During week 36, the number of medical visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatient and ER was similar to that of the previous week; however, it shows an increasing trend recently.
- Since October 1, 2022, there have been 664 influenza cases with severe complications (432 of H1N1, 215 of H3N2, 10 of untyped influenza A and 7 of influenza B), and among them, 149 cases were fatal.

Laboratory Surveillance¹

Laboratory Automated Reporting System (LARS)

The number of influenza-positive specimens shows an increasing trend recently. Over the last four weeks, the proportion of influenza A positive specimens was 98%.

Numbers of influenza-positive specimens from LARS



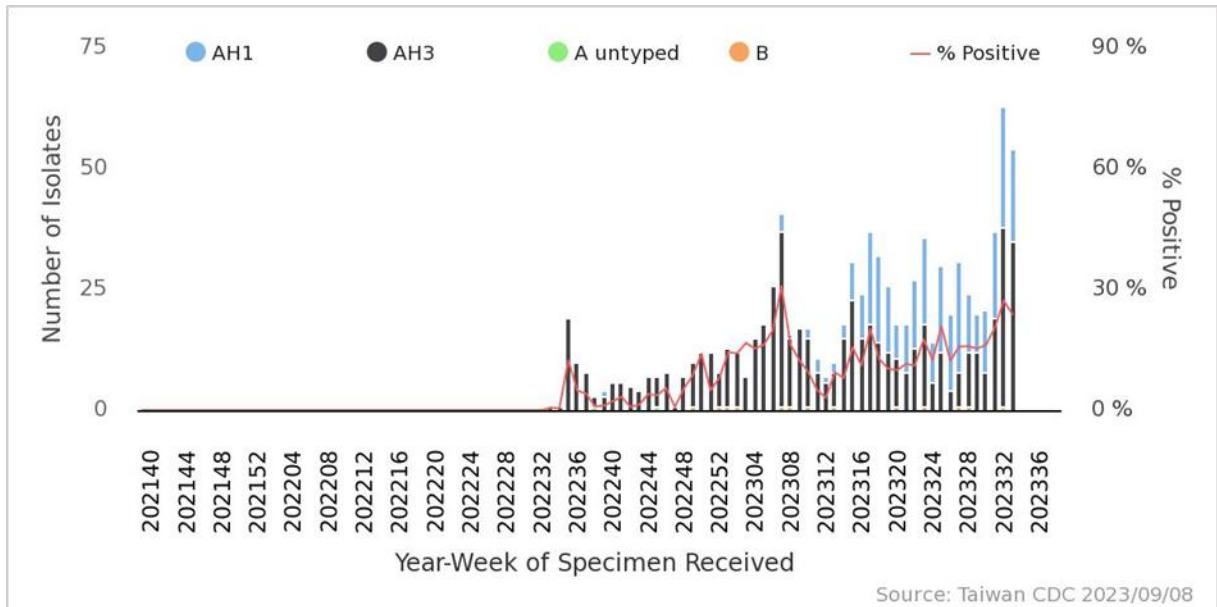
¹ In terms of the surveillance systems in Taiwan, please see: Jian, S. W., Chen, C. M., Lee, C. Y., & Liu, D. P. (2017). Real-Time Surveillance of Infectious Diseases: Taiwan's Experience. Health security, 15(2), 144-153.



Contracted Virology Laboratories Surveillance

The proportion of influenza-positive specimens of week 34 was 23.8%. During the last four weeks (week 31 to week 34), influenza A was the predominant virus type, with H3N2 and H1N1 accounting for 56.6% and 42.9%, respectively. Weekly virus data are available at <https://nidss.cdc.gov.tw/>.

Influenza isolates according to Contracted Virology Laboratories

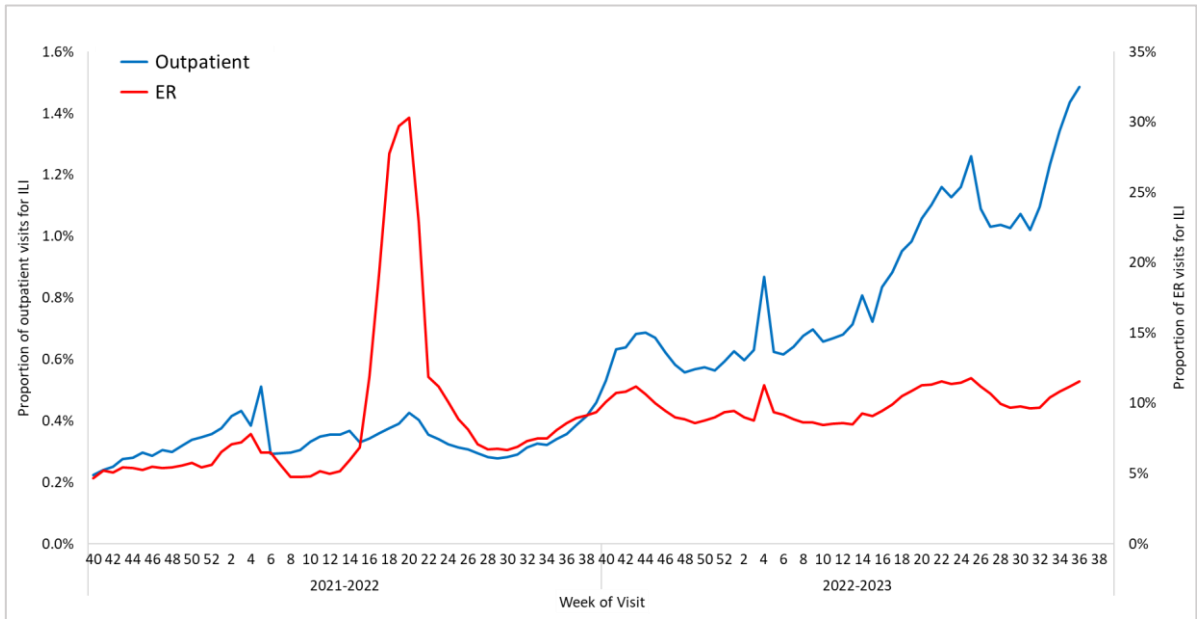


Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

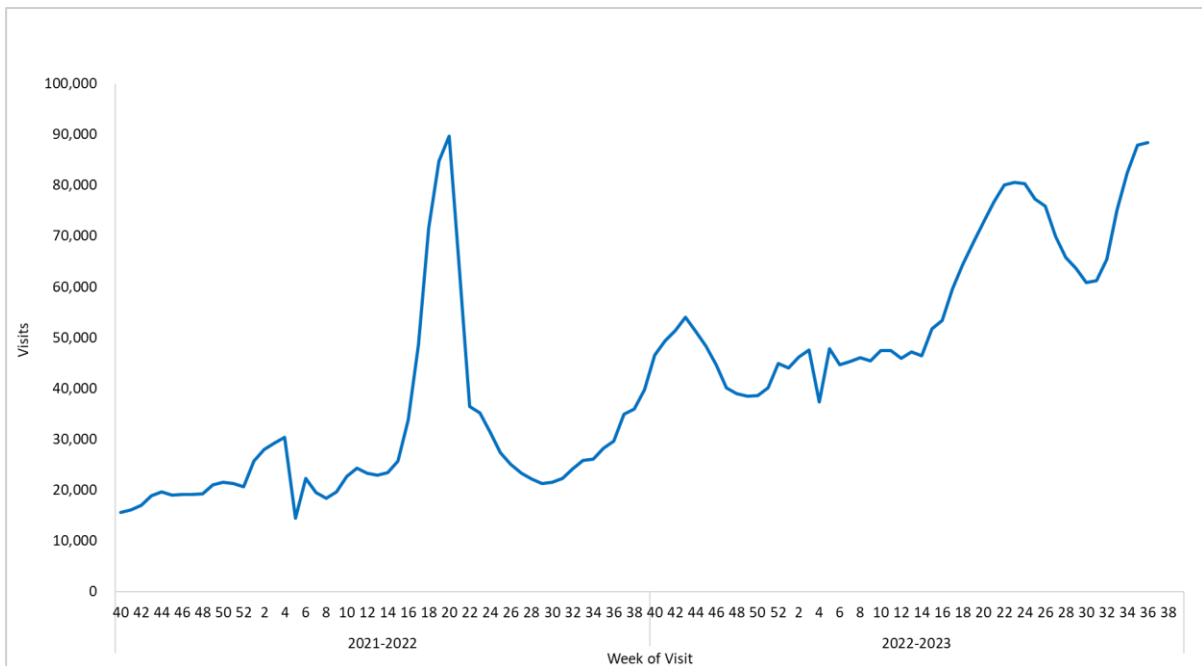
During week 36, the proportions of ILI visits were 1.5% and 11.5% in outpatient and ER, respectively. The total number of visits for ILI in outpatient and ER was 88,323 in week 36, which was similar to the previous week. However, the trend has been increasing recently.



Percentages of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Total number of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Influenza Case with Severe Complications

There were 39 newly confirmed influenza cases with severe complications (25 of H1N1, 13 of H3N2 and 1 of untyped influenza A), and 11 fatal cases (9 of H1N1 and 2 of H3N2). Since October 1, 2022, a total of 664 influenza cases with severe complications (432 of H1N1, 215 of H3N2, 10 of untyped influenza A and 7 of influenza B) have been confirmed, and among them, 149 cases (111 of H1N1, 33 of H3N2, 3 of untyped influenza A and 2 of influenza B) were fatal.

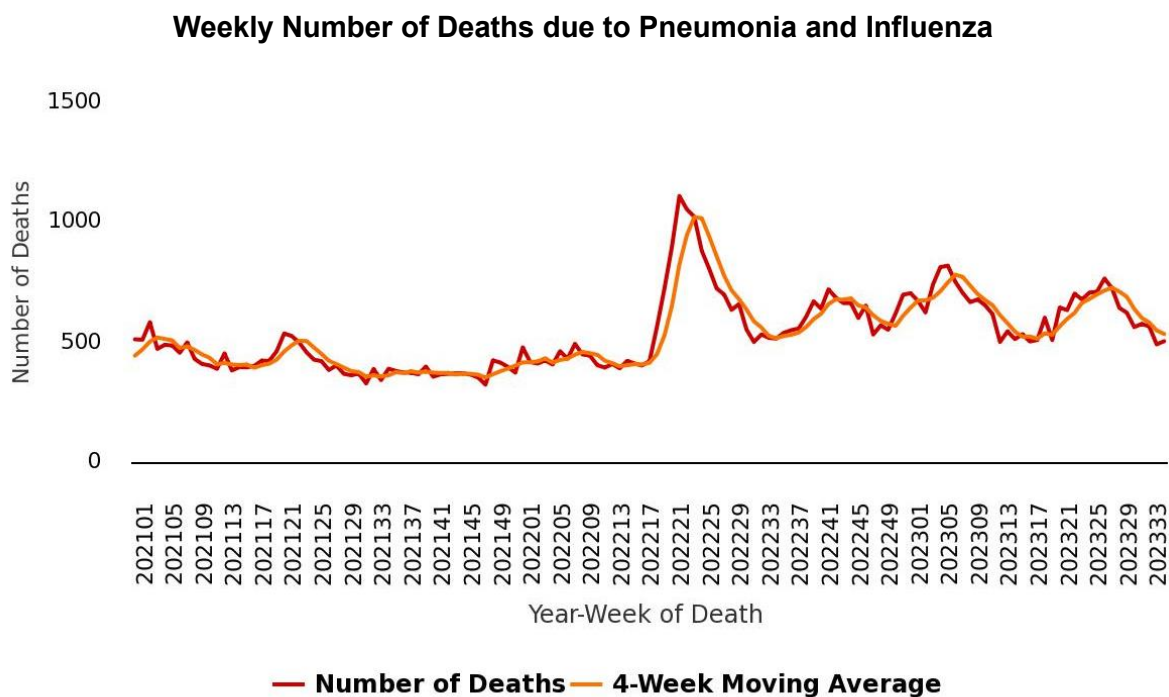
Incidence of influenza cases with severe complications and mortality rate October 1, 2022, to September 11, 2023

Age Group	Cases	Deaths	Cumulative incidence per 100,000 population	Cumulative mortality per 100,000 population
< 3 y	6	0	1.3	0
3-6 y	15	2	1.9	0.3
7-18 y	36	3	1.5	0.1
19-24 y	4	0	0.2	0
25-49 y	96	15	1.1	0.2
50-64 y	159	34	3.0	0.6
65 +	348	95	8.7	2.4
Total	664	149	2.9	0.6



Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance

Based on the Internet System for Death Reporting (ISDR)² data, the trend of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) shows a decrease trend recently. The proportion of deaths attributed to P&I for adults aged 65 and older was the highest among the three age groups (0-49, 50-64, and 65+). Weekly P&I data are available at <https://nidss.cdc.gov.tw/>.



² Medical institutions are required to report any mortality case to the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) within 7 days after a death certificate is issued through the Internet System for Death Reporting (ISDR). Either the immediate cause of death or the underlying cause of death was used to identify P&I death cases. Only those with keyword texts containing 'pneumonia', 'influenza' or 'common cold' were counted as a P&I death.

