



Synopsis

Influenza virus activity is increasing.

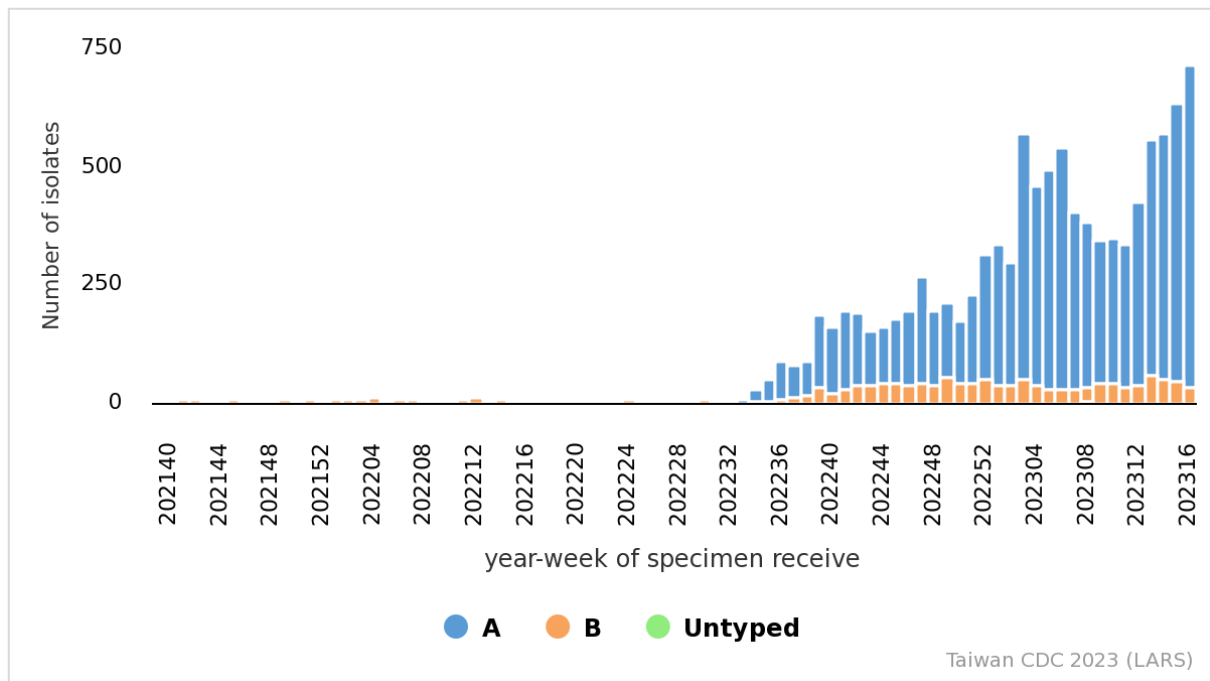
- Influenza A virus is circulating in community. During the last four weeks, A/H3N2 was the predominant type among influenza virus, while A/H1N1 slightly increased.
- During week 17, the number of medical visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was higher than the previous week and the same periods of the previous three flu seasons.
- There have been 127 influenza cases with severe complications (91 H3N2, 30 H1N1, 2 untyped influenza A, and 4 influenza B) since October 1, 2022, and 20 of them were fatal.

Laboratory Surveillance¹

Laboratory Automated Reporting System (LARS)

During the last four weeks, the number of influenza-positive specimens was increasing and the proportion of influenza A positive specimens was 92%.

Trend of influenza-positive specimens according to LARS



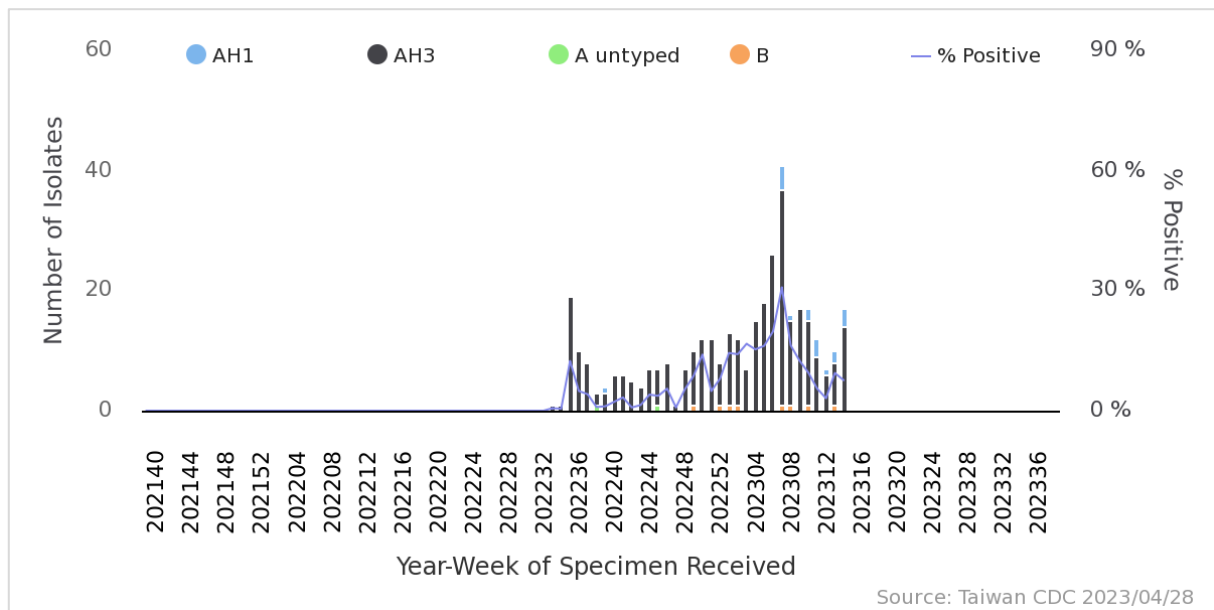
¹ In terms of the surveillance systems in Taiwan, please see: Jian, S. W., Chen, C. M., Lee, C. Y., & Liu, D. P. (2017). Real-Time Surveillance of Infectious Diseases: Taiwan's Experience. Health security, 15(2), 144-153.



Contracted Virology Laboratories Surveillance

The proportion of influenza-positive specimens of week 15 was 7.6%. During the last four weeks (week 12 to week 15, 2023), A/H3N2 was the predominant type among influenza virus, while A/H1N1 slightly increased. Weekly virus data are available at <https://nidss.cdc.gov.tw/>.

Influenza isolates according to Contracted Virology Laboratories

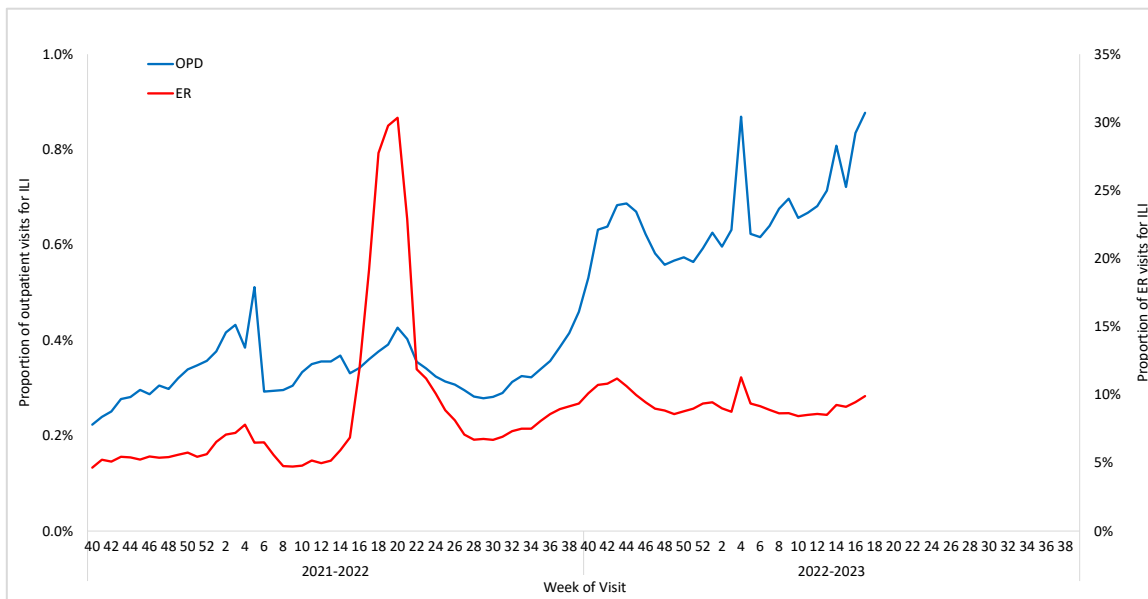


Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

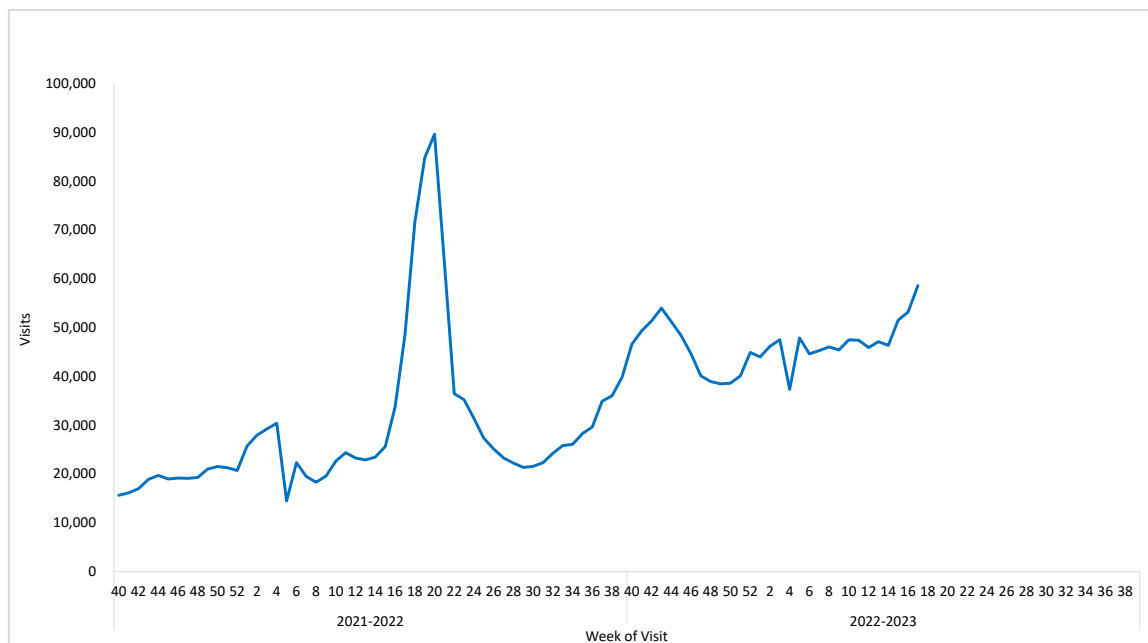
During week 17, the proportions of ILI visits were 0.9% and 9.9% for the outpatient and ER visits respectively. The total number of visits for ILI in outpatient and ER was 58,588, and the trend was increasing and higher than the same periods of the previous three flu seasons.



Percentages of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Total number of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Influenza Case with Severe Complications

There were 13 newly confirmed influenza cases with severe complications (7 H3N2, 6 H1N1). A total of 127 influenza cases with severe complications (91 H3N2, 30 H1N1, 2 untyped influenza A, and 4 influenza B) have been confirmed since October 1, 2022, and 20 of them (17 H3N2, 2 H1N1 and 1 influenza B) were fatal.

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

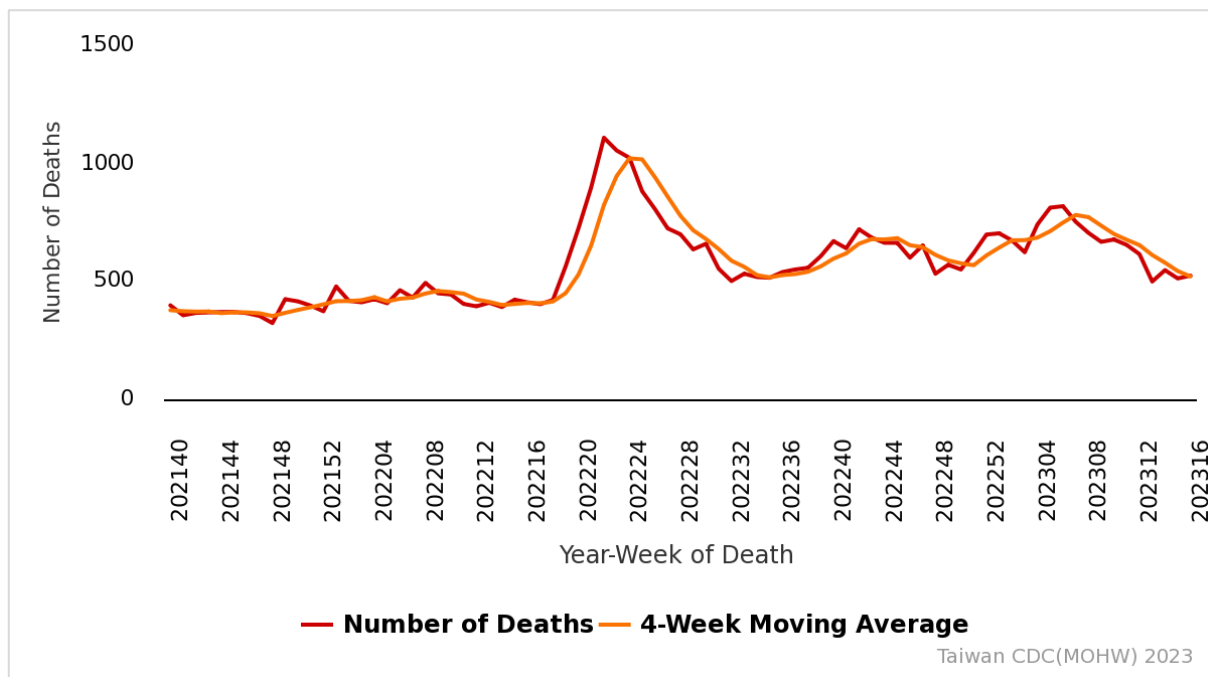
| Age Group | Cases | Deaths | Cumulative incidence per 100,000 population | Cumulative mortality per 100,000 population |
|-----------|-------|--------|---|---|
| < 3 y | 1 | 0 | 0.21 | 0 |
| 3-6 y | 2 | 0 | 0.26 | 0 |
| 7-18 y | 13 | 0 | 0.53 | 0 |
| 19-24 y | 1 | 0 | 0.06 | 0 |
| 25-49 y | 23 | 1 | 0.27 | 0.01 |
| 50-64 y | 29 | 5 | 0.55 | 0.10 |
| 65 + | 58 | 14 | 1.46 | 0.35 |
| Total | 127 | 20 | 0.55 | 0.09 |



Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance

Based on the Internet System for Death Reporting (ISDR)² data, the number of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) during week 16 was slightly higher than the previous week, but the trend still decreased during recent weeks. 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/>.

Weekly Number of Deaths due to Pneumonia and Influenza



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.

