



Synopsis

The influenza epidemic is gradually decreasing, with A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 co-circulating in the community. However, the number of reported influenza cases with severe conditions does not significantly decline, it is important to remain attentive for signs of severe illness in influenza cases.

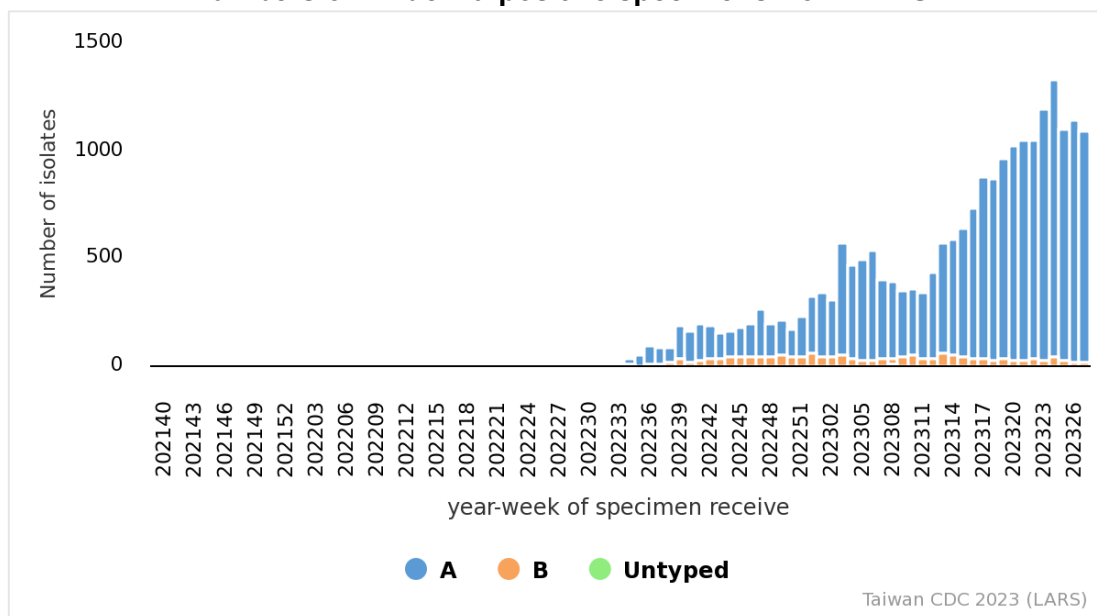
- Influenza A virus is circulating in the community. During the last four weeks, H1N1 and H3N2 were co-circulating.
- During week 28, the number of medical visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatient and ER declined compared to the previous week.
- There have been 402 influenza cases with severe complications (239 of H1N1, 151 of H3N2, 5 of untyped influenza A and 7 of influenza B) since October 1, 2022, and among them, 85 cases were fatal.

Laboratory Surveillance¹

Laboratory Automated Reporting System (LARS)

During week 28, the number of influenza-positive specimens was similar to the previous two weeks, but it has shown a downward trend recently. Over the last four weeks, the proportion of influenza A positive specimens was 98%.

Numbers of influenza-positive specimens from LARS



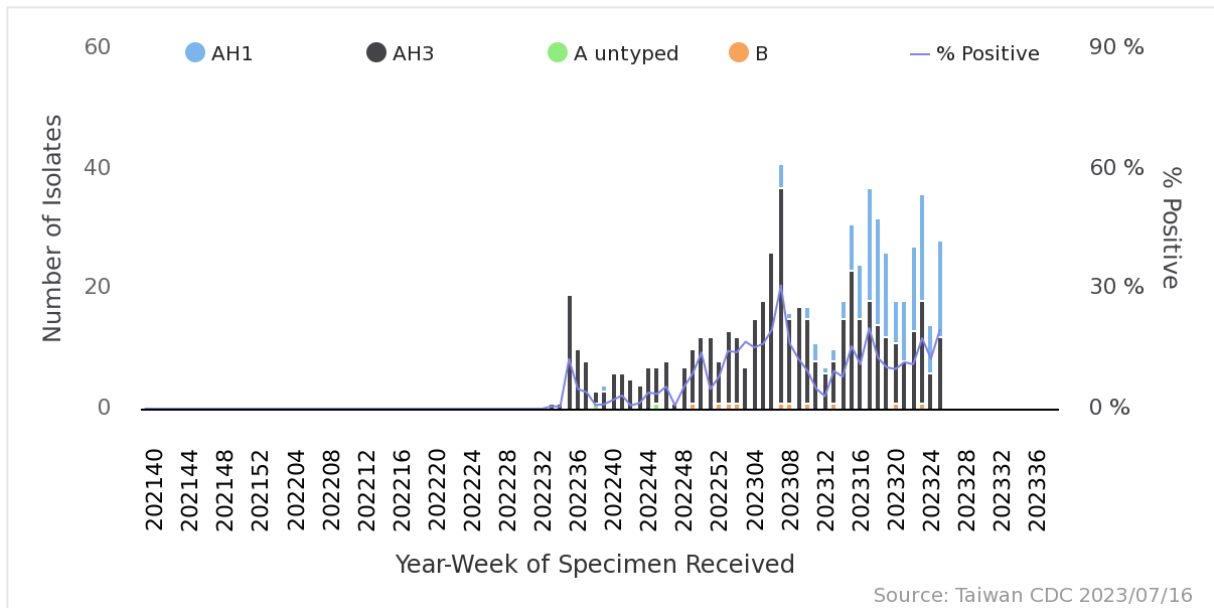
¹ In terms of the surveillance systems in Taiwan, please see: Jian, S. W., Chen, C. M., Lee, C. Y., & Liu, D. P. (2017). Real-Time Surveillance of Infectious Diseases: Taiwan's Experience. Health security, 15(2), 144-153.



Contracted Virology Laboratories Surveillance

The proportion of influenza-positive specimens of week 26 was 19.6%. During the last four weeks (week 23 to week 26), influenza A was the predominant virus type, with A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 accounting for 53.3% and 45.7%, respectively. A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 were co-circulating in the community. Weekly virus data are available at <https://nidss.cdc.gov.tw/>.

Influenza isolates according to Contracted Virology Laboratories

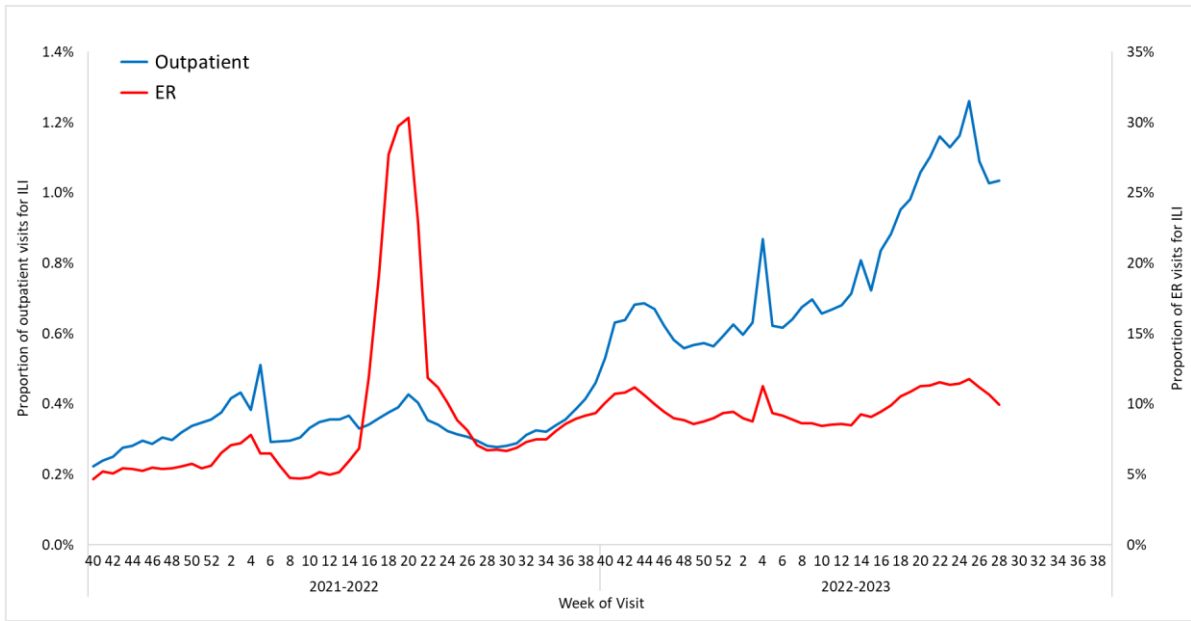


Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

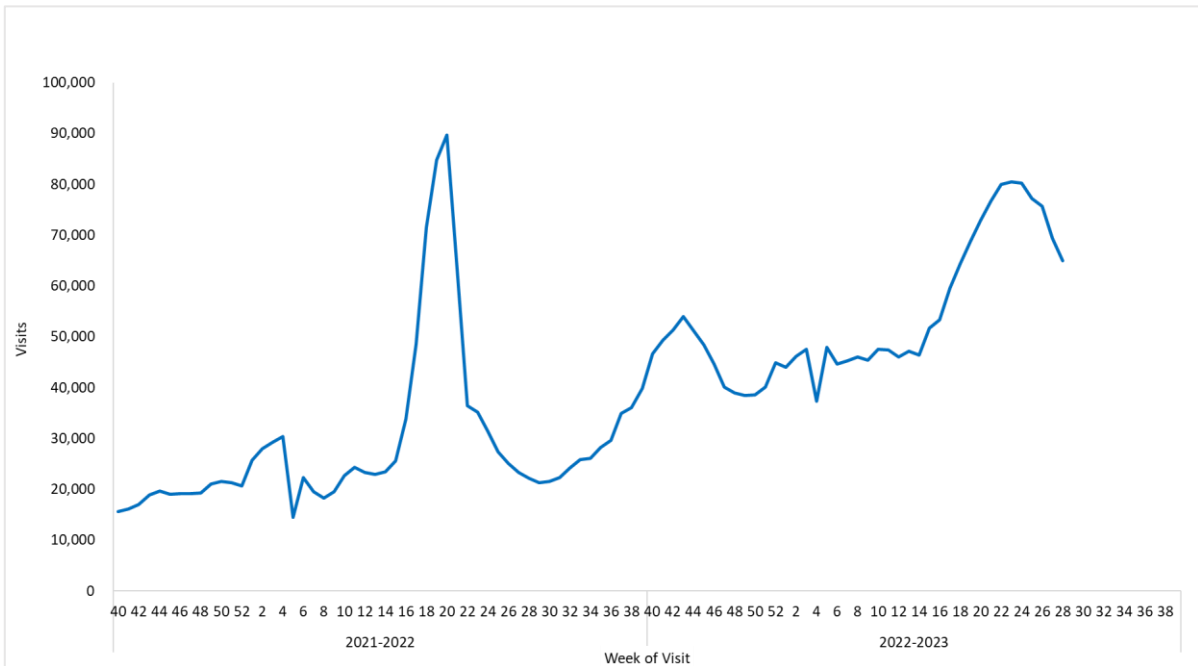
During week 28, the proportions of ILI visits were 1.0% and 10.0% in outpatient and ER, respectively. The total number of visits for ILI in outpatient and ER was 64,895 in week 28, lower than previous weeks. However, the trend was higher than the same periods of the previous three influenza seasons.



Percentages of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Total number of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Influenza Case with Severe Complications

There were 28 newly confirmed influenza cases with severe complications (22 of H1N1, 4 of H3N2, 1 of untyped influenza A and 1 of influenza B) and 9 fatal cases (8 of H1N1 and 1 of H3N2). A total of 402 influenza cases with severe complications (239 of H1N1, 151 of H3N2, 5 of untyped influenza A and 7 of influenza B) have been confirmed since October 1, 2022, and among them, 85 cases (57 of H1N1, 25 of H3N2, 1 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 July 17, 2023

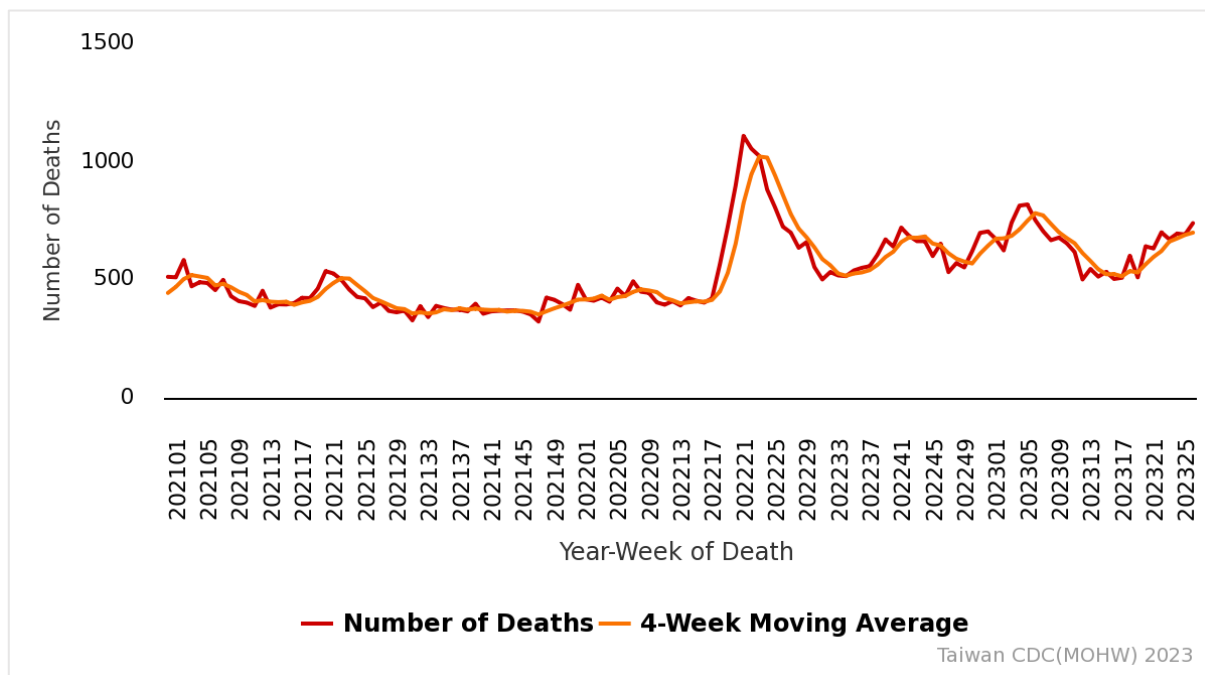
Age Group	Cases	Deaths	Cumulative incidence per 100,000 population	Cumulative mortality per 100,000 population
< 3 y	3	0	0.6	0
3-6 y	11	2	1.4	0.3
7-18 y	25	1	1.0	0.04
19-24 y	2	0	0.1	0
25-49 y	55	8	0.6	0.1
50-64 y	106	19	2.0	0.4
65 +	200	55	5.0	1.4
Total	402	85	1.7	0.4



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) was slightly increasing 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/>.

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.

