



Synopsis

Influenza virus activity and the number of medical visits for ILI increased in recent weeks.

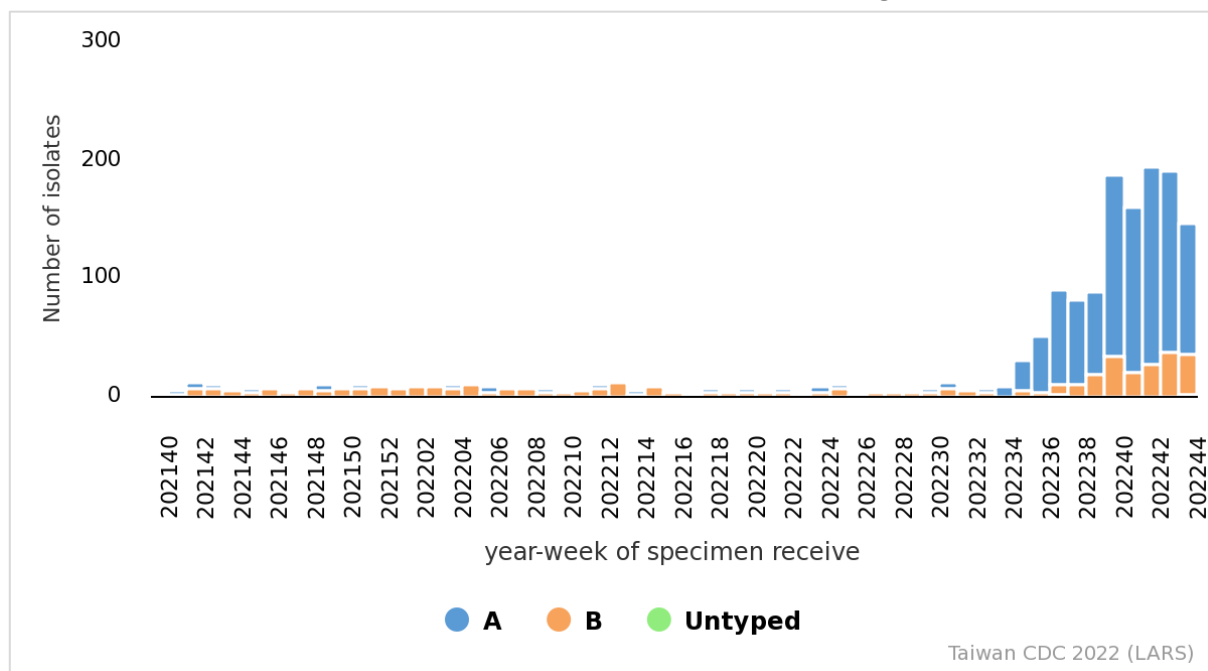
- Influenza virus activity increased recently in community. A/H3N2 was predominant type among influenza virus isolates during the past four weeks.
- The number of medical visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was lower than previous week, but still higher than the same periods of previous two flu seasons.
- There was two influenza case with severe complications (A/H3Ns) since October 1, 2022, and one of them was fatal.

Laboratory Surveillance¹

Laboratory Automated Reporting System (LARS)

The number of influenza-positive specimens increased in recent weeks. During the past four weeks, the proportions of influenza A and influenza B positive specimens were 82% and 18% respectively.

Trend of influenza-positive specimens according to LARS



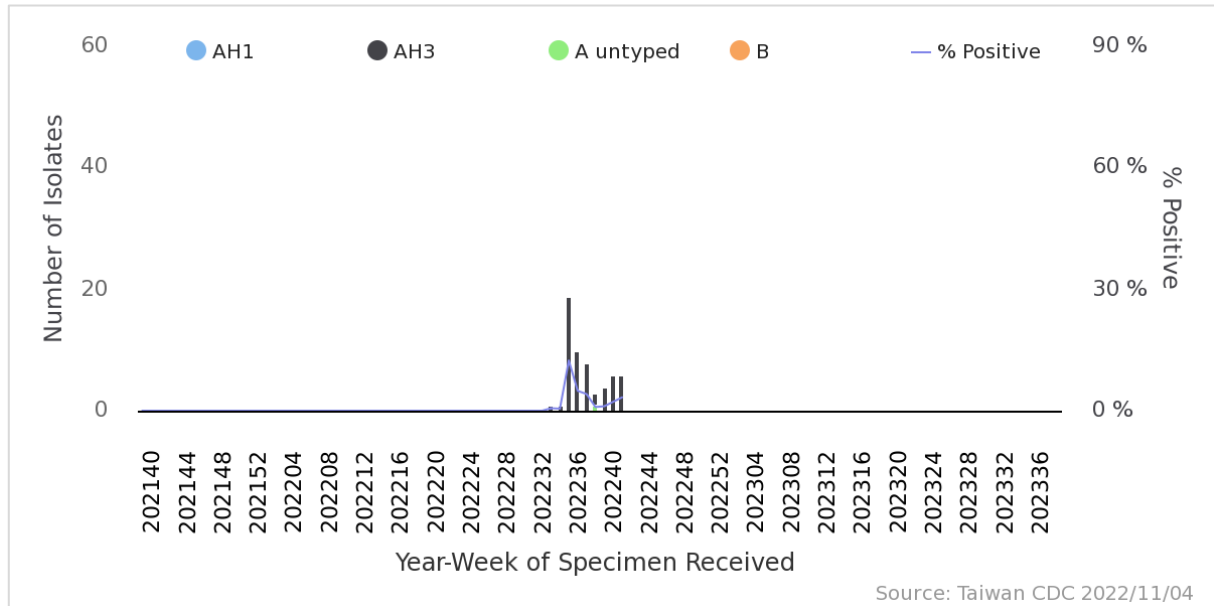
¹ In terms of the surveillance systems in Taiwan, please see: Jian, S. W., Chen, C. M., Lee, C. Y., & Liu, D. P. (2017). Real-Time Surveillance of Infectious Diseases: Taiwan's Experience. Health security, 15(2), 144-153.



Contracted Virology Laboratories Surveillance

The proportion of influenza-positive specimens was 3.3% during week 42, 2022. During the past four weeks (week 39 to week 42, 2022), A/H3N2 was predominant type among influenza virus isolates. Weekly virus data are available at <https://nidss.cdc.gov.tw/>.

Influenza isolates according to Contracted Virology Laboratories

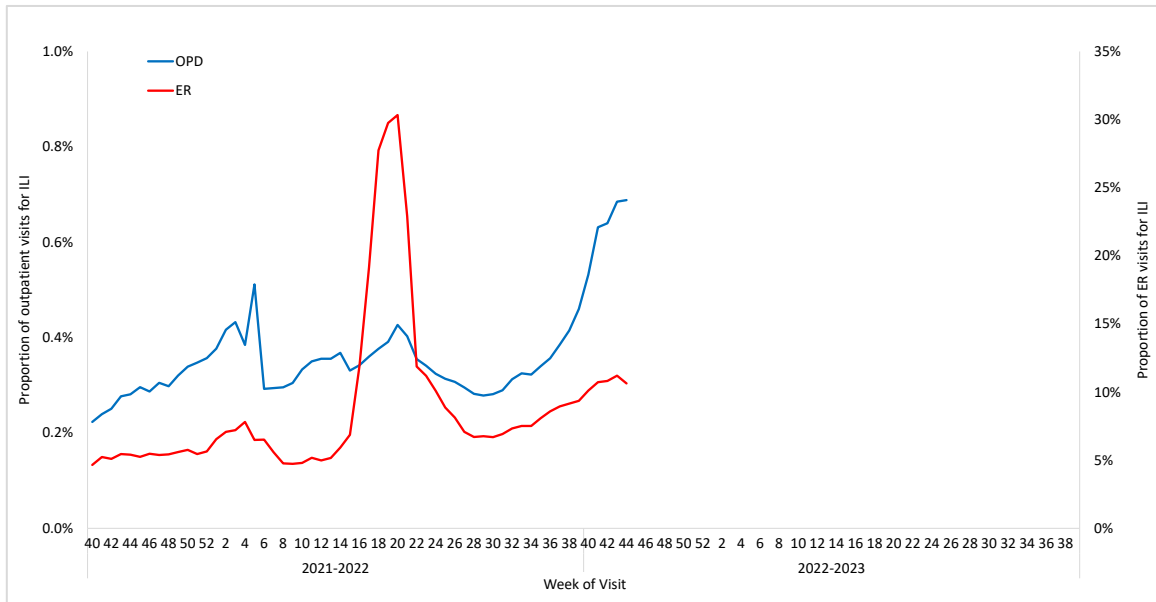


Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

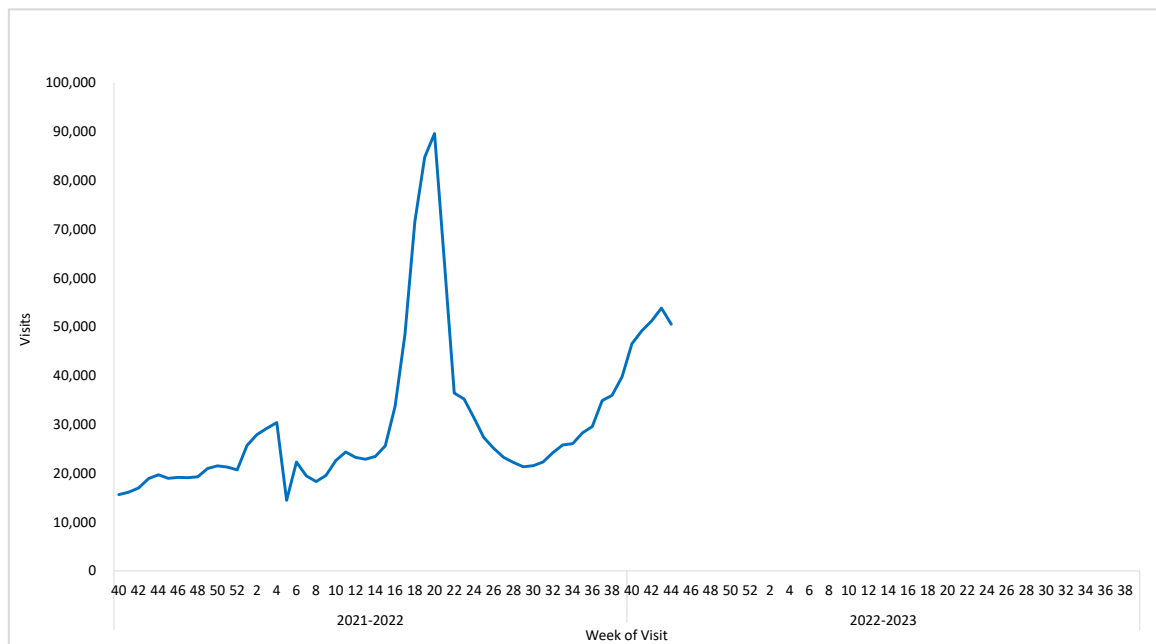
During week 44, the proportions of ILI visits were 0.7% and 10.6% for the outpatient and ER visits, respectively. The total number of visits for ILI in outpatient and ER decreased to 50,556 but was still higher than previous two flu seasons.



Percentages of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Total number of outpatient and ER visits for ILI

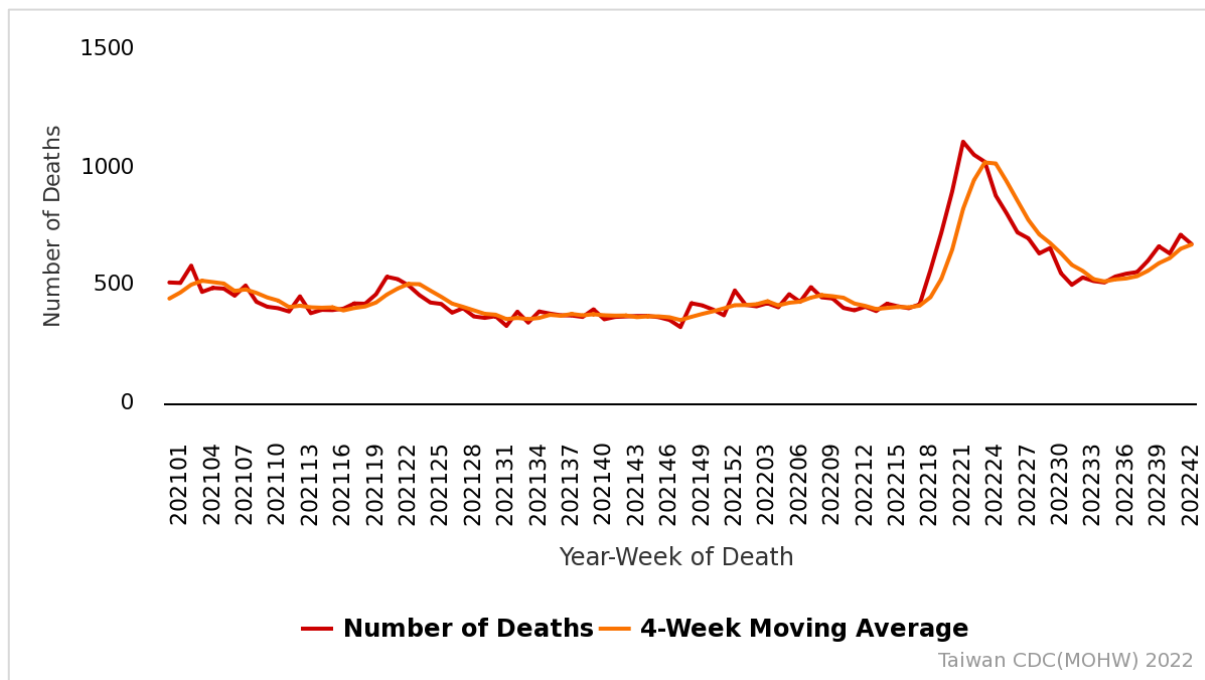


Influenza Case with Severe Complications

There was one newly confirmed influenza case with severe complications. A total of two influenza case with severe complications (A/H3N2) were confirmed since October 1, 2022, and one of them was fatal. There were no influenza cases with severe complications in previous flu season.

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) was increasing in 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/>.



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.

