



Synopsis

The number of medical visits for ILI was increasing.

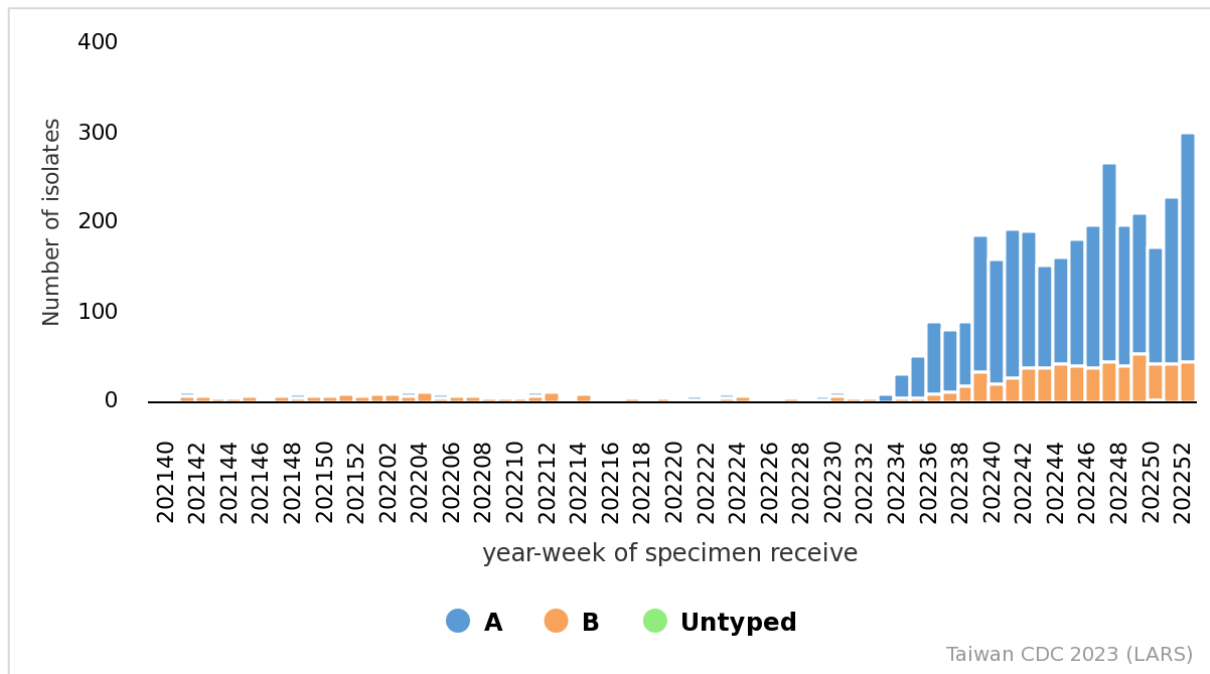
- Influenza virus activity persisted in community. A/H3N2 was predominant type among influenza virus isolates during the past four weeks.
- Due to part of outpatient services closed during National holiday, the number of medical visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased, but was still higher than the same periods of the previous two flu seasons.
- There were 21 influenza cases with severe complications (16 H3N2, 2 H1N1 and 3 influenza B) since October 1, 2022, and three of them were fatal.

Laboratory Surveillance¹

Laboratory Automated Reporting System (LARS)

The number of influenza-positive specimens was higher than the previous week. During the past four weeks, the proportions of influenza A and influenza B positive specimens were 80% and 20% respectively.

Trend of influenza-positive specimens according to LARS



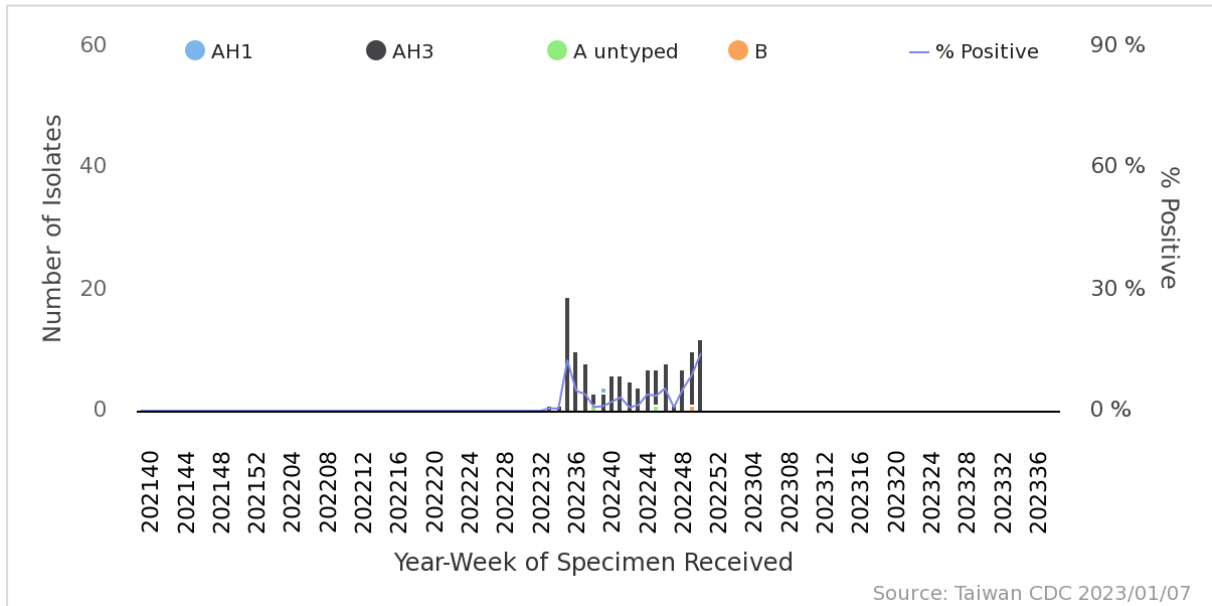
¹ In terms of the surveillance systems in Taiwan, please see: Jian, S. W., Chen, C. M., Lee, C. Y., & Liu, D. P. (2017). Real-Time Surveillance of Infectious Diseases: Taiwan's Experience. Health security, 15(2), 144-153.



Contracted Virology Laboratories Surveillance

The proportion of influenza-positive specimens was 14.0% during week 51 2022. During the past four weeks (week 48 to week 51 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

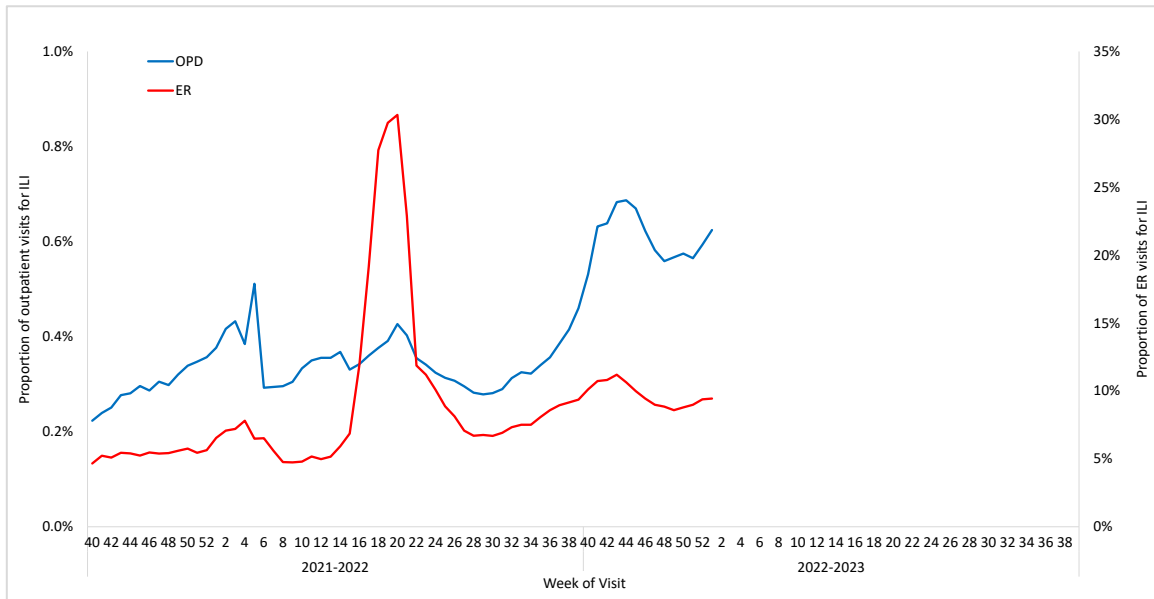


Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

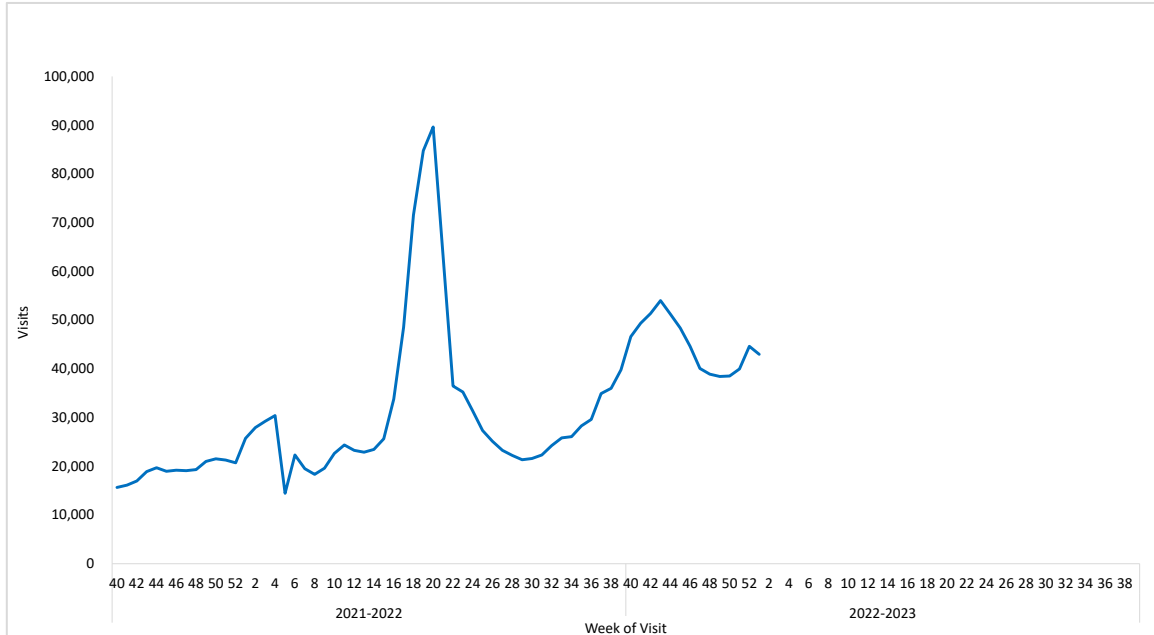
During week 1, the proportions of ILI visits were 0.6% and 9.4% for the outpatient and ER visits, respectively. As part of outpatient services were closed for National holiday, the total number of visits for ILI in outpatient and ER decreased to 42,965, but was still higher than the same periods of the 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 (influenza B). A total of 21 influenza cases with severe complications (16 H3N2, 2 H1N1 and 3 influenza B) were confirmed since October 1, 2022, and three of them (H3N2) were fatal.

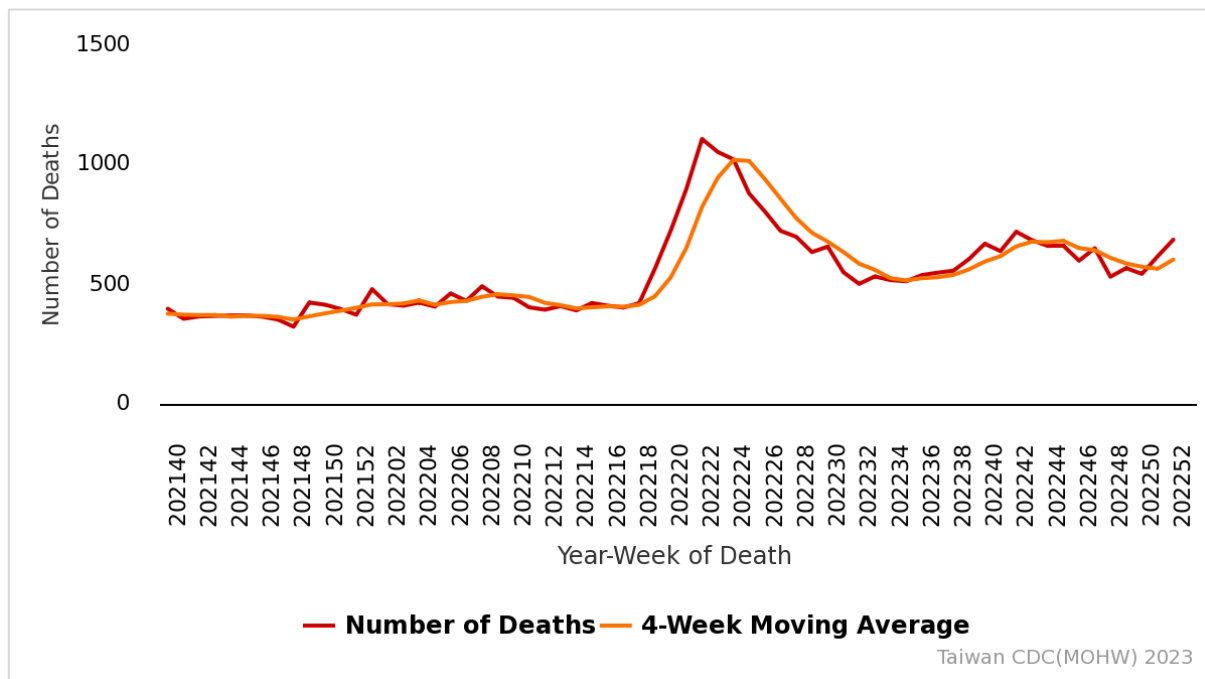
Incidence of influenza cases with severe complications and mortality rate October 1, 2022, to January 9, 2023

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	1	0	0.13	0
7-18 y	3	0	0.12	0
19-24 y	1	0	0.06	0
25-49 y	3	0	0.03	0
50-64 y	3	0	0.06	0
65 +	9	3	0.23	0.08
Total	21	3	0.09	0.01



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) increased in recent two 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.

