



Synopsis

The influenza epidemic is in a plateau phase, with A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 co-circulating.

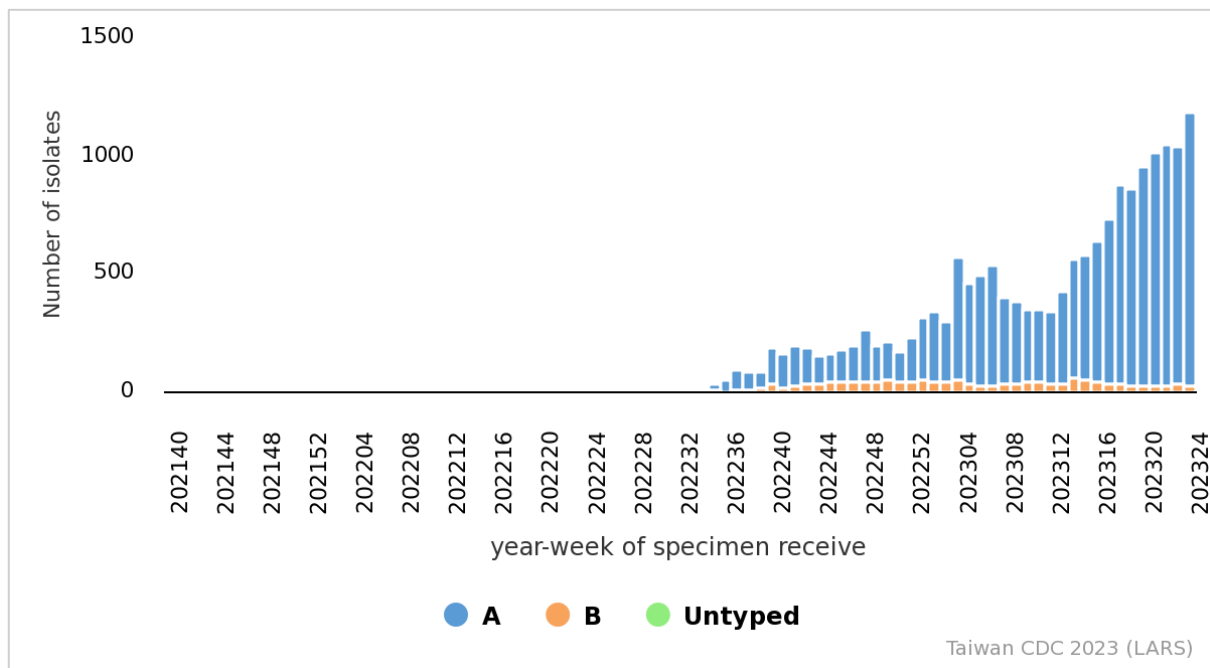
- Influenza A virus is circulating in community. During the last four weeks, H1N1 and H3N2 were co-circulating.
- During week 24, the number of medical visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was similar to the previous week.
- There have been 294 influenza cases with severe complications (154 of H1N1, 132 of H3N2, 3 of untyped influenza A, and 5 of influenza B) since October 1, 2022, and 53 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 97%.

Trend of influenza-positive specimens according to LARS



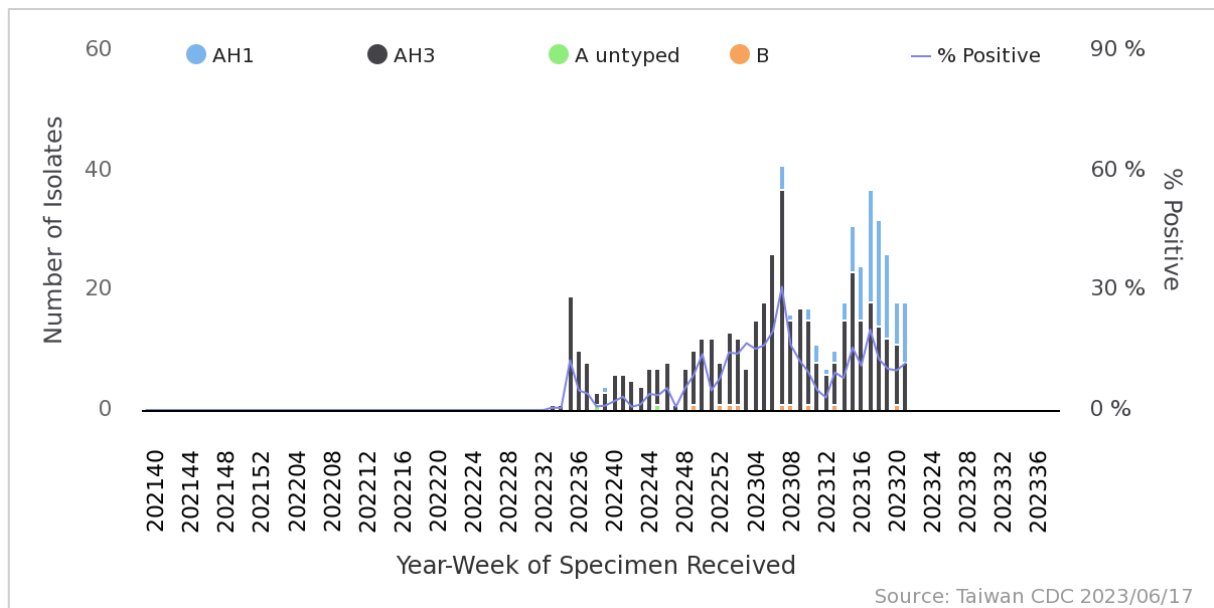
¹ In terms of the surveillance systems in Taiwan, please see: Jian, S. W., Chen, C. M., Lee, C. Y., & Liu, D. P. (2017). Real-Time Surveillance of Infectious Diseases: Taiwan's Experience. Health security, 15(2), 144-153.



Contracted Virology Laboratories Surveillance

The proportion of influenza-positive specimens of week 22 was 11.7%. During the last four weeks (week 19 to week 22, 2023), influenza A was the predominant virus type. The proportion of A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 were 52.1% and 46.8% respectively, H1N1 and H3N2 were co-circulating in community. Weekly virus data are available at <https://nidss.cdc.gov.tw/>.

Influenza isolates according to Contracted Virology Laboratories

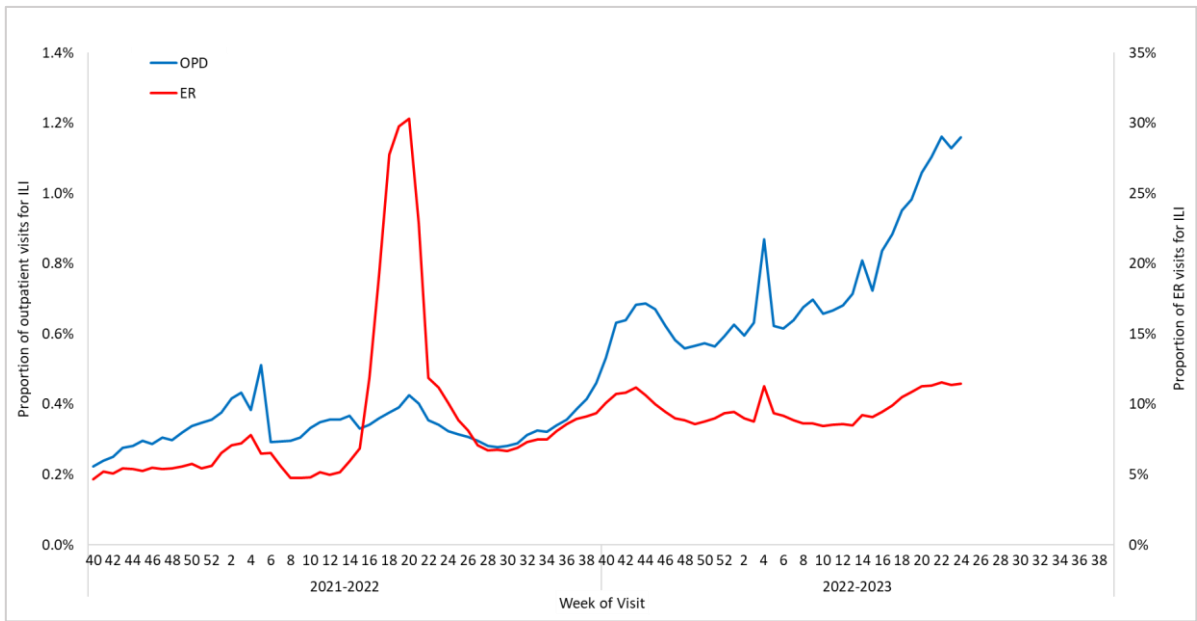


Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

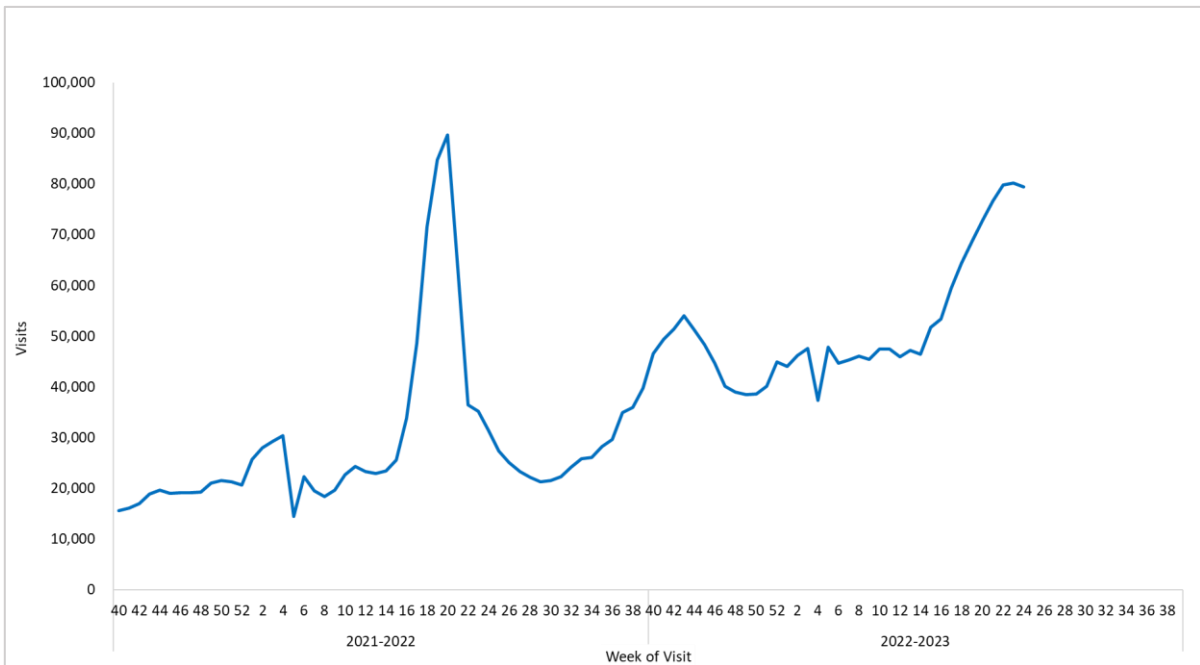
During week 24, the proportions of ILI visits were 1.2% and 11.5% for the outpatient and ER visits, respectively. The total number of visits for ILI in outpatient and ER was 79,366 in week 24, remaining in a plateau phase. The trend was higher than the same periods of the previous three influenza seasons.



Percentages of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Total number of outpatient and ER visits for ILI



Influenza Case with Severe Complications

There were 22 newly confirmed influenza cases with severe complications (18 of H1N1 and 4 of H3N2) and 11 fatal cases (9 of H1N1, 1 of H3N2 and 1 of influenza B). A total of 294 influenza cases with severe complications (154 of H1N1, 132 of H3N2, 3 of untyped influenza A, and 5 of influenza B) have been confirmed since October 1, 2022, and 53 of them (30 of H1N1, 21 of H3N2 and 2 of influenza B) were fatal.

Incidence of influenza cases with severe complications and mortality rate October 1, 2022, to June 19, 2023

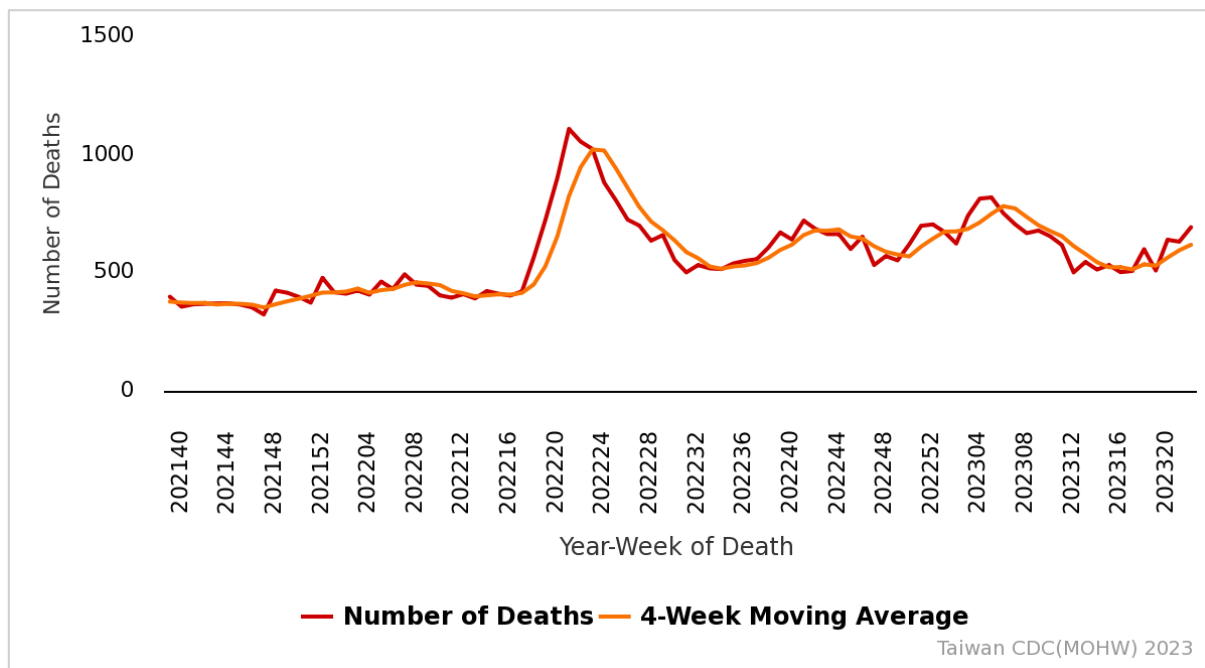
Age Group	Cases	Deaths	Cumulative incidence per 100,000 population	Cumulative mortality per 100,000 population
< 3 y	3	0	0.6	0
3-6 y	8	2	1.0	0.3
7-18 y	21	1	0.9	0.04
19-24 y	2	0	0.1	0
25-49 y	41	5	0.5	0.1
50-64 y	75	12	1.4	0.2
65 +	144	33	3.6	0.8
Total	294	53	1.3	0.2



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 23 was higher than the previous week, and the trend increased. 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.

