



Synopsis

The influenza epidemic is decreasing. Influenza A virus is circulating in the community. However, it is important to remain attentive for signs of severe illness in influenza cases.

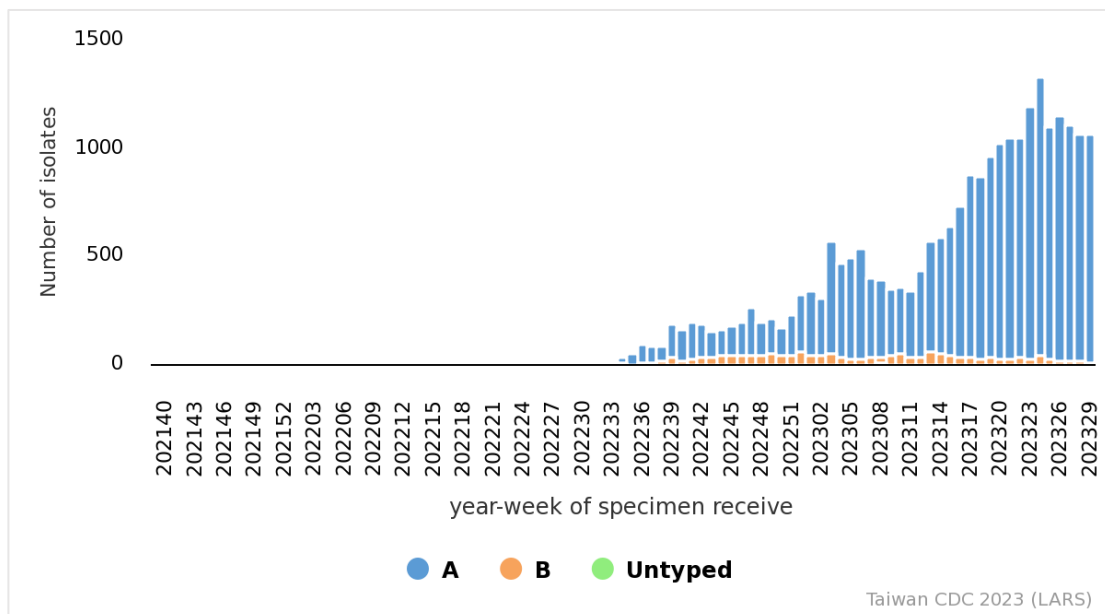
- Influenza A virus is circulating in the community. During the last four weeks, the positive rate of H1N1 was higher than that of H3N2, according to data from the contracted virology laboratories.
- During week 30, the number of medical visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatient and ER declined compared to the previous weeks.
- There have been 451 influenza cases with severe complications (281 of H1N1, 157 of H3N2, 6 of untyped influenza A and 7 of influenza B) since October 1, 2022, and among them, 94 cases were fatal.

Laboratory Surveillance¹

Laboratory Automated Reporting System (LARS)

During week 30, the number of influenza-positive specimens was similar to the previous week, and it has shown a downward trend recently. Over the last four weeks, the proportion of influenza A positive specimens was 99%.

Numbers of influenza-positive specimens from LARS



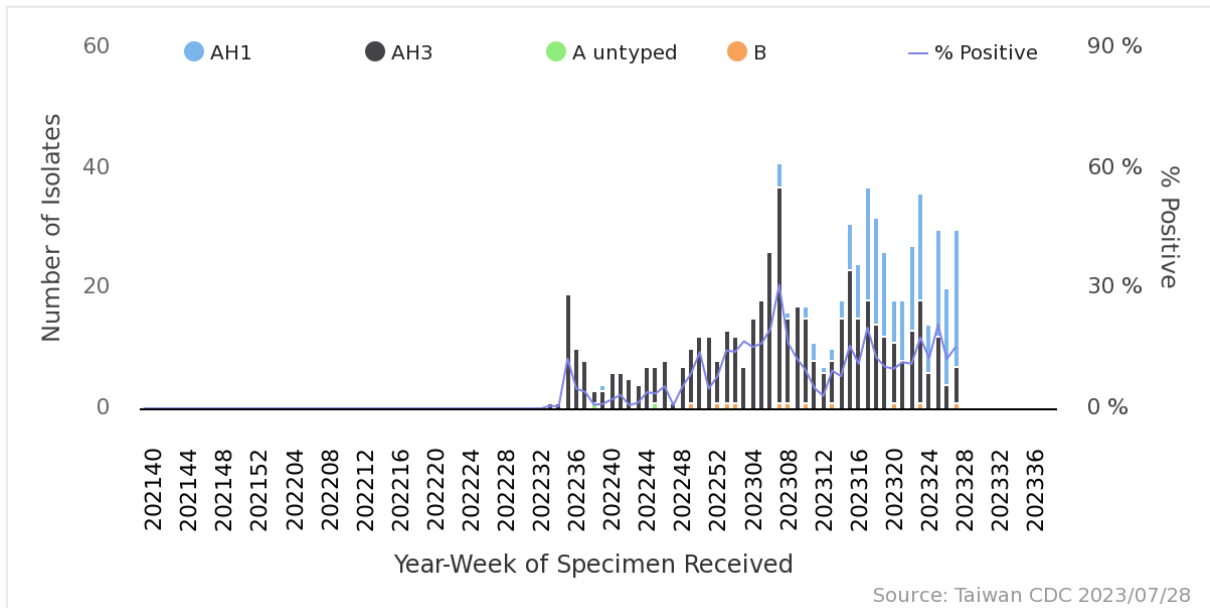
¹ In terms of the surveillance systems in Taiwan, please see: Jian, S. W., Chen, C. M., Lee, C. Y., & Liu, D. P. (2017). Real-Time Surveillance of Infectious Diseases: Taiwan's Experience. Health security, 15(2), 144-153.



Contracted Virology Laboratories Surveillance

The proportion of influenza-positive specimens of week 28 was 15.3%. During the last four weeks (week 25 to week 28), influenza A was the predominant virus type, with H1N1 and H3N2 accounting for 69.1% and 29.8%, respectively. Weekly virus data are available at <https://nidss.cdc.gov.tw/>.

Influenza isolates according to Contracted Virology Laboratories

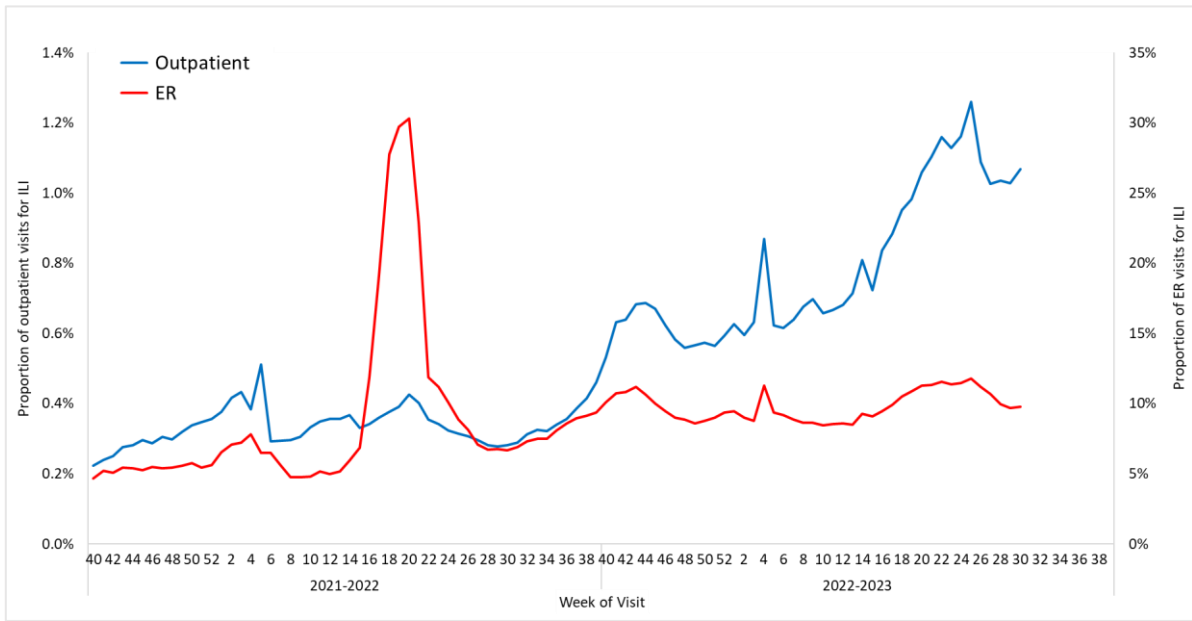


Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

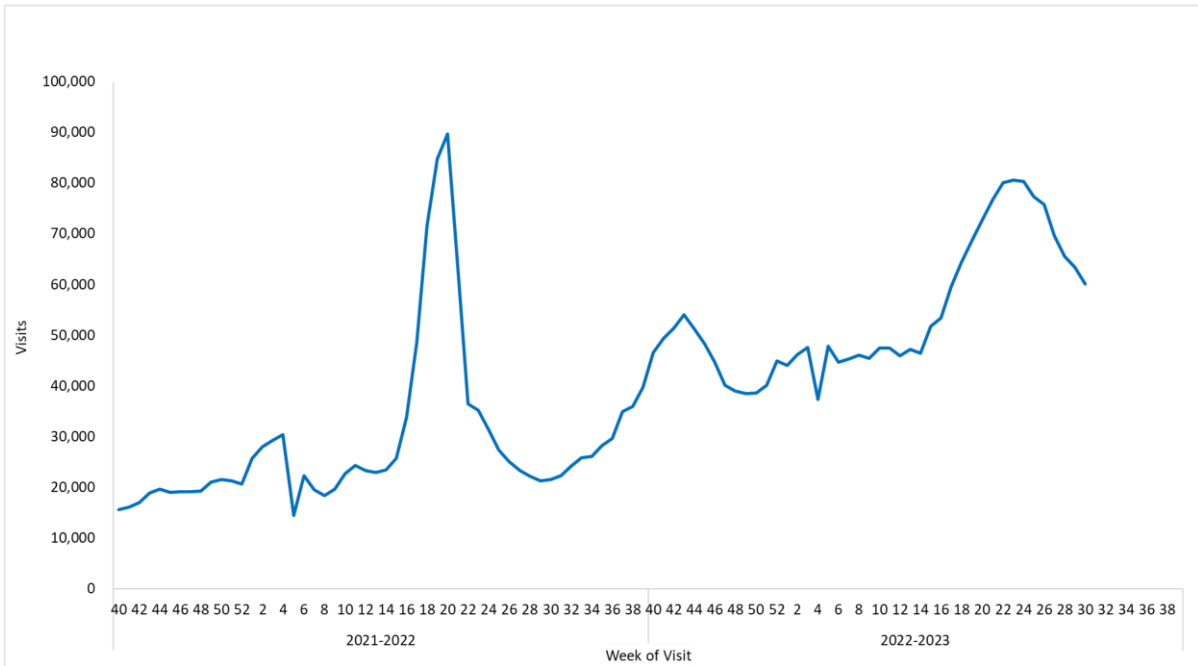
During week 30, the proportions of ILI visits were 1.1% and 9.8% in outpatient and ER, respectively. The total number of visits for ILI in outpatient and ER was 60,029 in week 30, and it showed a decline in recent weeks. However, the trend was higher than the same periods of the previous three influenza 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 23 newly confirmed influenza cases with severe complications (17 of H1N1, 4 of H3N2 and 2 of untyped influenza A), and 3 fatal cases (all H1N1). A total of 451 influenza cases with severe complications (281 of H1N1, 157 of H3N2, 6 of untyped influenza A and 7 of influenza B) have been confirmed since October 1, 2022, and among them, 94 cases (66 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 31, 2023

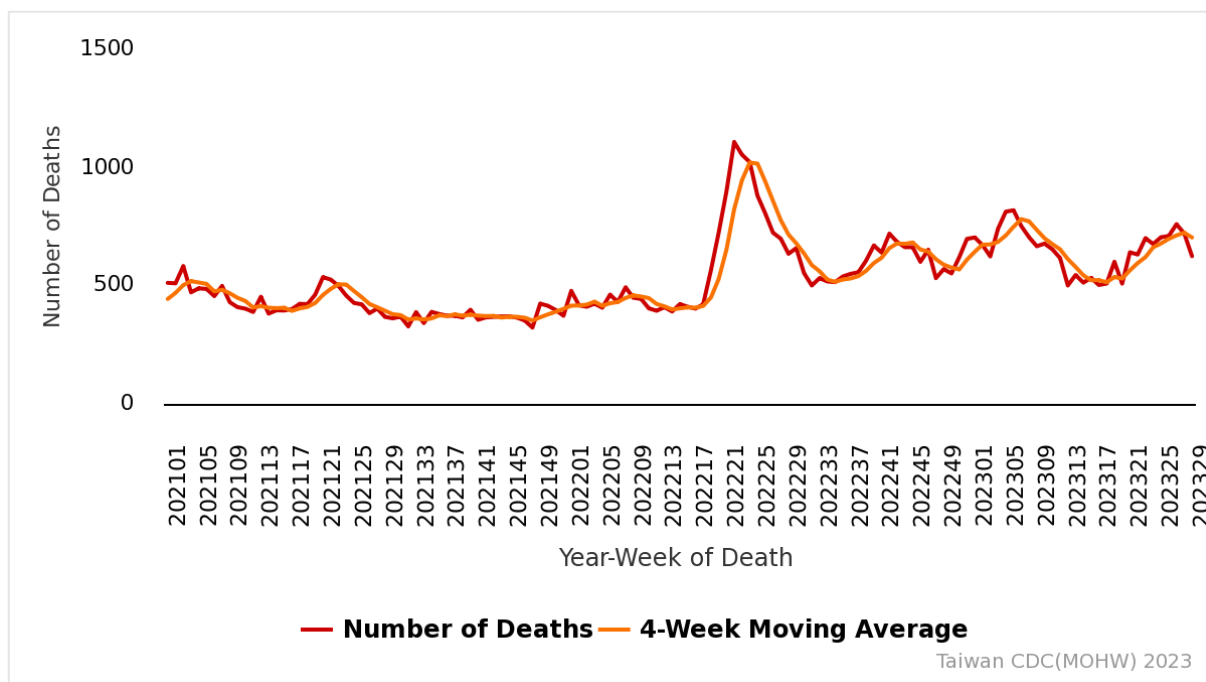
Age Group	Cases	Deaths	Cumulative incidence per 100,000 population	Cumulative mortality per 100,000 population
< 3 y	3	0	0.6	0
3-6 y	12	2	1.5	0.3
7-18 y	28	2	1.2	0.1
19-24 y	2	0	0.1	0
25-49 y	62	10	0.7	0.1
50-64 y	118	22	2.3	0.4
65 +	226	58	5.7	1.5
Total	451	94	1.9	0.4



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) showed a slightly decrease 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.

