Global Respiratory Virus Activity Weekly Update N° 488

Summarizing data through Week 31, ending 04 August 2024

Summary

Influenza
- In the Northern hemisphere, activity in temperate countries remained at interepidemic levels. Activity was elevated in a few countries in Central America and the Caribbean, Middle Africa, Western Africa, Southern Asia and South East Asia. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominated except in Western Asia, South East Asia and Southern Asia where A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominated. Activity increased in a few countries in Western Africa, Southern Asia and South East Asia.
- In the Southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained elevated in a few countries in South America, Eastern Africa and Oceania, but was stable or decreasing in all reporting countries. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominated except in Eastern Africa where A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominated.

SARS-CoV-2
- SARS-CoV-2 activity, reported from sentinel surveillance in 62 countries, was elevated in most reporting countries in Northern Europe and South-West Europe, and a few countries in Eastern Europe, Western Asia, Southern Asia, South East Asia, Eastern Asia, Central America and the Caribbean and Tropical South America. Increasing activity was reported in a few countries in Eastern Europe, Western Asia, Eastern Asia and Central America and the Caribbean.

Influenza activity
- Proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza
- Change in proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza

SARS-CoV-2 activity
- Proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2
- Change in proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2

Sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza, by virus type and subtype

Additional information
- Only data on respiratory specimens tested for influenza or SARS-CoV-2 and reported to RespiMart from sentinel surveillance were included in the report. Countries may monitor respiratory virus activity using other surveillance approaches; however, those data were not included. Data from other sources of respiratory virus surveillance reported to RespiMart can be viewed here. Additional information on COVID-19 is reported on the WHO COVID-19 dashboard. Data on respiratory virus surveillance are provided to WHO through participation or collaboration with the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS).

The proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for influenza or SARS-CoV-2 was smoothed over a 3-week period among countries who reported testing at least 10 specimens for 2 weeks of the 3-week period. The change in smoothed proportion of sentinel specimens testing positive for each virus was calculated as the absolute difference from the smoothed value during the prior reporting week.

Activity is summarized by geographical groupings of countries, areas, and territories. These groupings were used for their geographical description and do not imply similarity of respiratory virus transmission within each group. More information about the geographical groupings can be found here.

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Summary was generated by the WHO Global Influenza Programme based on data available in RespiMart on 12/08/2024 10:44:31 AM UTC.