

Virological Surveillance Summary

The total number of specimens and number of positive specimens reported to FluNet by Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 9 of 2024 are presented in Table 1 below. Influenza A and B are co-circulating, however, the majority of cases reported in week 1 to week 9 of 2024 have been Influenza B (Victoria) (**Figure 1**). Caution should be taken when interpreting this data as there are reporting delays.

Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, week 1 to week 9, 2024

Country (most recent week of report)	Total number of specimens processed	Total number of influenza-positive specimens
Australia (9 of 2024)	27,010	630
Brunei Darussalam (9 of 2024)	291	29
Cambodia (7 of 2024)	769	93
China (9 of 2024)	343,662	78,592
Fiji (4 of 2024)	254	5
Japan (9 of 2024)	-	905
Lao People's Democratic Republic (9 of 2024)	987	104
Malaysia (9 of 2024)	8,064	862
Mongolia (9 of 2024)	1,468	334
New Zealand (9 of 2024)	325	30
Papua New Guinea (9 of 2024)	44	9
Philippines (9 of 2024)	974	45
Republic of Korea (9 of 2024)	1,718	718
Singapore (9 of 2024)	2,873	931
Viet Nam (7 of 2024)	103	17
Grand Total	388,542	83,304

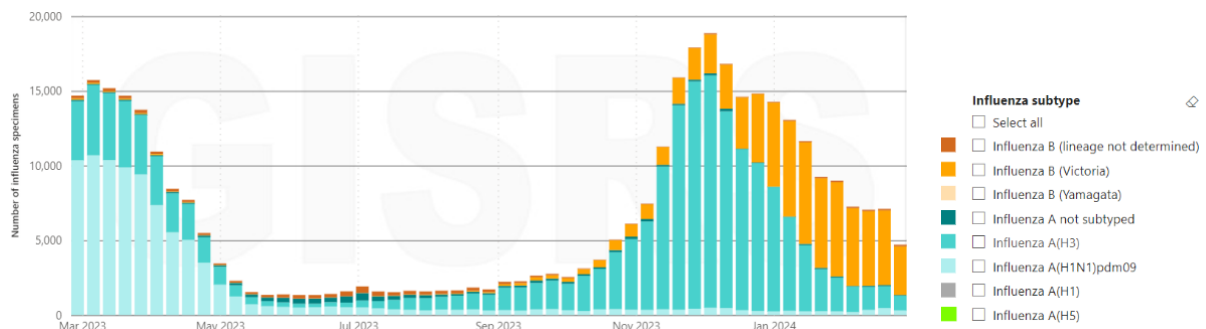


Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 9, 2023 to week 9, 2024 (Source: [WHO FLUNET](#))

Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient indicator-based surveillance (IBS) systems, as well as event-based surveillance. Case definitions, population groups included and data formats differ among countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries and areas where routine IBS is conducted and information is available.

The [WHO surveillance case definition](#) for influenza-like illness (ILI) is an acute respiratory infection with a measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days. For SARI, it is an

acute respiratory infection (ARI) with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ and cough, with symptom onset within 10 days that requires hospitalization.

Sentinel site data should be interpreted with caution since the number of sites reporting may vary between weeks.

Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI and influenza activity are similar to the corresponding period from previous years.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 9, sentinel hospitals in the northern provinces reported ILI% of 4.3%, which is the same as the last week (4.3%), higher than the same week of 2021-2022 (1.6% and 2.2%), lower than the same week of 2023 (7.4%) (**Figure 2**).

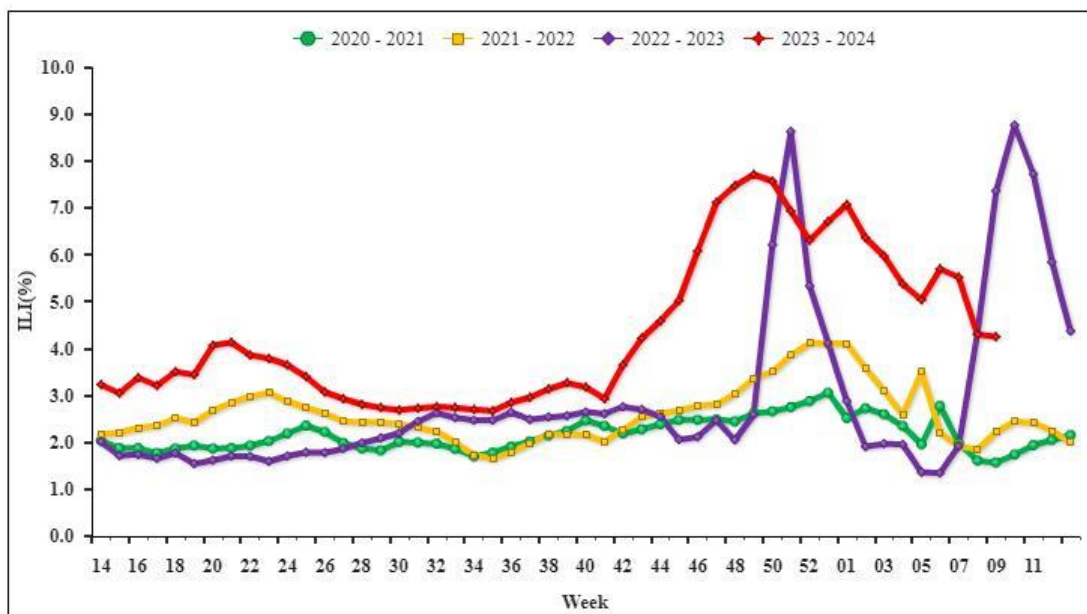


Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in northern China, 2020-2024 (as of week 9)
(Source: China National Influenza Center)

Mongolia

There was no update in this reporting period. During week 45 of 2023, the ILI activity in Mongolia increased to 38 ILI cases per 10,000 population. This is above the upper tolerance limit (Figure 3).

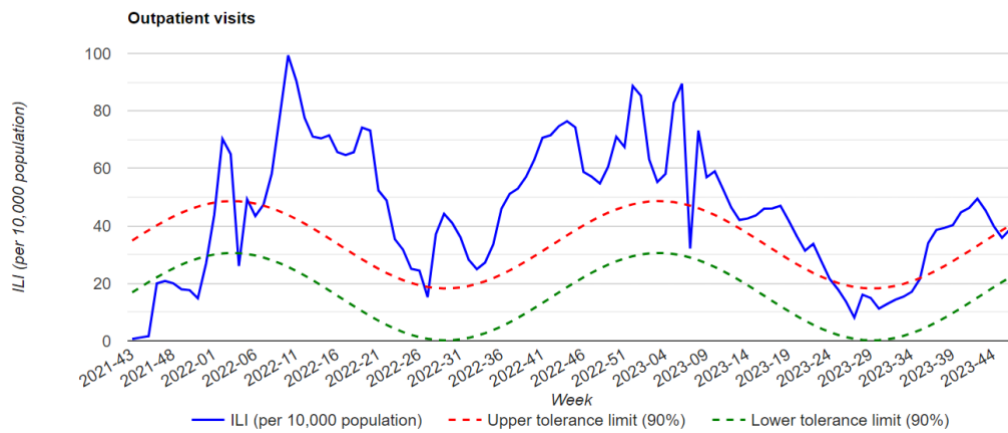


Figure 3: Proportion of outpatient ILI visits per 10,000 people in Mongolia, 2021 (from week 16-49) -2023 (as of week 45)

(Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea

In week 9 (25 February to 2 March 2024), the overall weekly influenza-like illness (ILI) rate was 14.8 per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was lower than the rate recorded in the previous weeks (17.9 in week 8) (Figure 4).

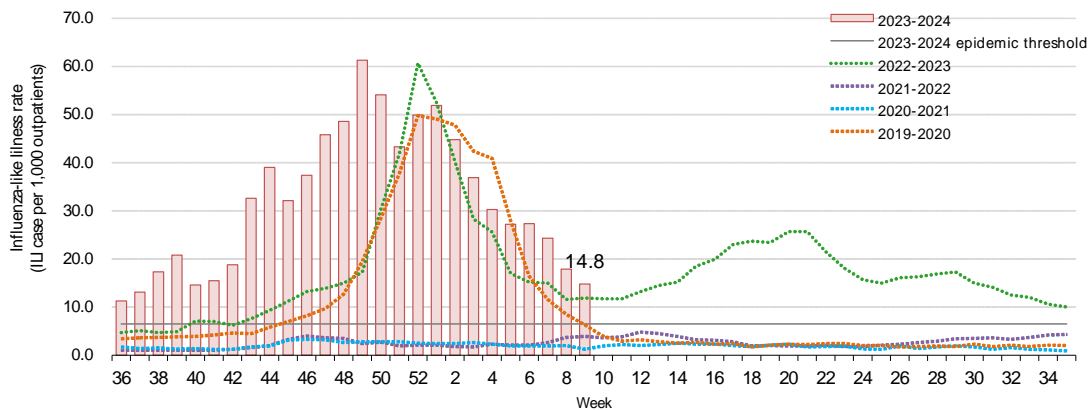


Figure 4: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1,000 outpatient consultations, Republic of Korea, 2019 (from week 36-52)-2024 (as of week 9)

(Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency).

Sentinel influenza surveillance

Japan

In week 9 of 2024, the weekly number of cases reported by sentinel hospital sites in Japan slightly decreased compared to the previous week. (Figure 5).

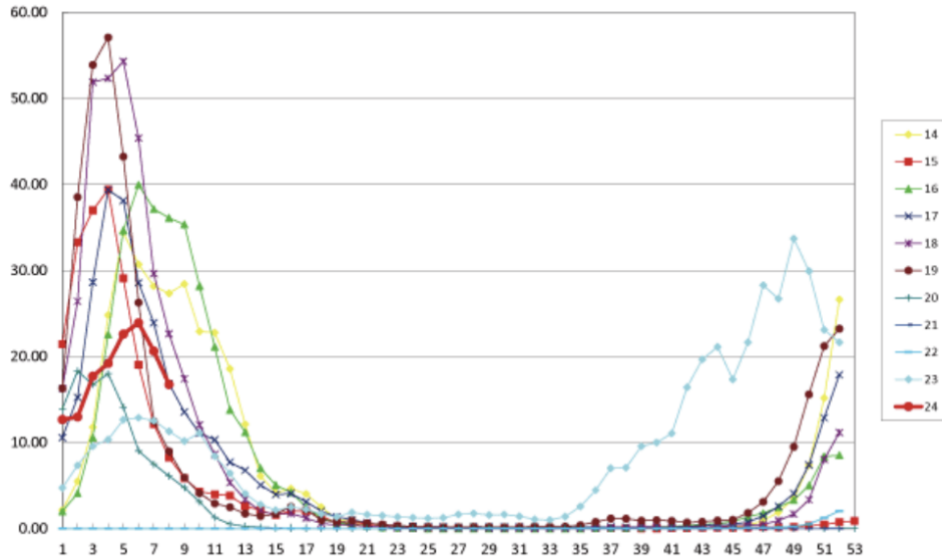


Figure 5: Weekly number of influenza cases reported per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2014-2024 (Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

ILI and influenza activity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years in some of the countries and areas in the tropical zone.

Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance

In week 9, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPC) was 8.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 10.7 recorded in the previous week (Figure 6). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner (PMP) clinics was 37.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 49.2 recorded in the previous week (Figure 7).

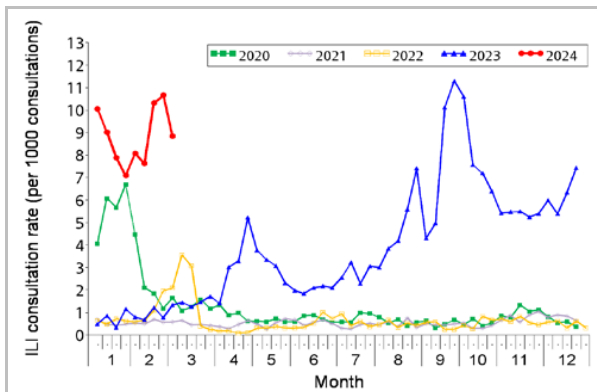


Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2020-2024 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

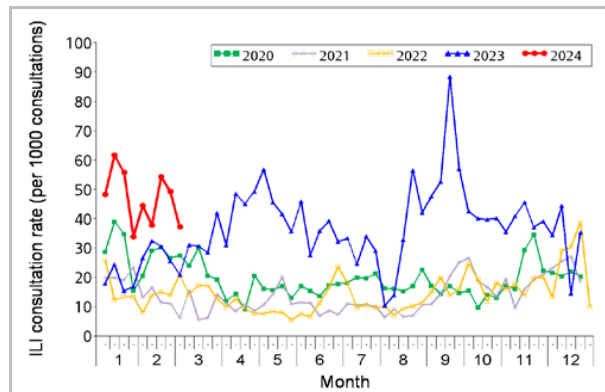


Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private medical practitioner clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2020-2024 (Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

China (South) - ILI Surveillance

During week 9, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI (ILI%) at national sentinel hospitals in southern provinces was 5.0%, lower than the last week (5.6%), higher than the same week in 2021 - 2022 (2.2% and 3.8%), lower than the same week of 2023 (7.5%) (Figure 8).

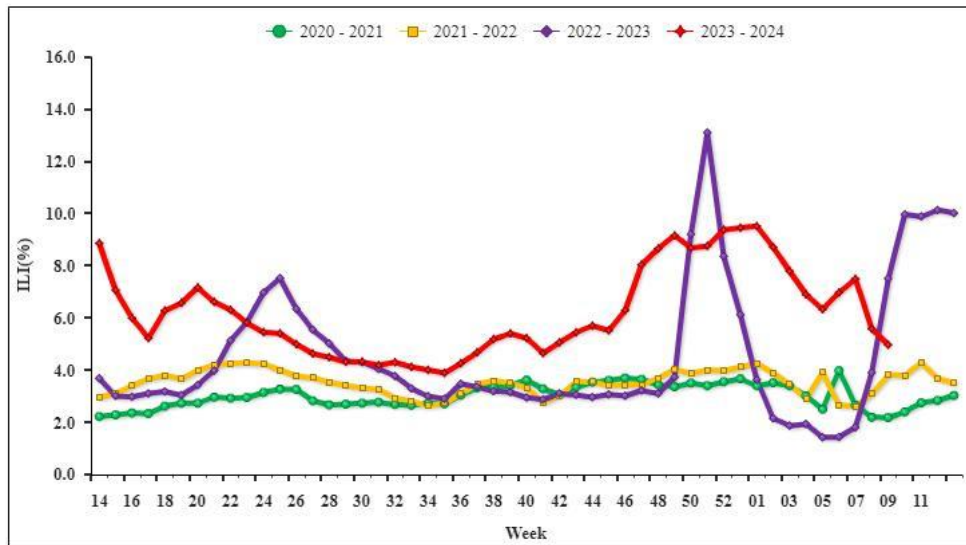


Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China, 2020-2024 (Source: China National Influenza Center)

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance

In week 9 (25 February to 2 March 2024), the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI is 2,335 (over 5.5 working days) (Figure 9). The proportion of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) among the polyclinic attendances for ARI is 0.5%. The overall positivity rate for influenza among ILI samples (n=370) in the community was 27.8% in week 9. Of the 399 specimens tested positive for influenza in February 2024, 135 were positive for Influenza A(H3N2) (34%), 57 were positive for Influenza A(pH1N1) (14%), and 207 were positive for Influenza B (52%) (Figure 10).

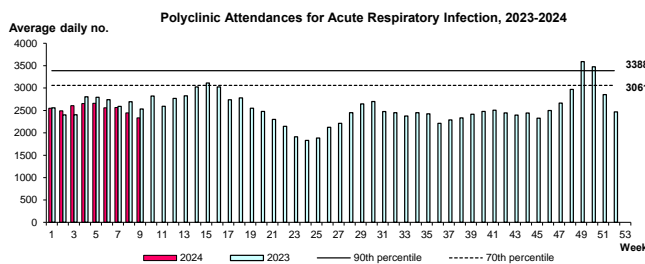


Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2023-2024 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

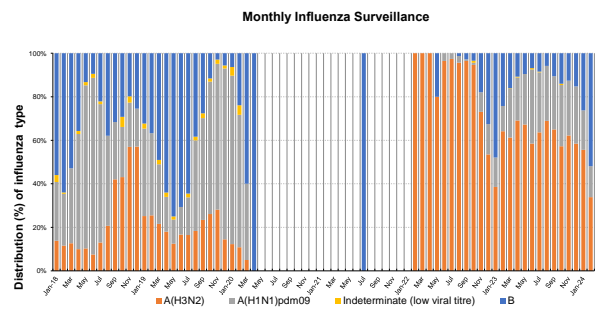


Figure 10: Monthly influenza surveillance for ARI in Singapore, 2018-2024 (Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

Lao PDR

During week 9 (26 February to 3 March 2024), the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology received data from all sentinel sites in Lao PDR. The number of ILI cases presenting at sentinel sites slightly increased compared to the previous week (Figure 11). There were 113 samples tested for influenza in week 9 of 2024, of which 10 positive: Influenza A/pdmH1N1 (n=1), Influenza A/H3 (n=2), and Influenza B-Victoria (n=7).

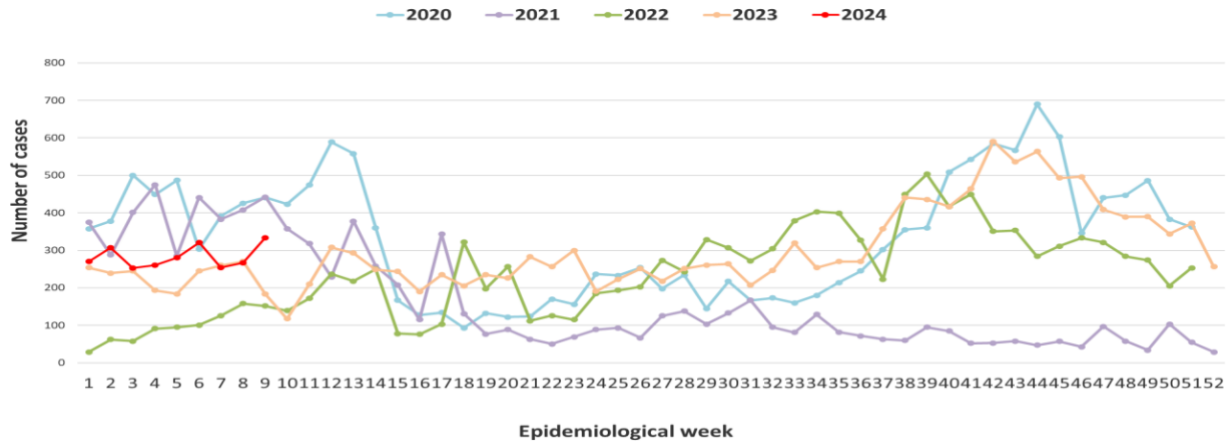


Figure 11: Weekly number of ILI cases at sentinel sites (2020 to 2024)
(Source: Lao National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)

Cambodia

In week 9 of 2024, the Ministry of Health received data from all seven sentinel sites in Cambodia. The number of ILI cases in Cambodia has slightly increased in week 9 (193 cases) compared to week 8 (178 cases). However, the positivity rate slightly decreased from 21% in week 8 to 7% in week 9 (Figure 12). *Note: Starting from week 2 of 2024, the ILI surveillance has been updated as follows: a) Changed case definitions of ILI from >38°C (greater than 38) to ≥ 38°C (greater and equal to 38), b) Increasing number of samples per sentinel sites from 5 to 10 per week. Therefore, the number of cases and positivity might also increase.*

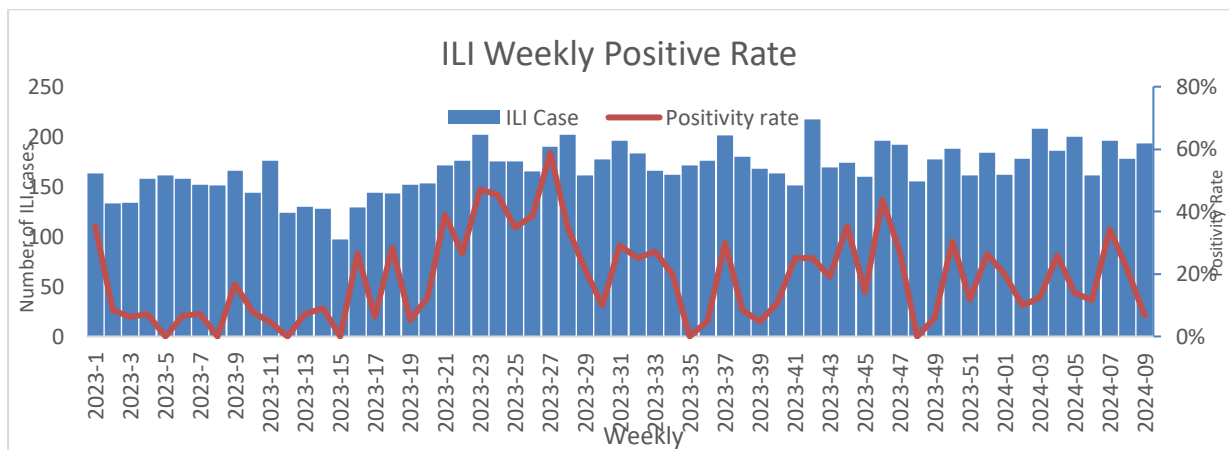


Figure 12: Number of ILI samples from sentinel sites and influenza positivity rate by the week, of 2023-2024, Cambodia
(Source: Communicable Disease Control Department, Cambodia Ministry of Health)

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity is reported during the influenza season, usually starting in May in Australia and New Zealand.

Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza

There is no update for this reporting period. In the year-to-date (1 January to 15 October 2023), there have been 251,095 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System in Australia. There were 6,037 laboratory-confirmed influenza notifications with a diagnosis date this fortnight (2 October to 15 October 2023), compared to 7,725 notifications in the previous fortnight. The number of notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza has continued to decrease since the peak in July (Figure 13).

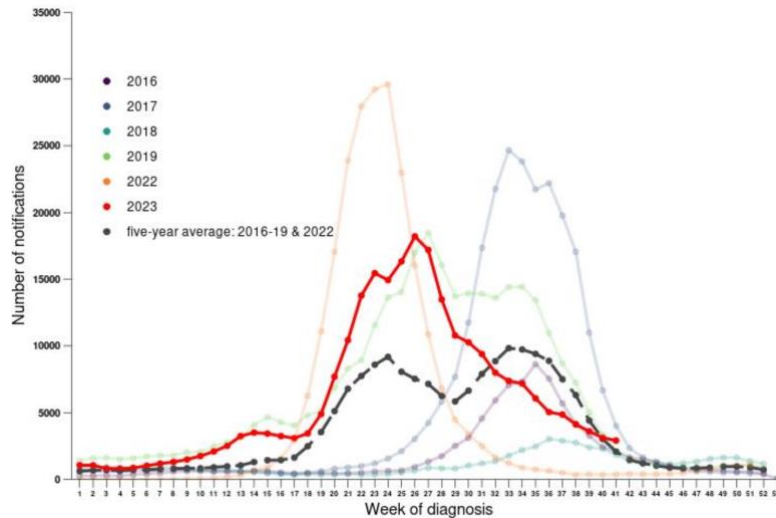


Figure 13: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza by month and week from 2016 to 2023 in Australia (Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

New Zealand – ILI Surveillance

Indicators of influenza-like illness in the community remain low. The rate of ILI related Healthline calls decreased in the second week of February but have increased over the past two weeks. ILI related calls to healthline are currently below the rates seen at the same time in 2023. The percentage of FluTracking participants with fever and cough has been increasing since the end of January and is slightly above the percentage seen at the same time in 2023 (Figure 14).

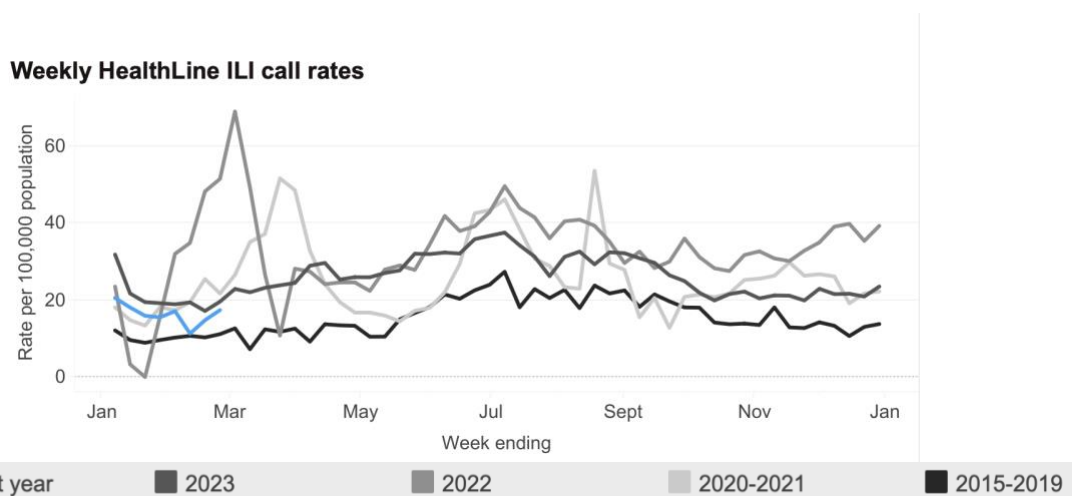
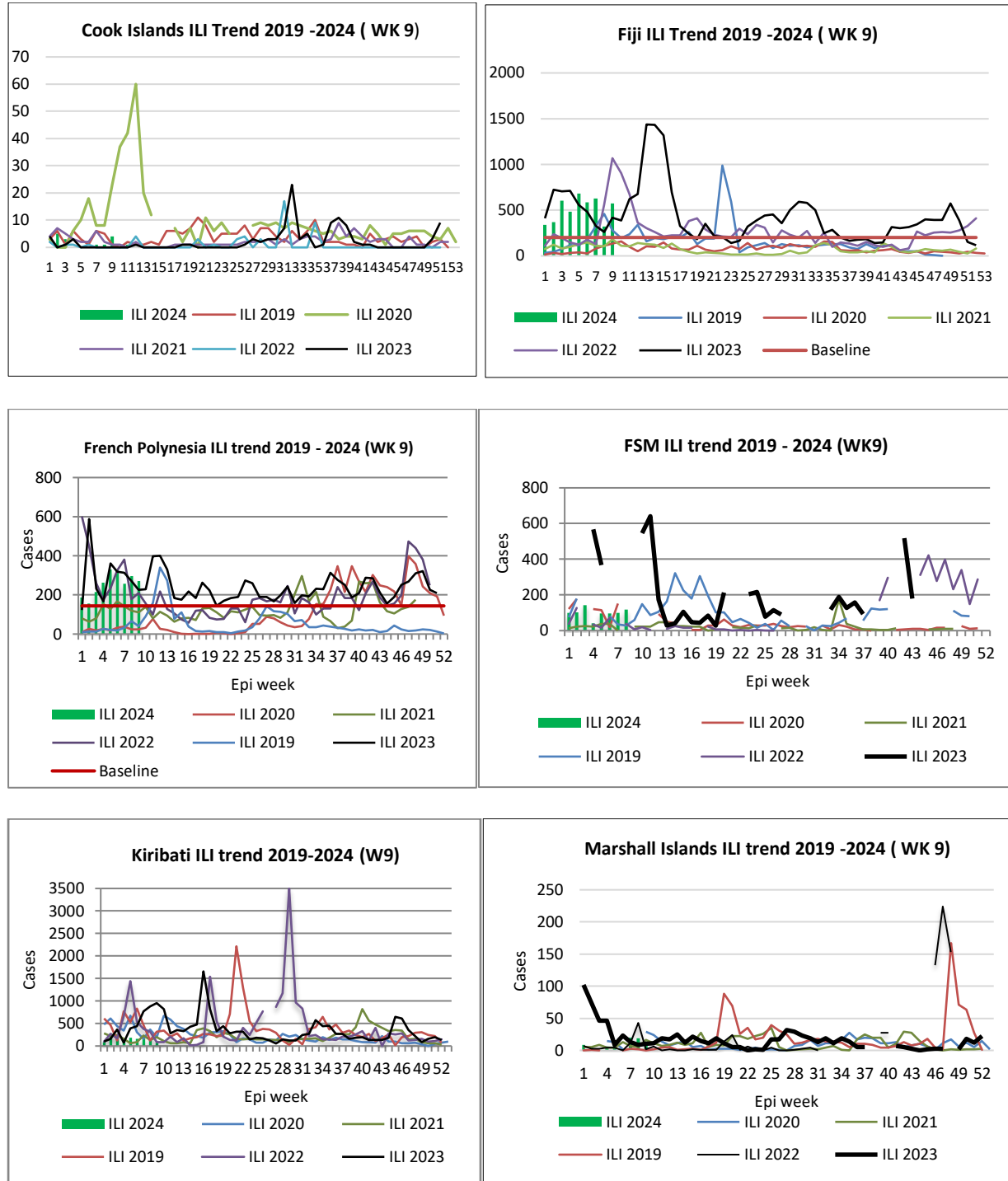
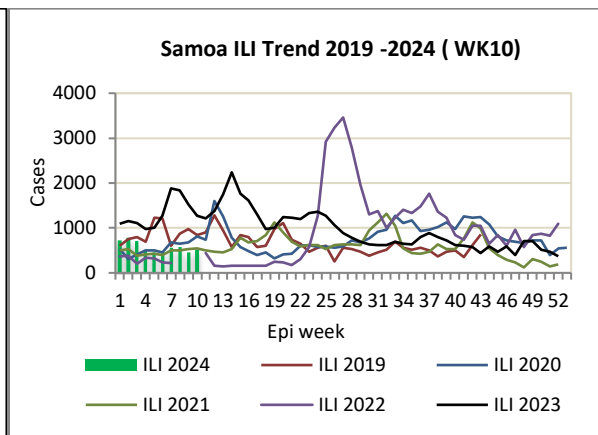
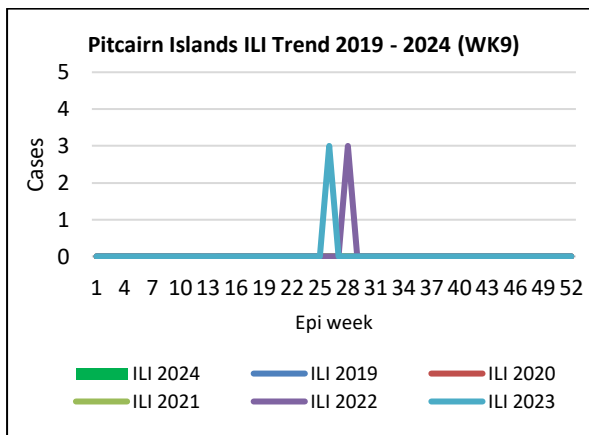
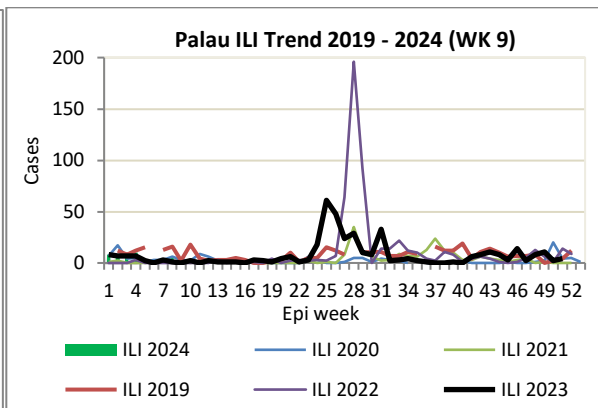
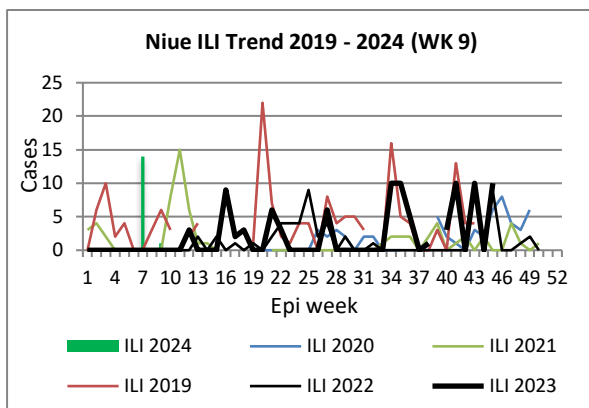
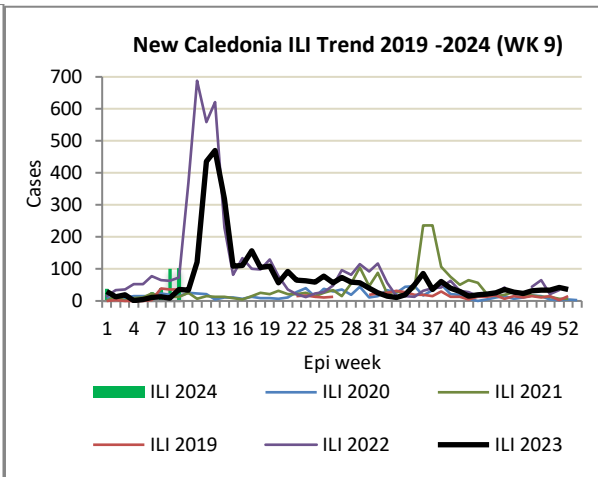
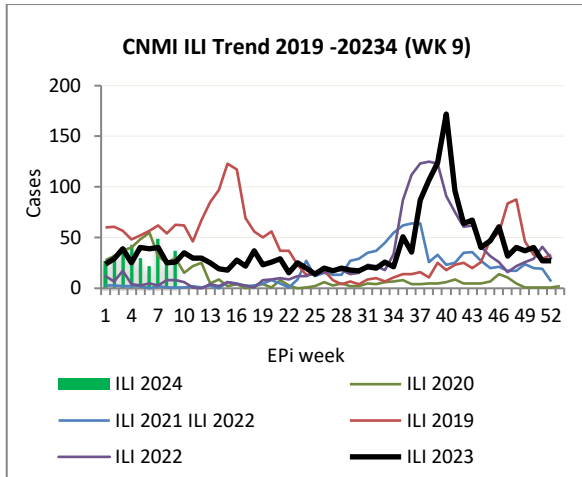


Figure 14: Weekly rates of general practice ILI consultations per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2015-2024 (Source: New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research)

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

In week 9 (26 February to 3 March 2024), 18 out of 21 PICs reported ILI surveillance data. No reports are available for American Samoa, Guam and Nauru. Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Wallis and Futuna observed a slight increase in ILI trend compared to the past week (**Figure 15**).





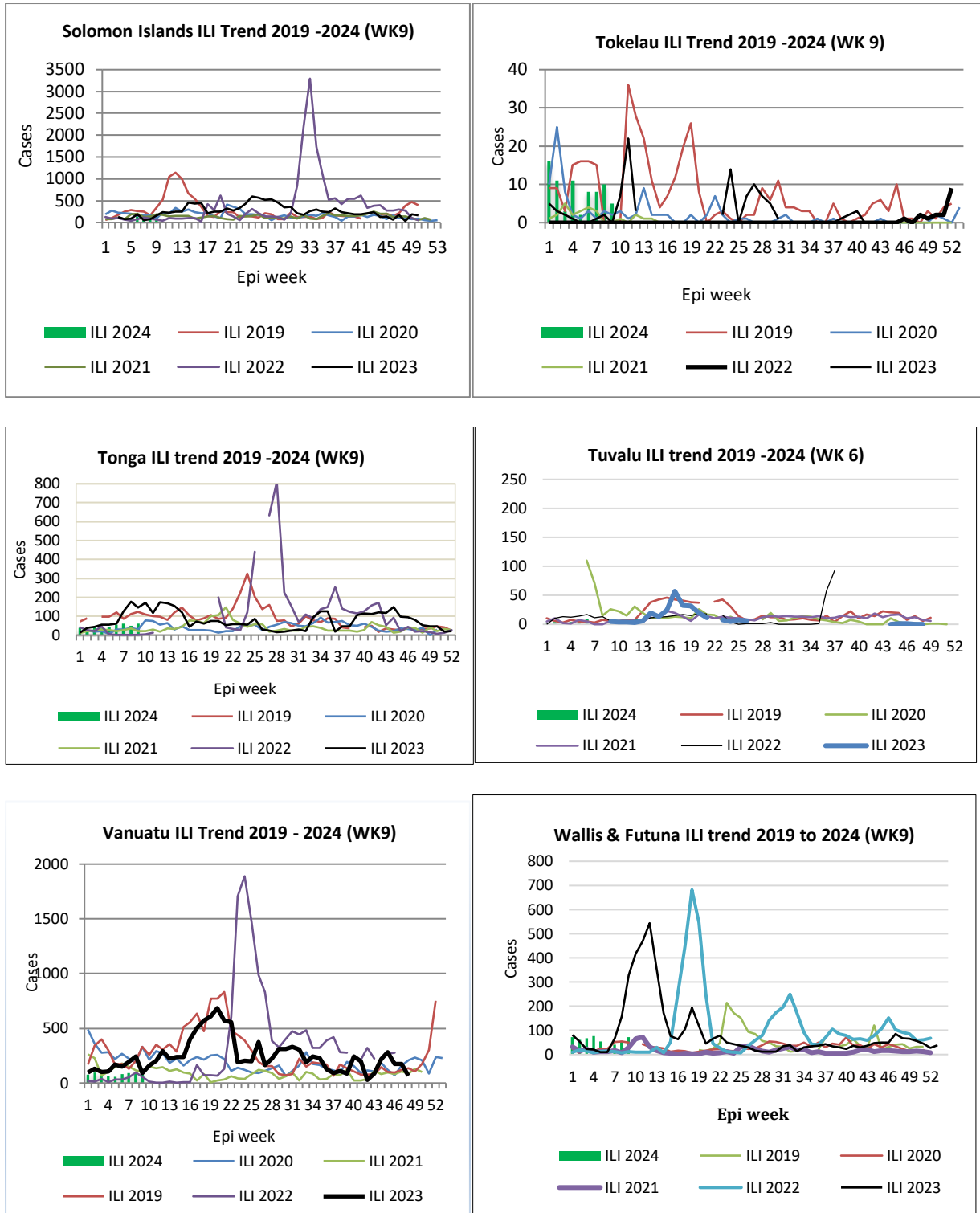


Figure 15: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2019-2024
(Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

* Caution should be taken in interpreting these data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.

** FSM: Federated States of Micronesia, CMNI: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Global influenza situation updates

[Virological update](#)

[Global update](#)

Others:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2023-2024 northern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- New recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2023 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2024 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Virus Vaccines for Use in the 2023 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Season 19-22 September 2022 [Link](#)
- WHO issues updated influenza vaccines position paper [Link](#)

WHO's YouTube Channel: film exploring a number of key aspects of the constant evolution of influenza viruses and associated impacts on public health. [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)