

HPS Weekly National Influenza Report

Summary of surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory illnesses

Week ending 3 December 2017 – week 48

1 Overall assessment

In week 48, influenza activity was low overall but there is evidence of it beginning to increase in the community. This season there has been earlier reporting of closed setting outbreaks of influenza than in each of the last three seasons. Influenza detections in sentinel and non-sentinel sources have increased.

2 Summary

Indicator	Data	Comment	Change from previous week
Influenza Transmission	GP consultations	ILI rates were low (9.3 per 100,000 population).	↑
	NHS24 calls	Data not available due to planned system changes within NHS24 - reporting will resume in due course.	
	Primary care virology	Seven swabs were positive, two for influenza A (both not subtyped) and five influenza B (41.2% (7/17)).	
Influenza Seriousness	Outbreaks	Number of acute respiratory illness outbreaks reported this week: 6. The majority of these were retrospective reports. See details in section 3.	↑
	Secondary care virology (ECOSS)	Swab positivity rates are rising (7.6%) but are low overall. The majority of detections were influenza A (not subtyped).	
	SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Illness)	Number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases requiring ICU management reported this week: 3.	
Influenza Impact	SARI mortality	Number of SARI deaths: 0	↔
	Excess all-cause mortality	No excess deaths were reported in week 48. This should be interpreted with caution as data, especially for the last two weeks, are still provisional.	
Non-flu respiratory pathogens	Non-flu respiratory pathogens	The levels of adenovirus were slightly higher than seasonal expectations in sentinel sources. RSV levels are rising inline with seasonal expectations.	↑

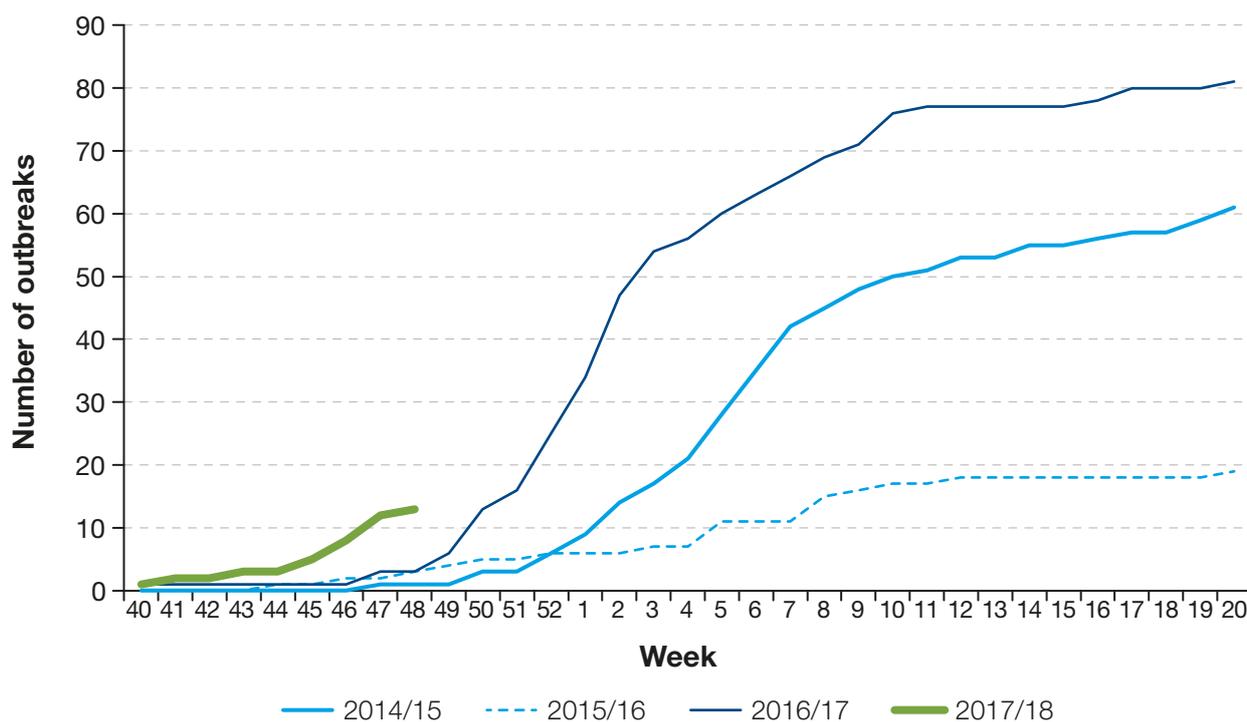
3 Supporting data

Supporting data and further information will be published in this section if any of the respiratory surveillance systems show a significant increase.

Acute Respiratory Illness Reporting

Compared to the same period in previous seasons, in 2017/18 we are observing a sharper increase and higher number of ARI outbreaks (7/13=influenza) reported to HPS (Figure 1). Thirteen closed setting outbreaks have been reported since week 40 and, so far, the majority have been influenza outbreaks in care homes and are geographically spread throughout Scotland.

Figure 1: Cumulative number of respiratory outbreaks in 2017/18 season compared to seasons 2014/15 to 2016/17.



4 Vaccine uptake

Provisional data to week 47 suggests uptake rates of:

- 65.4% in people aged 65 years and over, (compared with 66.1% in 2016-17).
- 36% in under 65's at-risk, (compared with 36.9% in 2016-17).
- 51.6% in pregnant women (with other risk factors), compared with 49.3% in 2016-17.
- 39.4% in pregnant women (without other risk factors), compared with 39.9% in 2016-17.
- 43.7% in preschool children¹ (2 to under 5 year olds), compared with 45.8% in 2016-17.
- 71.2% in primary school children, compared with 71.1% in 2016-17.

The next update of influenza vaccine uptake will be published in week 51.

5 Links for more information

Further information for the Scottish 2017/18 season

- [HPS seasonal influenza web page](#)
- [Scottish Vaccine Update](#)
- [Historical end of season influenza vaccine uptake](#)

UK and international influenza reports

- [PHE Weekly national flu report](#)

1 Preschool rates derived from practices using INPS Vision only. We are working with EMIS to overcome denominator issues with their data.

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