

HPS Weekly National Influenza Report

Summary of surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory illnesses

Week ending 10 December 2017 – week 49

1 Overall assessment

In week 49, influenza activity was low overall but there is evidence of increased activity of influenza in the community. This season there has been earlier reporting of closed setting outbreaks of influenza compared to the last three seasons. Detections in sentinel and non-sentinel sources have increased.

2 Summary

Indicator	Data	Comment	Change from previous week
Community Influenza Transmission	GP consultations	ILI rates were low but increased (15.1 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	Four swabs were positive for influenza A (H3), swab positivity was 18.2% (4/22).	
Influenza in Closed Settings	Outbreaks	Number of acute respiratory illness outbreaks reported this week: 3 All of these were retrospective reports. See details in section 3.	↑
	Secondary care virology (ECOSS)	Swab positivity rates are rising (14.8%) but remain 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 Associated Mortality	SARI mortality	Number of SARI deaths: 0	↔
	Excess all-cause mortality	A small number of excess deaths was reported overall and in those aged 65 years and above. 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	All levels were within seasonal expectations. RSV levels are rising inline with seasonal expectations.	↑

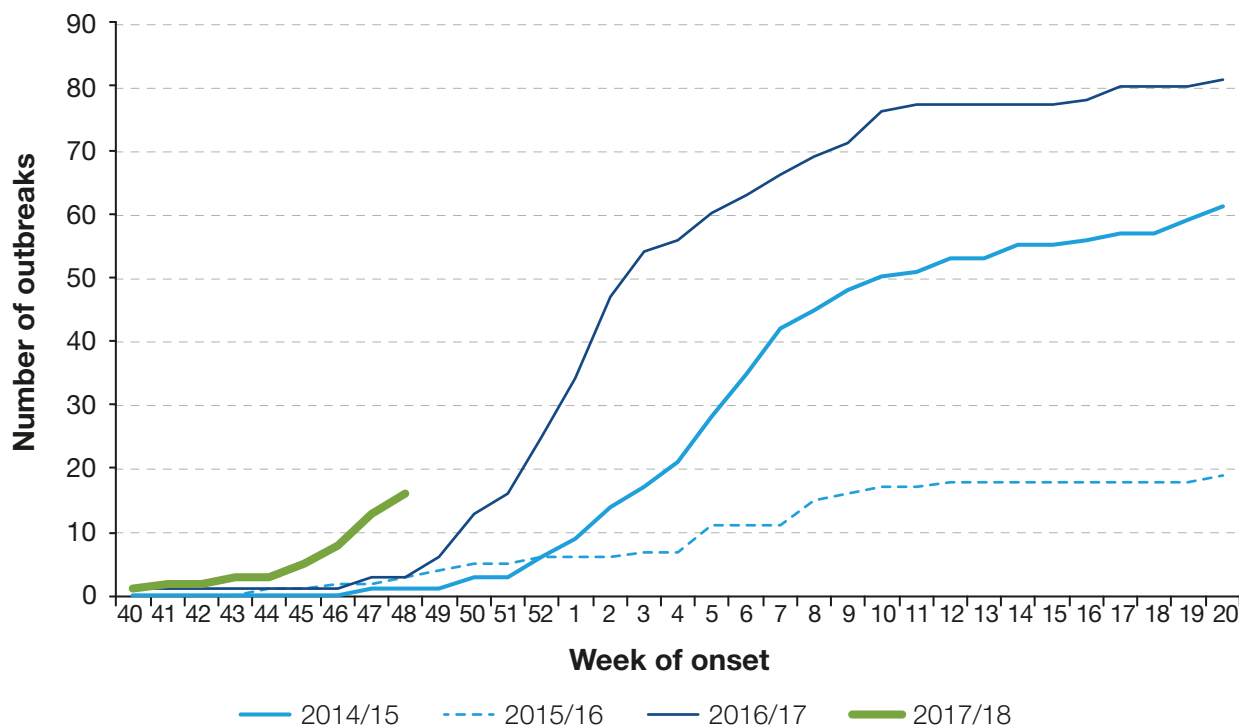
3 Supporting data

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 reported to HPS (Figure 1). Sixteen closed setting outbreaks have been reported since week 40. These were geographically spread throughout Scotland, the majority were influenza outbreaks (56%, 9/16) and occurred in care homes (75%, 12/16).

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



Note: Where week of onset is not available, week of report has been used instead. This may change retrospectively for the current season as updates are received.

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).

- 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](#)
- [Flu News Europe website](#)
- [WHO influenza update](#)

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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Published by: Health Protection Scotland

Meridian Court, 5 Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 6QE

T: 0141 300 1100 **F:** 0141 300 1170 **W:** <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk>

Report produced by: HPS Respiratory Team **Email:** NSS.hpsflu@nhs.net

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