



HPS Monthly National Seasonal Respiratory Report

Week ending 9 September 2018 – week 36

1 Overall assessment

In week 36, the overall assessment remains green (below baseline activity).

- The period of intensive Influenza surveillance for 2017/18 has ended. Over the summer (weeks 21-39) an influenza update report will be published every four weeks unless influenza (or other viral respiratory pathogen) activity increases significantly.
- The colour indicators for community influenza transmission, influenza in closed settings and influenza associated mortality remained green (below baseline activity).
- The period for influenza vaccination for the 2017/18 season is now complete. Over the summer, vaccine uptake data will be verified using general practice claims for payment data.
- The CMO letters in respect of the 2018/19 Flu Vaccination Programme have now been published by Scottish Government (see links section).

2 Summary

Indicator	Data	Comment	Change from previous week
Community Influenza Transmission	GP consultations	The ILI rate remained stable and below the baseline threshold for normal seasonal activity over the last four weeks (1.7 per 100,000 population in week 33 compared to 2.3 in week 36). Age-specific rates were below baseline levels for all age groups.	↔
	NHS24 calls	The proportion of NHS24 calls for respiratory infection symptoms increased slightly over the last four weeks; 10.7% in week 33 compared to 15.3% in week 36. Change over from legacy to new IT system limits comparability with previous data.	
	Primary care virology	The sentinel swabbing scheme has now stopped but will recommence in week 40 2018. Therefore, no further information on laboratory detections through this scheme will be provided in the reports over the summer period.	
Influenza in Closed Settings	Outbreaks	No acute respiratory illness outbreaks were reported in weeks 33-36. Over the summer period, outbreak reporting will occur only on an exception basis.	↔
	Secondary care virology (ECOSS)	The number of positive detections and swab positivity remained low and stable in the last four weeks (0.0% in week 33 compared to 1.1% in week 36). Five samples were positive for influenza (one A(H1N1) and four A(not subtyped)) during the last four weeks.	
	Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI)	No new cases of laboratory confirmed influenza requiring ICU management were reported in weeks 33-36. Over the summer period, SARI reporting will occur only on an exception basis.	
Influenza Associated Mortality	SARI mortality	No signal of SARI mortality has been observed over the summer period to date.	↔
	Excess all-cause mortality	No statistically significant all cause mortality excess was observed between week 5 and week 36 (week 35 and 36 include a reporting delay adjustment).	
Non-flu respiratory pathogens	Non-flu respiratory pathogens	All non-influenza respiratory pathogens under surveillance remained stable and within expected seasonal levels.	↔

3 Supporting data

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

Summary table colour interpretation:

- Green – below baseline activity;
- Yellow – normal season activity;
- Amber – moderate activity (above normal activity);
- Red – high activity (above moderate activity);
- Dark red – very high activity (above high activity);

For existing data caveats, please see HPS Weekly National Influenza Report from week 20 2018 (<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resp/resourcedetail.aspx?id=3516>).

4 Links for more information

- The CMO letters in respect of the 2018/19 Flu Vaccination Programme have now been published by Scottish Government:
 - CMO(2018)06 Letter : [Scottish Childhood Flu Vaccination Programme 2018-19](#)
 - CMO(2018)07 Letter : [Seasonal Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccination Programme 2018-19](#)
- [Public Health England](#) have published provisional end of season influenza vaccine effectiveness results for the 2017/18 influenza season.
- The interim 2017/18 influenza seasonal vaccine effectiveness estimates from five European studies have been published on [Eurosurveillance](#).
- PHE have published the [annual surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses in the UK: Winter 2017 to 2018 report](#) (24th May 2018).
- The WHO have recommended that the following influenza viruses are included in the trivalent influenza vaccine for use in the 2018-19 northern hemisphere influenza season:
 - an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
 - an A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus;
 - a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus.
- It is recommended that the quadrivalent vaccine contains the above viruses and the B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus, of the B/Yamagata/16/88-lineage.

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](#)
- [EuroMOMO website](#)

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