

HPS Weekly National Seasonal Respiratory Report

Week ending 11 October 2018 – week 40

1 Overall assessment

In week 40, influenza activity is low in the community and in closed settings.

2 Summary

| Indicator | Data | Comment | Change from previous week |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| Community Influenza Transmission | GP consultations | The ILI rate remained low and below the baseline threshold for normal seasonal activity (7.1 in week 40 and 4.3 per 100,000 in week 39). | ↔ |
| | NHS24 calls | The proportion of NHS24 calls for respiratory infection symptoms remained stable; 15.1% in week 40 compared to 15.5% in week 39. Change over from legacy to new IT system limits comparability with previous season's data for week 40. | |
| | Primary care virology | One swab was positive for influenza B, swab positivity was 16.7% (1/6). | |
| Influenza in Closed Settings | Outbreaks | No acute respiratory illness outbreak was reported in week 40. | ↔ |
| | Secondary care virology (ECOSS) | The number of positive detections remained stable and swab positivity was 1.07% (6/560) in week 40. There were 2 influenza A(H1N1), 1 influenza A(H3), 1 influenza A(not subtyped) and 2 influenza B. | |
| | Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) | No cases of laboratory confirmed influenza requiring ICU management were reported in week 40. | |
| Influenza Associated Mortality | SARI mortality | No SARI deaths were reported in week 40. | ↔ |
| | Excess all-cause mortality | No statistically significant all cause mortality excess was observed in week 38 (For the 2018/19 season, HPS will only publish information on all-cause mortality two weeks after the week of the occurrence of the deaths to allow for reporting delay). | |
| Non-flu respiratory pathogens | Non-flu respiratory pathogens | All non-flu respiratory pathogens reported through secondary care remained within expected seasonal levels with the exception of coronavirus which was slightly higher than expected in week 40. | ↔ |

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 detailed caveats and notes explaining the data and the methodologies used in this report, please see [HPS Weekly National Seasonal Respiratory Report – Notes and Caveats](#).

4 Vaccine uptake

Influenza vaccine uptake will be reported on a monthly basis. The first monthly update of vaccine uptake data will be available in week 44.

5 International situation

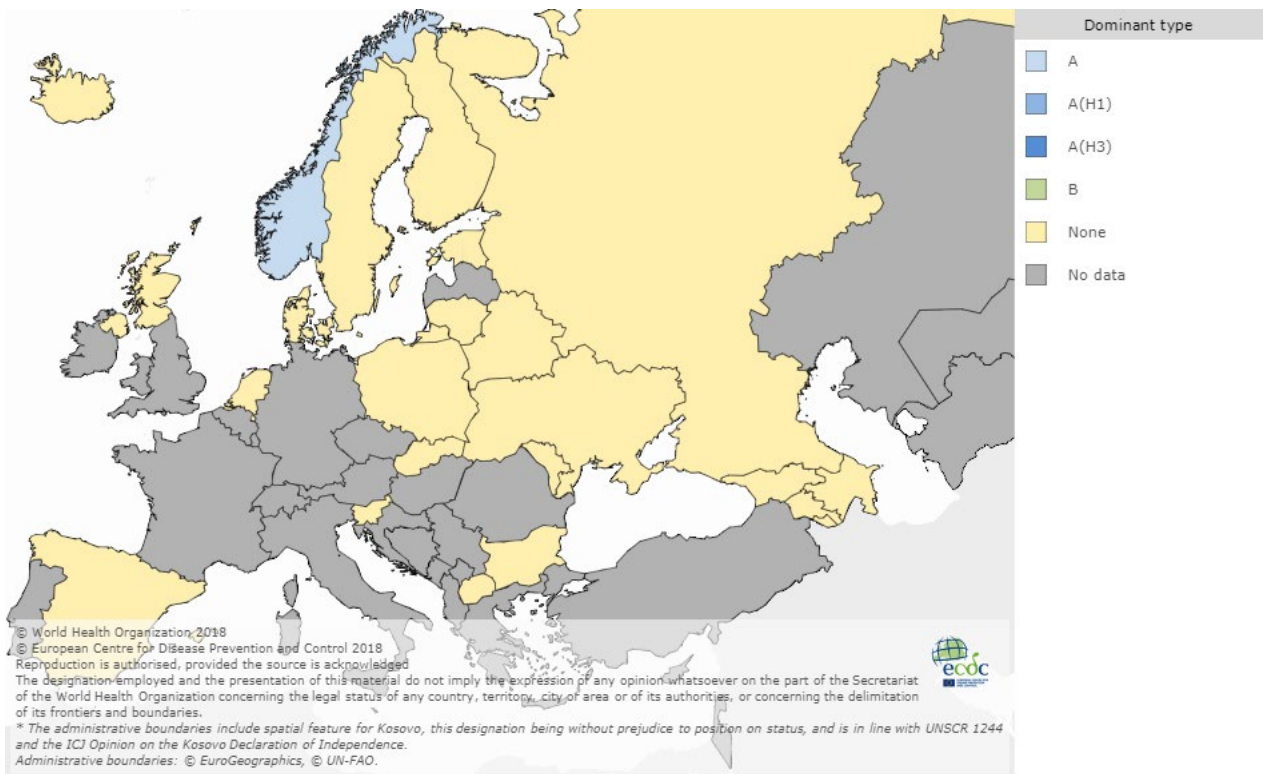
UK – week 39:

- Indicators for influenza show low levels of activity.
- GP consultation rates for influenza-like illness (ILI) remain low in all schemes in the UK.

Europe – week 36-39:

- Influenza activity was at out-of-season levels in all countries.
- Of all the samples from primary health care settings none tested positive for influenza virus.
- The majority of countries reported no dominant type (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Geographical spread of influenza virus type/subtype among countries from the WHO Euro region – data to week 39 2018 (source: <https://flunewseurope.org/>).



6 Links for more information

- A summary of the provisional end-of-season results for 2017/18 influenza seasonal vaccine effectiveness has been published on the [PHE website](#).
- [WHO](#) have recommended that quadrivalent vaccines for use in the 2018-2019 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:
 - 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 (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage); and
 - a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage).
- It is recommended that the influenza B virus component of trivalent vaccines for use in the 2018-2019 northern hemisphere influenza season be a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus of the B/Victoria/2/87-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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