

# HPS Weekly National Seasonal Respiratory Report

Week ending 2 December 2018 – week 48

## 1 Overall assessment

In week 48, the number of laboratory detections of influenza in secondary care has increased but influenza activity remains below baseline thresholds in the community and in closed settings.

## 2 Summary

Indicator	Data	Comment	Change from previous week
Community Influenza Transmission	GP consultations	The ILI rate increased but remained below the baseline threshold for normal seasonal activity (5.9 per 100,000 in week 48 compared to and 5.2 in week 47).	↔
	NHS24 calls	The proportion of NHS24 calls for respiratory infection symptoms increased slightly to 20.4% in week 48 compared to 19.8% in week 47. The proportion for week 48 is lower than the same week last season (23.7%).	
	Primary care virology	No swab was positive for influenza in week 48 (0/3).	
Influenza in Closed Settings	Outbreaks	One acute respiratory illness outbreak was reported in week 48. The cumulative number of outbreaks since week 40 is four.	↑
	Secondary care virology (ECOSS)	The swab positivity was 2.3% (20/873) in week 48 compared to 1.2% (11/957) in week 47. The number of positive detections increased compared to previous week: there were nine influenza A(H1N1), one influenza A(H3N2), three influenza A(not subtyped), six influenza B detections and one co-infection (influenza A(not subtyped) and influenza B).	
	Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI)	No cases of laboratory confirmed influenza requiring ICU management were reported in week 48.	
Influenza Associated Mortality	SARI mortality	No SARI deaths were reported in week 48.	↔
	Excess all-cause mortality	No statistically significant all cause mortality excess was observed in week 46. 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. RSV detections are at moderate activity levels and are increasing in line with the expected winter RSV wave with younger age groups most affected.	↔

### 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

A software issue affecting the vaccine uptake submission from EMIS practices has now been solved and the vaccine uptake estimates below have been derived from both EMIS and INPS Vision practices (accounting for > 95% of Scottish GP practices).

Provisional data for week 47 suggests uptake rates of:

- 63.3% in people aged 65 years and over, compared with 66.0% in 2017-18
- 33.8% in under 65's at-risk, compared with 36.3% in 2017-18
- 47.8% in pregnant women (with other risk factors), compared with 52.0% in 2017-18
- 38.2% in pregnant women (without other risk factors), compared with 39.6% in 2017-18
- 43.8% in preschool children (2 to under 5 year olds), compared with 43.7% in 2017-18
- 72.3% in primary school children, compared with 71.2% in 2017-18

The next update of influenza vaccine uptake will be published in the report of week 52.

## 5 International situation

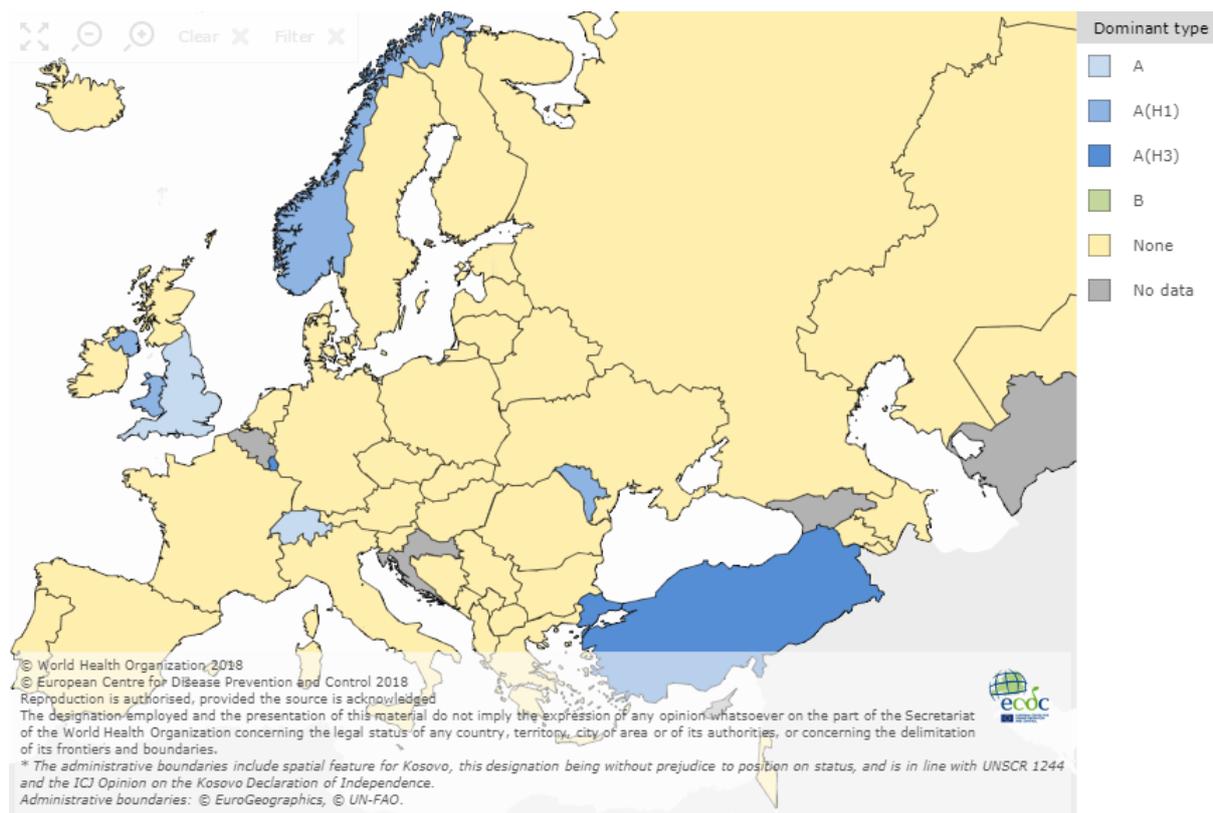
### UK – week 47:

- Influenza activity has started to increase, with sporadic cases of influenza detected in the community though all indicators remain Below Baseline threshold levels.
- The impact of flu on healthcare services is Below Baseline threshold levels for hospitalisations and ICU/HDU admissions.
- RSV activity continues to increase with impact particularly in young children.

### Europe – week 47:

- Influenza activity was low throughout the European Region.
- Influenza viruses were detected sporadically in specimens from persons with respiratory illness presenting to medical care.
- The large majority of influenza virus detections were of type A.
- For week 47/2018, data from the 22 Member States and areas reporting to the [EuroMOMO](#) project indicated all-cause excess mortality to be at expected levels for this time of the year.

**Figure 1:** Geographical spread of influenza virus type/subtype among countries from the WHO Euro region – data to week 47 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 2018/19 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](#)

### HPS National Seasonal Respiratory Report

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