

# HPS Weekly National Seasonal Respiratory Report

Week ending 16 December 2018 – week 50

## 1 Overall assessment

In week 50, the number of laboratory detections of influenza in secondary care increased but influenza activity remains below baseline thresholds in the community and in closed settings.

A Scottish addendum to the Public Health England guidance on use of antiviral agents for the treatment and prophylaxis of seasonal influenza has been published on the [HPS website](#).

## 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 (6.8 per 100,000 in week 50 compared to 4.1 in week 49).	↔
	NHS24 calls	The proportion of NHS24 calls for respiratory infection symptoms decreased to 19.8% in week 50 compared to 20.1% in week 49. The proportion for week 50 is lower than the same week last season (26.1%).	
	Primary care virology	No swab was positive for influenza in week 50 (0/4).	
Influenza in Closed Settings	Outbreaks	No new acute respiratory illness outbreak was reported in week 50. The cumulative number of outbreaks since week 40 is four.	↑
	Secondary care virology (ECOSS)	The swab positivity was 4.0% (36/895) in week 50 compared to 1.2% (10/834) in week 49. The number of positive detections increased compared to the previous week: there were twelve influenza A(H1N1), two influenza A(H3N2), 23 influenza A(not subtyped) and five influenza B detections.	
	Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI)	One retrospective case of laboratory confirmed influenza requiring ICU management was reported in week 50. The cumulative number of cases since week 40 is two.	
Influenza Associated Mortality	SARI mortality	One SARI death was reported in week 50.	↔
	Excess all-cause mortality	No statistically significant all cause mortality excess was observed in week 48. 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 for week 50. Retrospective data shows RSV detections for weeks 48 and 49 were at very high activity levels with younger age groups most affected as in previous seasons.	↔

### 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 resolved 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

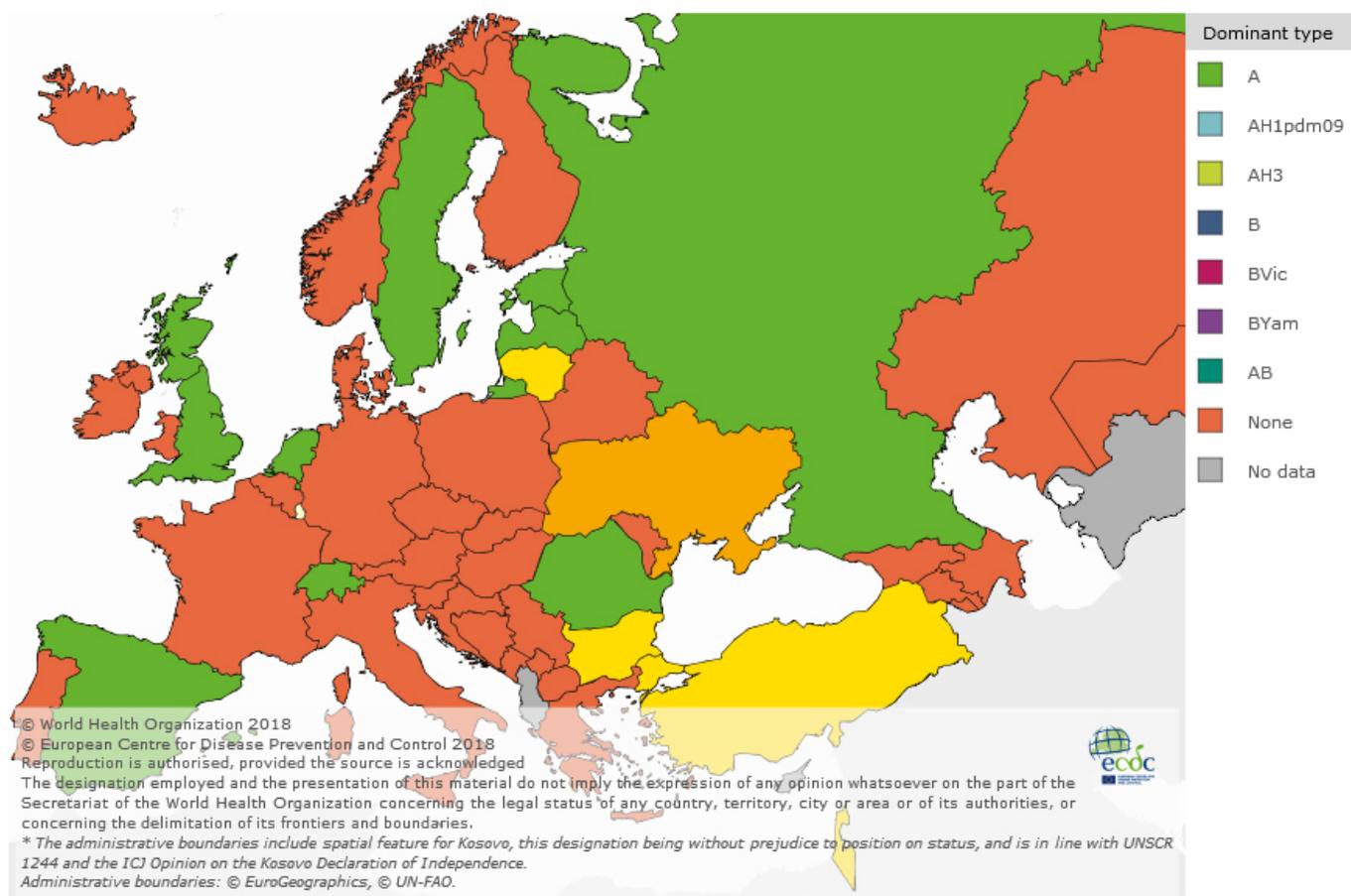
### UK – week 49:

- 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 has started to decrease.
- Early indications show influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 is the dominant subtype.

### Europe – week 49:

- Although some countries are starting to see local and regional spread, influenza activity remained at baseline or low throughout the European Region.
- Influenza viruses were detected sporadically in specimens from persons with respiratory illness presenting to medical care.
- The majority of influenza virus detections were influenza A in sentinel, non-sentinel and hospitalised cases.
- For week 49/2018, data from the 20 Member States and areas reporting to the [EuroMOMO](#) project indicated all-cause mortality to be at expected levels for this time of year.

**Figure 1:** Geographical spread of influenza virus type/subtype among countries from the WHO Euro region – data to week 49 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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