



Round Table Report 5 February 2021

For restricted use

This report summarizes the ECDC daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence.

Active threats

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2019-2021

Other news:

Poland has found its [first case of COVID-19 in mink](#), the agriculture ministry said. The ministry was informed by veterinary inspectors on 30 January 2021. All mink on the affected farm will be culled. The mink industry counts over 350 farms in the country.

buiten verzoek

Threats under weekly review

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2020/2021 season

Sources: [EuroMOMO](#), [Flu News Europe](#), [Influenzanet](#)

Update: Week 04/2021 (25 January–31 January 2021)

1/3

Influenza activity remained at interseasonal levels.

Of 1 346 specimens tested for influenza in week 04/2021, from patients presenting with ILI or ARI symptoms to sentinel primary healthcare sites, four were positive for an influenza virus.

Influenza viruses were detected sporadically from non-sentinel sources (such as hospitals, schools, primary care facilities not involved in sentinel surveillance, or nursing homes and other institutions). Both influenza type A and type B viruses were detected.?

There were four hospitalized laboratory-confirmed influenza case reported for week 04/2021.

The influenza season in the European Region has usually been designated as having started by this point in the year but, despite widespread and regular testing for influenza, reported influenza activity still remains at a very low level. The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has affected healthcare seeking behaviours, healthcare provision, and testing practices and capacities in countries and areas of the European Region, which have negatively impacted on the reporting of influenza epidemiologic and virologic data during the 2020-2021 season. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the influenza data we present will need to be interpreted with caution, notably in terms of seasonal patterns.

Summary: 2020–2021 season overview

For the Region as a whole, influenza activity has been at baseline level since the start of the season.

In total, 588 specimens have tested positive for influenza viruses, 14 from sentinel sources and 574 from non-sentinel sources, with type A (both subtypes) and type B (both lineages) viruses being detected.

Since the start of the season, few hospitalized laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported: 11 from ICUs (all infected with type A viruses); 7 cases (6 type A viruses and 1 type B) in wards outside ICUs with 1 fatality; and 9 from severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)-based surveillance (4 infected with type B viruses and 5 with type A).

Assessment: Despite widespread and regular testing for influenza, reported influenza activity remains at a very low level. The start of the influenza season is usually observed at this point of the year, so it is unusual that for this season there is still very low influenza activity reported.

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has affected healthcare-seeking behaviour, healthcare provision, and testing practices and capacities in countries and areas of the European Region and this has had a negative impact on the reporting of influenza epidemiological and virological data during the 2020–2021 season.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the influenza data we present will need to be interpreted with caution, notably in terms of seasonal patterns.

Actions: ECDC and WHO monitor influenza activity in the WHO European Region between week 40–2020 and week 20–2021. They publish their weekly report on the [Flu News Europe](#) website.

Risk assessment under production

Joint ECDC and EFSA rapid outbreak assessment to be produced on Salmonella Enteritidis contamination in poultry products from Poland to be published 18 February 2021.

The Round Table Report contains information that could be considered sensitive or is still under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

Participants

Senior Management: -
EI and Response Head of Section: -

Duty Officers:

24/7: -
Threat Detection: -
Rapid Assessment and Outbreaks: -
Communication: -

Representative of:

Epidemic Intelligence: -
Response: -
Vaccine Preventable Diseases: -
Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases: -
Food and Water-borne Diseases: -
Influenza: -
Microbiology Coordination: -