



Round Table Report 8 January 2021

For restricted use

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

Threat under weekly review

Influenza – Multi-country – Monitoring 2020/2021 season

Sources: [EuroMOMO](#) | [Flu News Europe](#) | [Influenzanel](#)

Week 53/2020 (28 December 2020–03 January 2021)

Influenza activity remained at interseasonal levels.

Of 619 specimens tested for influenza in week 53/2020, from patients presenting with ILI or ARI symptoms to sentinel primary healthcare sites, none 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). Of 11 342 specimens tested, 3 were positive. Both influenza type A and type B viruses were detected.

There were no hospitalized laboratory-confirmed influenza cases for week 53/2020.

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, 415 specimens have tested positive for influenza viruses, 8 from sentinel sources and 407 from non-sentinel sources, with A(H1)pdm09, A(H3) and type B viruses detected.

Since the start of the season, few hospitalized laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported: 10 from ICUs (9 infected with type A viruses and 1 with type B); 3 cases (all type B viruses) in wards outside ICUs with 1 fatality; and four from severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)-based surveillance (3 infected with type B viruses and 1 with type A).

WHO has published [recommendations](#) for the composition of influenza vaccines to be used in the 2020–2021 northern hemisphere season. Based on these recommendations, the influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2) and B/Victoria-lineage virus components should be updated compared to the 2019–2020 influenza vaccine.

Assessment: Reported influenza activity remains at a very low level, similar to that usually observed during the interseason in summer months.

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 epidemiological and virological data during the 2019-2020 season. It is not unusual for influenza activity to be low at this time of year. However, if the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the influenza data we present will need to be interpreted with caution, notably in terms of seasonal

1/2

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 in week 03-2021.

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

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24/7: -
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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: -