

Summary

Week 44/2016 (31 October–6 November 2016)

- Activity remained low in the region, with few specimens testing positive for influenza viruses (1% of sentinel specimens), and is at a level similar to that observed for the same period in recent seasons.
- Since week 40/2016, influenza A viruses have predominated, with most of those subtyped being A(H3N2).

Global update

- Based on data up to 16 October, influenza activity in temperate southern hemisphere countries continued to decrease or remained low. Influenza activity in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere remained at inter-seasonal levels. More information on global influenza activity is available [here](#).

Primary care data

Influenza activity

Influenza activity is at baseline levels in all 42 countries that submitted epidemiological data, all of whom reported low intensity (Fig. 1). Of the 12 countries that reported on geographic spread, two reported local and 10 reported sporadic spread; no apparent sub-regional distribution is evident (Fig. 2).

Fifteen countries reported a total of 148 influenza virus positive specimens from sentinel and/or non-sentinel sources in week 44/2016. Few specimens from sentinel ILI and/or ARI sources tested positive for influenza viruses (1% of sentinel specimens). Of the 14 countries reporting local/sporadic geographic spread, only eight reported virus detections.

Interactive map of qualitative indicators and dominant virus type

Fig. 1. Intensity in the European Region, week 44/2016

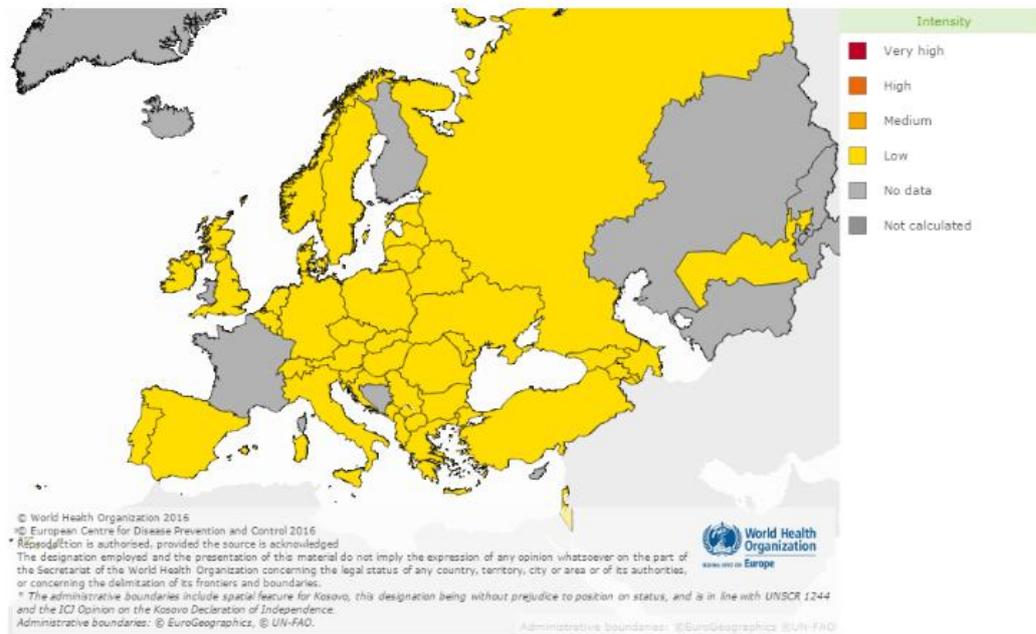
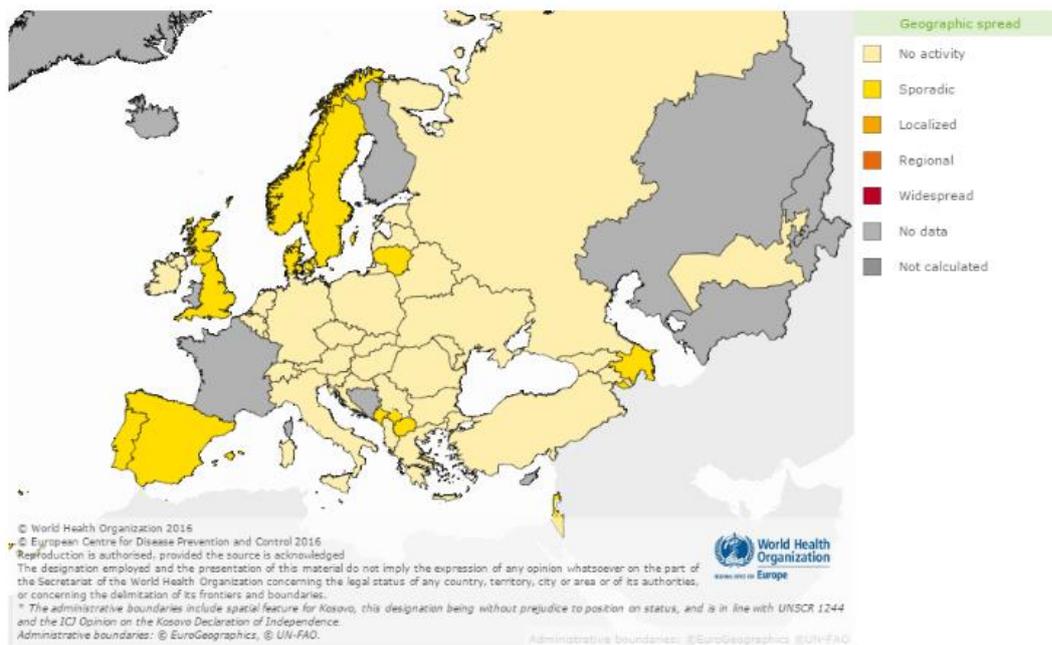


Fig. 2. Geographic spread in the European Region, week 44/2016



For interactive maps of influenza intensity and geographic spread, please see the Flu News Europe [web site](#).

Viruses detected in sentinel-source specimens (ILI and ARI)

For week 44/2016, 11 of 734 sentinel specimens tested (1%) were positive for influenza virus (Table 1). Of these, 10 (91%) were type A and one was type B. All six subtyped influenza A viruses were A(H3N2).

Similar distributions of types and subtypes have been observed since week 40/2016; influenza viruses have been detected in 47 specimens from sentinel sources (Table 1). Of these, 39 (83%) were type A and eight (17%) were type B. Of the 35 influenza A viruses subtyped, the majority (97%) were A(H3N2) and the only influenza B virus with a determined lineage was B/Victoria.

Table 1. Influenza virus detections in sentinel-source specimens by type and subtype, week 44/2016 and cumulatively

Virus type and subtype	Number of detections	
	Current Week	Season 2016-2017
Influenza A	10	39
A(H1N1)pdm09	0	1
A(H3N2)	6	34
A not subtyped	4	4
Influenza B	1	8
B/Victoria lineage	0	1
B/Yamagata lineage	0	0
Unknown lineage	1	7
Total detections (total tested)	11 (734)	47 (3515)

Severity

For week 44/2016, of those countries, territories and regions that conduct surveillance based on hospitalized laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in intensive care units or other wards, or sentinel severe acute respiratory infections (SARI), Ukraine reported two influenza virus-positive cases (one subtyped as A(H3N2)) and Kosovo (in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)) one (subtyped as A(H3N2)).

Mortality monitoring

Pooled analysis of data from the 19 countries or regions reporting to the [EuroMOMO](#) project indicated that all-cause mortality was within the normal range during recent weeks.

Viruses detected in non-sentinel-source specimens

For week 44/2016, 137 specimens from non-sentinel sources (such as hospitals, schools, non-sentinel primary care units, nursing homes and other care institutions) tested positive for influenza viruses (Table 2). Similar to the previous week, 93% were type A and 7% type B. Of 19 influenza A viruses subtyped, 16 (84%) were A(H3N2).

Similar distributions of types and subtypes have been observed since week 40/2016; influenza viruses have been detected in 469 specimens from non-sentinel sources (Table 2). Of these, 419 (89%) were type A and 50 (11%) were type B. Of the 130 influenza A viruses subtyped, the majority (88%) were A(H3N2) and, the two influenza B viruses with determined lineage were B/Yamagata.

Table 2. Influenza viruses detected in non-sentinel-source specimens, by virus (sub)type, week 44/2016 and cumulatively

Virus type and subtype	Number of detections	
	Current Week	Season 2016-2017
Influenza A	127	419
A(H1N1)pdm09	3	16
A(H3N2)	16	114
A not subtyped	108	289
Influenza B	10	50
B/Victoria lineage	0	0
B/Yamagata lineage	0	2
Unknown lineage	10	48
Total detections (total tested*)	137 (5 993)	469 (38 086)

* Not all countries have a true non-sentinel testing denominator and these figures are likely to be an underestimate.

Virus characteristics

Genetic characterization

Reporting of genetic characterization data will commence when genetic reporting categories for the 2016-2017 season have been finalized.

The ECDC summary report for [September 2016](#) provides detailed genetic and antigenic analyses of viruses collected between January and June 2016.

The recommended composition of trivalent influenza vaccines for the 2016-2017 season in the [northern hemisphere](#) is for inclusion of an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus; and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage). For quadrivalent vaccines a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage) virus is recommended. The recommended influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 component of the 2017 [southern hemisphere](#) influenza vaccine is an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, the first update since A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses emerged in 2009.

Antiviral susceptibility testing

Reporting of antiviral susceptibility data will commence when test results become available.

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Maps and commentary do not represent a statement on the legal or border status of the countries and territories shown.

All data are up to date on the day of publication. Past this date, however, published data should not be used for longitudinal comparisons, as countries retrospectively update their databases.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe is responsible for the accuracy of the Russian translation.

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