

COVID-19 & FLU EXPRESS



COVID-19 & Flu Express is a weekly report produced by Surveillance Division of the Communicable Disease Branch of the Centre for Health Protection. It monitors and summarizes the latest local and global COVID-19 and influenza activities.

Local Situation of COVID-19 Activity (as of Jan 15, 2025)

Reporting period: Jan 5, 2025 – Jan 11, 2025 (Week 2)

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall local activity of COVID-19 is comparable to the preceding week and still remains at a low level.
- The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has been closely monitoring the local prevalence of SAR-CoV-2 variants based on the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Tracking SAR-CoV-2 Variants list. The latest surveillance data showed that JN.1 is the most prevalent variant. At the same time, KP.2 and KP.3 are also detected in the sewage surveillance and human infection cases. However, the current information does not suggest JN.1 or KP.2 or KP.3 will cause a more severe disease than the previous prevalent XBB and its descendant lineages.
- Members of the public are advised to maintain strict personal and environmental hygiene at all times for personal protection against COVID-19 infection and prevention of the spread of the disease in the community. High risk people (e.g. persons with underlying medical conditions or persons who are immunocompromised) should adopt additional measures to protect themselves such as wearing mask properly when going to public places. For other details, please visit the COVID-19 information page (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/102466.html>).
- Members of the public are advised to take note of the latest recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in Hong Kong to protect themselves from serious outcomes of COVID-19. High-risk priority groups are recommended to receive a dose of COVID-19 vaccine at least six months since the last dose or infection, regardless of the number of doses received previously. For more details, please visit ([https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/consensus interim recommendations on use of covid19 vaccines in hong kong 17jul.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/consensus_interim_recommendations_on_use_of_covid19_vaccines_in_hong_kong_17jul.pdf)).
- For the latest information on COVID-19 and prevention measures, please visit the thematic website of COVID-19 (<https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/index.html>).

Laboratory surveillance for COVID-19 cases

Positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) virus

In week 2, the weekly number of newly recorded positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus was 44 as compared to 63 in the preceding week. (Figure 1.1)

In the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 – Jan 15), the daily number of newly recorded positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus ranged from 3 to 12.

Since Jan 30, 2023, the cumulative number of positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections was 74,663 (as of Jan 15, 2025).

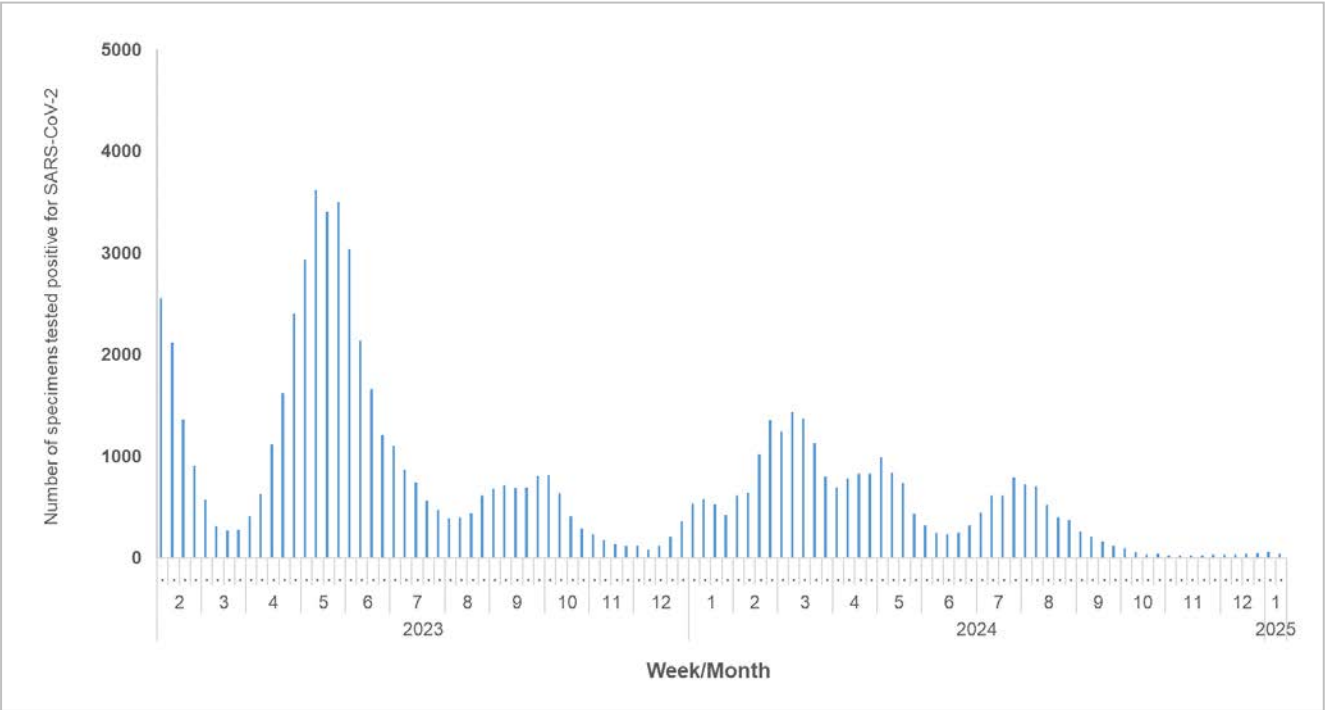


Figure 1.1 Weekly number of positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus

Positive detection rate of specimens tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus at the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch

Among the 8,864 respiratory specimens received by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) in week 2, 49 (0.55%) were tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus as compared to 71 (0.84%) in the preceding week. (Figure 1.2)

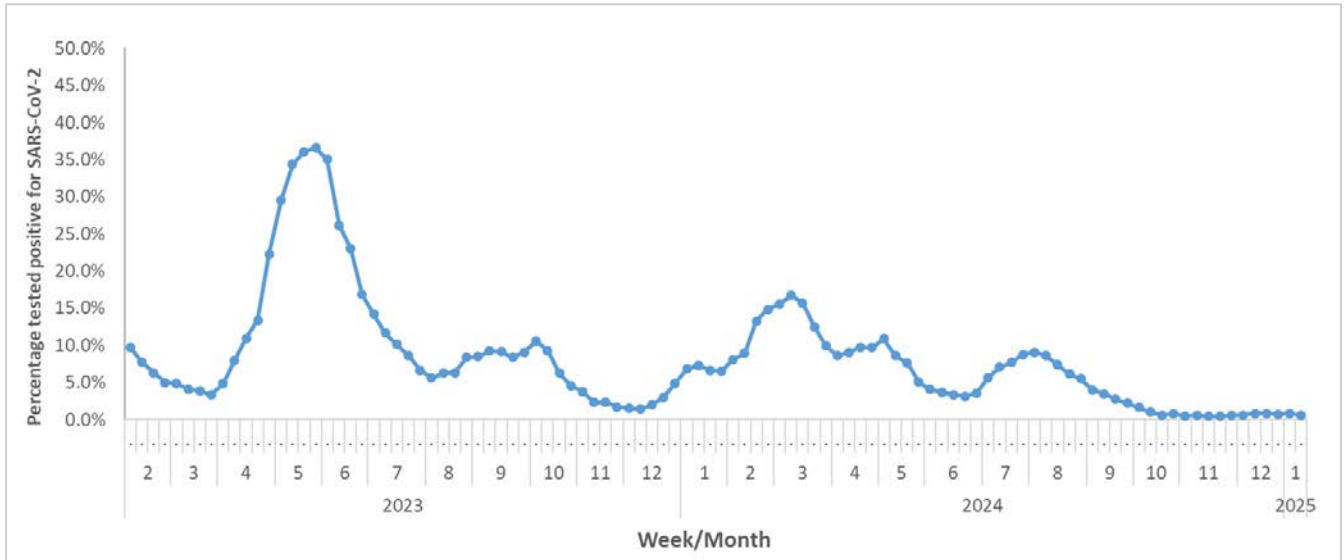


Figure 1.2 Percentage of specimens tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus at PHLSB

COVID-19 outbreak surveillance

In week 2, 0 COVID-19 outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions was recorded (affecting 0 person), as compared to 1 outbreak recorded in the previous week (affecting 4 persons). (Figure 1.3)

In the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 – Jan 15), 0 COVID-19 outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions was recorded (affecting 0 person).

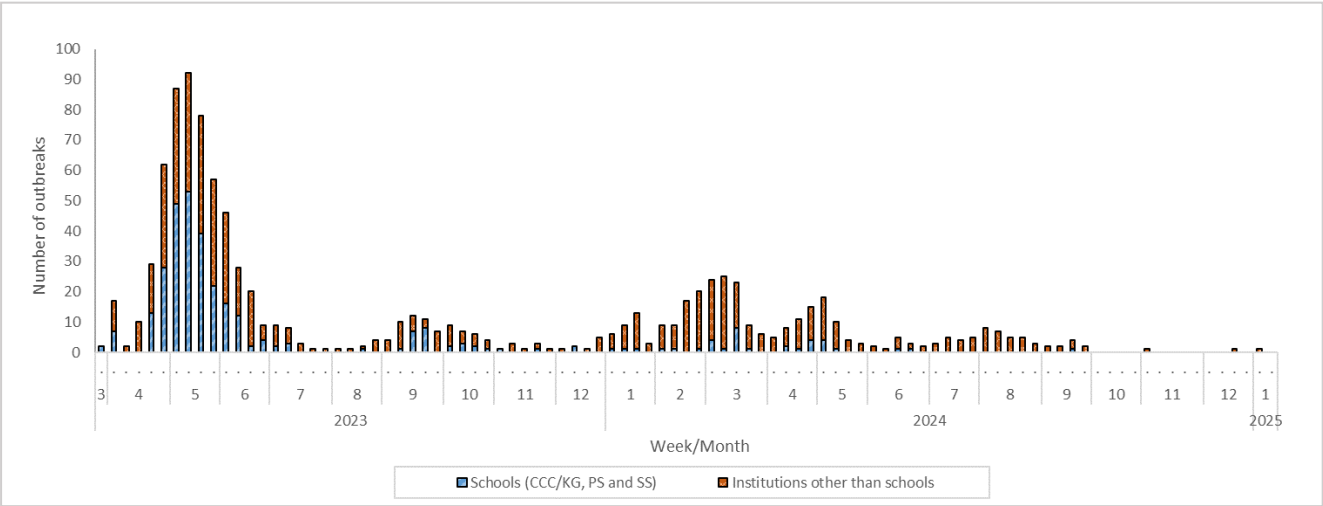


Figure 1.3 COVID-19 outbreaks in schools/institutions

Type of institutions	Week 1	Week 2	First 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 – Jan 15)
Child care centre/ kindergarten (CCC/KG)	0	0	0
Primary school (PS)	0	0	0
Secondary school (SS)	0	0	0
Residential care home for the elderly	0	0	0
Residential care home for persons with disabilities	1	0	0
Others	0	0	0
Total number of outbreaks	1	0	0
Total number of persons affected	4	0	0

Surveillance of severe and fatal COVID-19 cases

(Note: The data reported are provisional figures and subject to further revision.)

In week 2, the weekly number of severe COVID-19 cases including deaths with cause of death preliminarily assessed to be related to COVID-19 was 2 as compared to 2 in the preceding week. (Figure 1.4)

Since Jan 30, 2023, the cumulative number of fatal cases with cause of death preliminarily assessed to be related to COVID-19 was 1,399 (as of Jan 11, 2025).

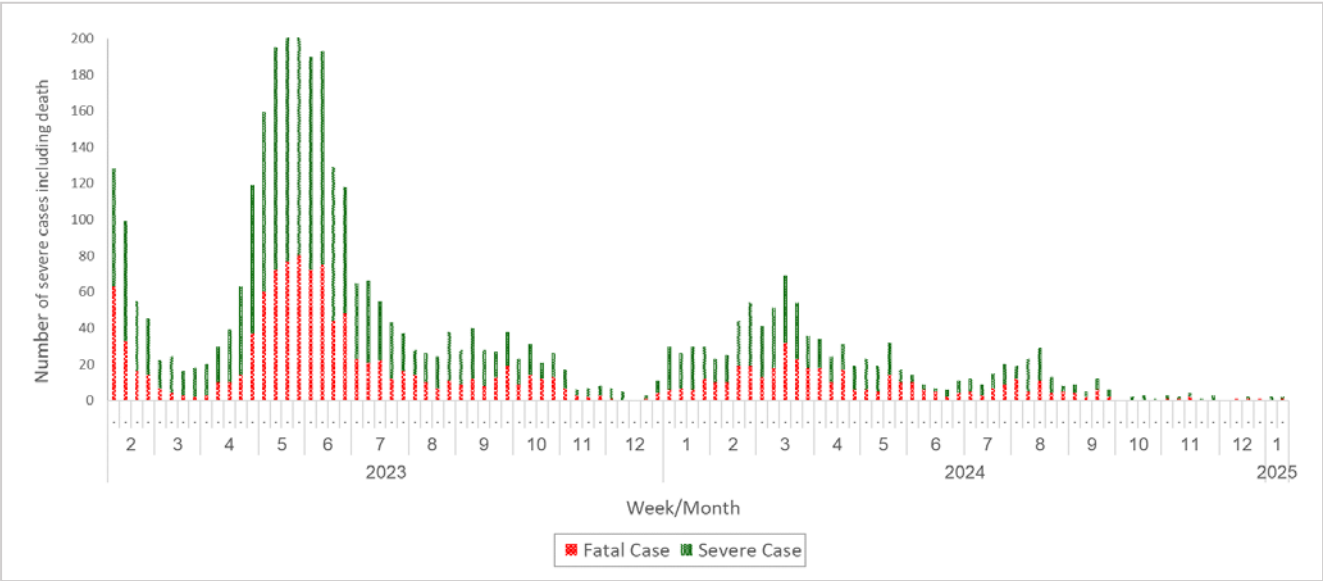


Figure 1.4 Weekly number of severe COVID-19 cases including deaths

Note: Severe and fatal cases are recorded according to their initial reporting dates.

Sewage surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 virus

In week 2, the 7-day geometric mean per capita viral load of SARS-CoV-2 virus from sewage surveillance was around 45,000 copy/L as compared to around 71,000 copy/L in the preceding week. (Figure 1.5)

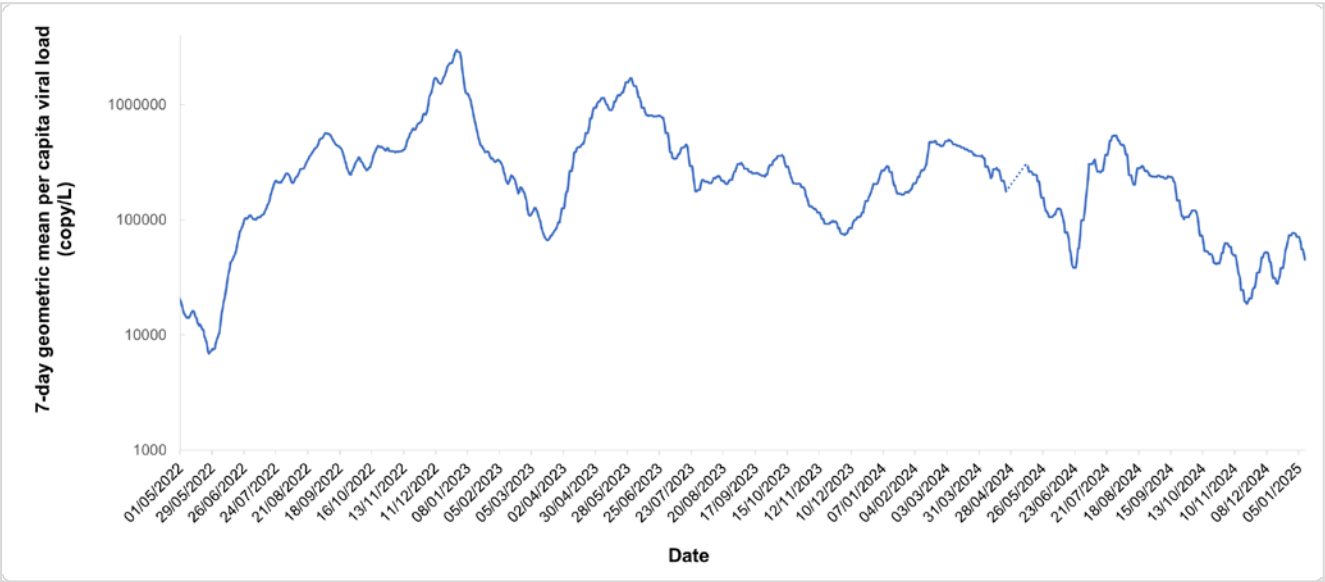


Figure 1.5 7-day geometric mean per capita viral load of SARS-CoV-2 virus from sewage surveillance since May 1, 2022

Note: The dotted line refers to the temporary sewage sampling suspension for a safety review by the Drainage Services Department.

COVID-19 surveillance among sentinel general out-patient clinics and sentinel private medical practitioner clinics

In week 2, the average consultation rate for COVID-19 among sentinel general out-patient clinics (GOPC) and sentinel private medical practitioner clinics were 1.3 (Figure 1.6) and 1.1 (Figure 1.7) COVID-19 cases per 1,000 consultations, respectively.

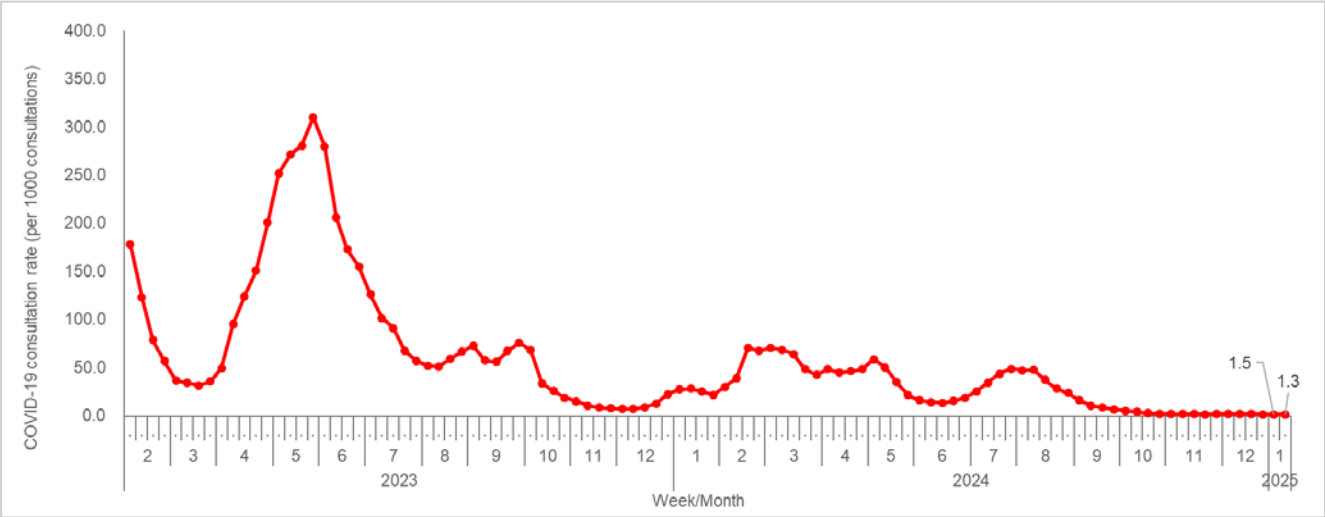


Figure 1.6 Average consultation rate of COVID-19 cases in GOPC

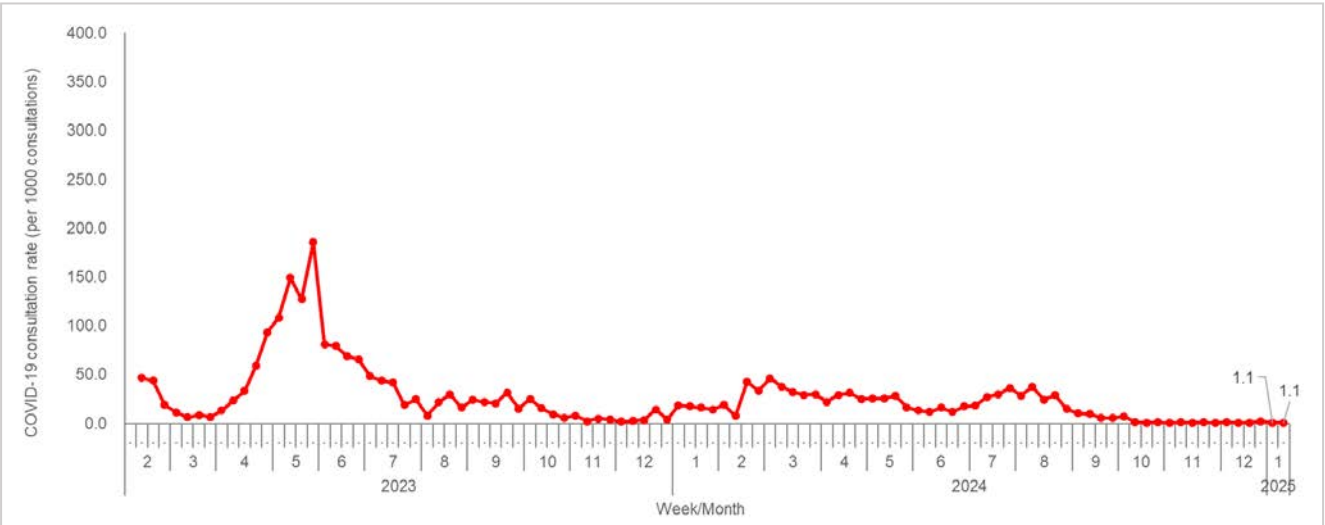


Figure 1.7 Average consultation rate of COVID-19 cases in private medical practitioner clinics

Surveillance on SARS-CoV-2 variants

CHP conducts surveillance on SARS-CoV-2 variants from sewage samples. The latest surveillance data (as of Jan 8, 2025) showed that JN.1 and its descendant lineages remained the most prevalent variant, comprising over 97% of all characterised specimens, where 58.9% belongs to the descendant strain KP.3, 16.9% to KP.2 and 11.3% to KP.3.1.1. (Figure 1.8)

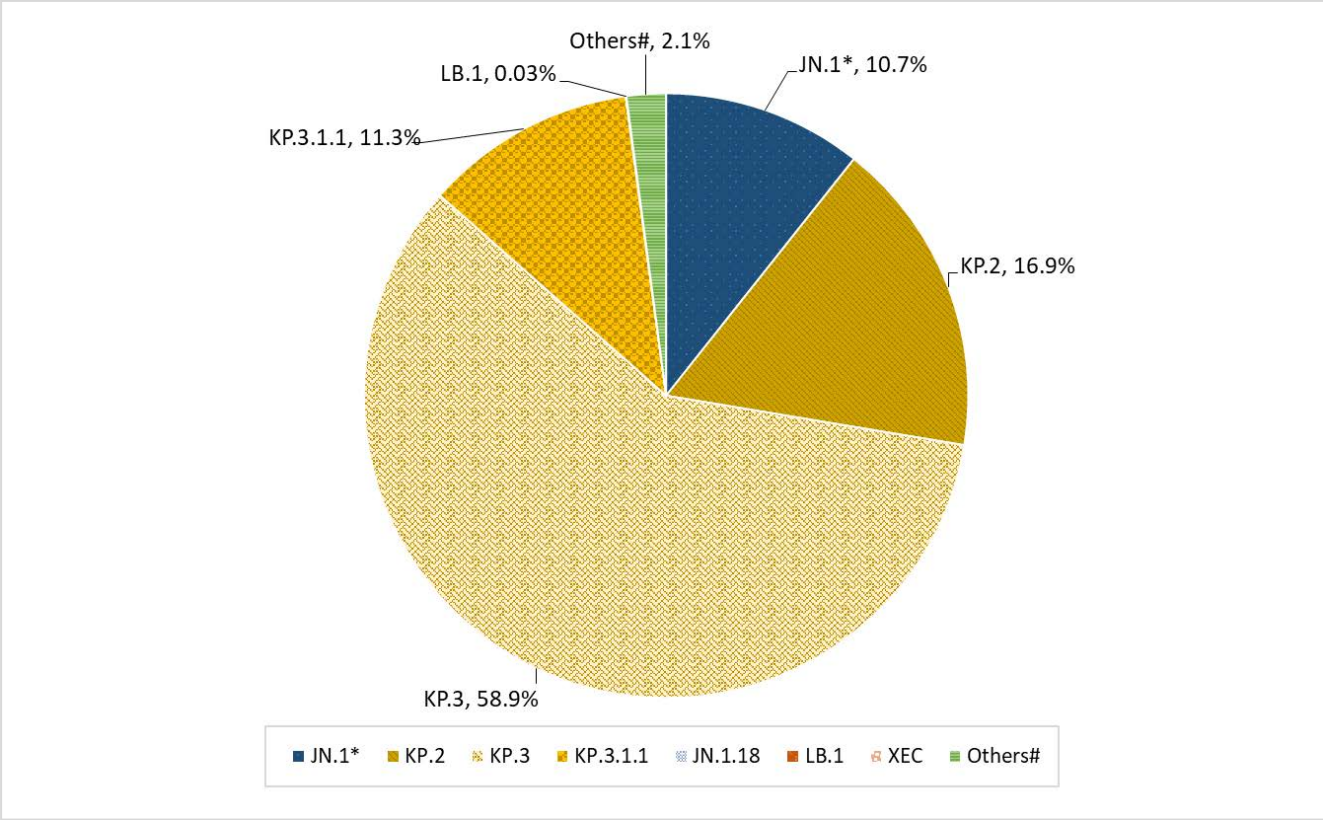


Figure 1.8 Estimated proportion of variants among sewage samples

*Including JN.1 and its descendant lineages, except those individually specified elsewhere in the table

#Those SARS-CoV-2 variants not classified as variants of interest (VOIs)/ variants under monitoring (VUMs) by WHO

Note: JN.1.18, KP.2, KP.3, KP.3.1.1, LB.1 and XEC are the descendant lineages of JN.1

CHP also conducted genetic characterisation on 3 specimens obtained from reported severe and fatal cases of COVID-19 between Dec 31, 2024 and Jan 14, 2025. The result showed that JN.1 and its descendant lineages remained the most prevalent variant, comprising 100% of all characterised specimens, where 66.7% (2 cases) belongs to the descendant strain KP.3 . (Figure 1.9)

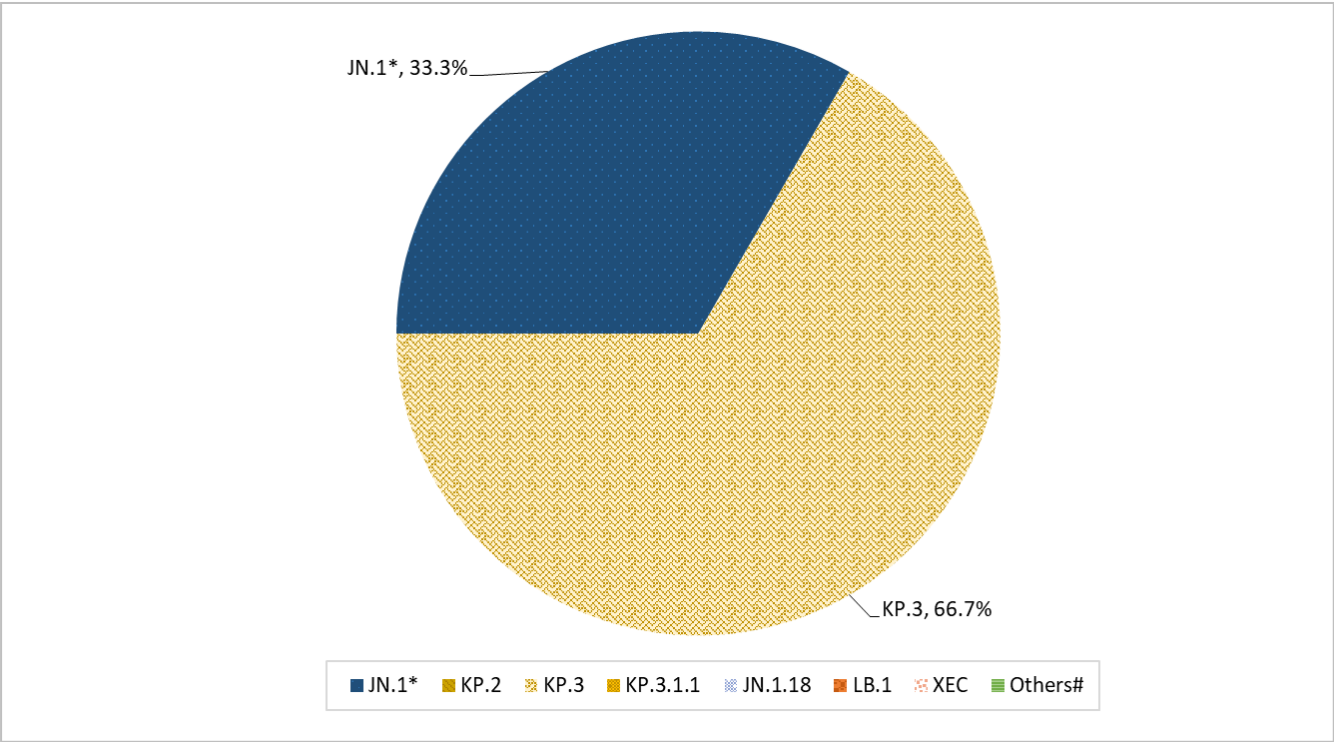


Figure 1.9 Proportion of variants among specimens obtained from reported severe and death cases for COVID-19

*Including JN.1 and its descendant lineages, except those individually specified elsewhere in the table

#Those SARS-CoV-2 variants not classified as VOIs/ VUMs by WHO

Besides, CHP conducted genetic characterisation for the specimens obtained from some non-severe cases of COVID-19 during the same period. The results showed that JN.1 and its descendant lineages remained the most prevalent variant, comprising 100% of all characterised specimens, of which 25.0% belonged to the descendant lineage KP.3.

Global situation of COVID-19 activity

- Globally, as of Dec 29, 2024, there have been 777,126,421 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 7,079,925 deaths, reported to WHO.
- According to WHO COVID-19 epidemiological update last published on Dec 24, 2024,
 - ◆ Over 201,000 new cases and more than 3,000 new deaths were reported in the last 28 days (Oct 14 to Nov 10, 2024) globally.
 - ◆ The highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from Russia, Czechia, Greece, Poland, and the UK. The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the USA, Russia, Sweden, Greece, Czechia, and Poland.
 - ◆ WHO commented that current trends in reported COVID-19 cases were underestimates of the true number due to the reduction in testing and delays in reporting in many countries. Therefore, related data should be interpreted with caution.
 - ◆ Currently, WHO is monitoring one VOI, which is JN.1, and six VUMs, which are JN.1.18, KP.2, KP.3, KP.3.1.1, LB.1 and XEC.
 - ◆ Between Nov 4 and Nov 10, 2024, JN.1 is the most reported VOI globally, accounting for 13.1% and having declined from a prevalence of 14.3% between Oct 14 and Oct 20, 2024. The risk evaluation for JN.1 published on Apr 15, 2024 suggests an overall low public health risk at the global level based on available evidence. Among the VUMs, the prevalence of XEC showed an increasing trend (21.3% to 28.4%) while the rest had their prevalence in decline, including KP.3.1.1 (46.4% to 45.6%), KP.3 (10.2% to 7.7%), KP.2 (2.8% to 1.5%) and LB.1 (1.8% to 1.0%).

Sources:

1. [WHO COVID-19 dashboard](#), accessed on Jan 16, 2025
2. [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants](#)
3. [World Health Organization COVID-19 epidemiological update](#)

Local Situation of Influenza Activity (as of Jan 15, 2025)

Reporting period: Jan 5 – 11, 2025 (Week 2)

- Hong Kong is in influenza season. The latest surveillance data showed that the overall influenza activity continued to increase.
- Influenza can cause serious illnesses in high-risk individuals and even healthy persons. Given that seasonal influenza vaccines are safe and effective, all persons aged 6 months or above except those with known contraindications are recommended to receive influenza vaccine to protect themselves against seasonal influenza and its complications, as well as related hospitalisations and deaths.
- 2024/25 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programmes, including the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination School Outreach Programme and the Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme (RVP), has been launched on September 26, 2024. The public may visit the CHP's Vaccination Schemes page for more details of the vaccination programmes (<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html>).
- Apart from getting influenza vaccination, members of the public should always maintain good personal and environmental hygiene.
- For the latest information on seasonal influenza and its prevention, please visit the Centre for Health Protection's Seasonal Influenza page (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/14843.html).

Influenza-like-illness surveillance among sentinel general out-patient clinics and sentinel private medical practitioner clinics, 2021-25

In week 2, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPC) was 8.6 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than 7.5 recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.1, left). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner (PMP) clinics was 47.0 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than 33.4 recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.1, right).

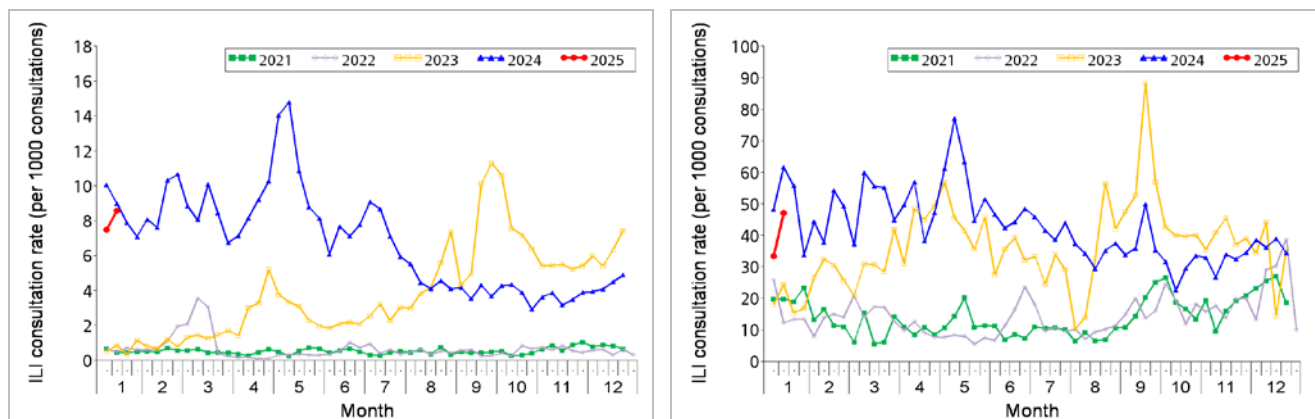


Figure 2.1 ILI consultation rates at sentinel GOPC (left) and PMP clinics (right), 2021-25

Laboratory surveillance, 2021-25

Among the 9,980 respiratory specimens* received in week 2, 744 (7.45%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza A or B viruses. Among the subtyped influenza detections, there were 642 (90%) influenza A(H1), 51 (7%) influenza A(H3) and 22 (3%) influenza B viruses. The positive percentage (7.45%) was above the baseline threshold of 4.94% and was higher than 5.69% recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.2).

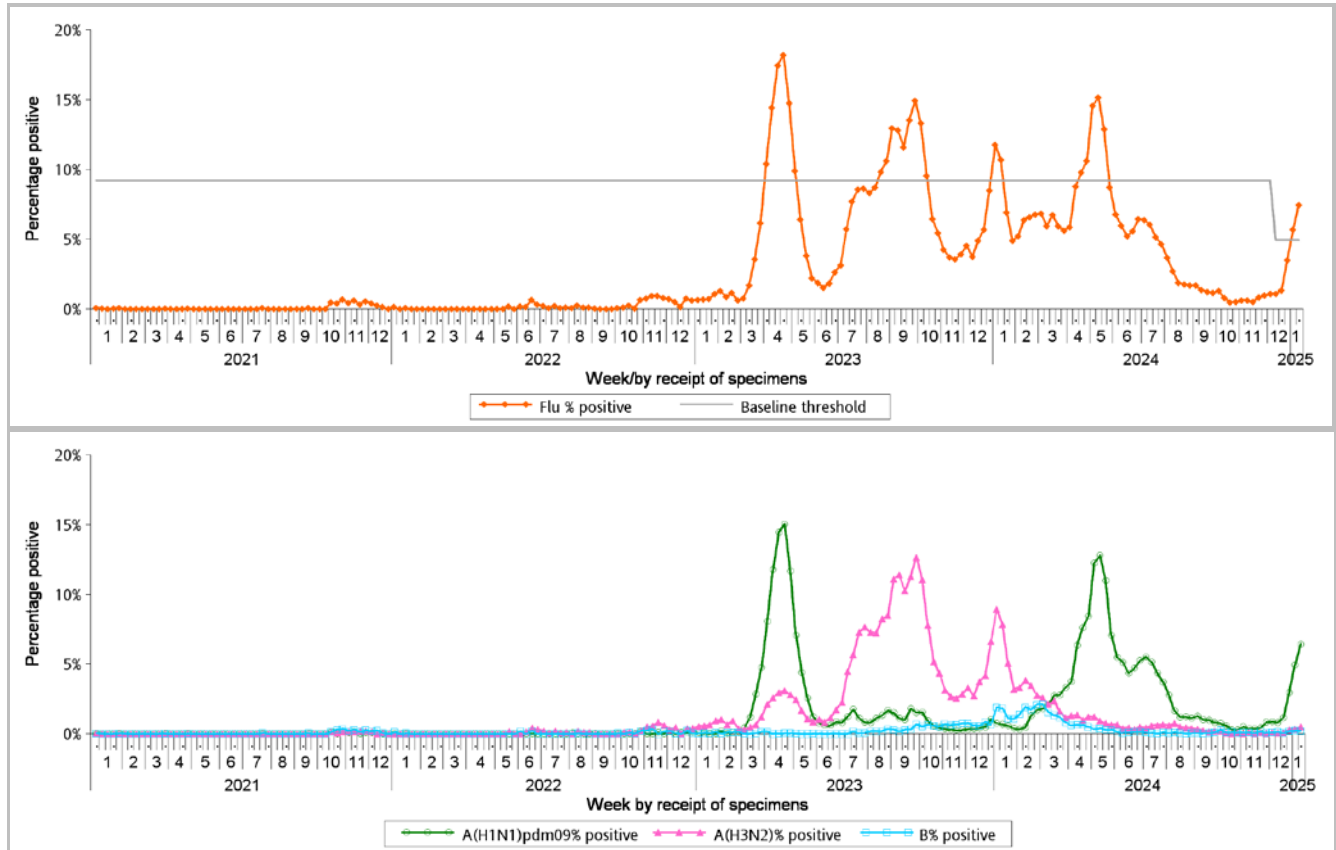


Figure 2.2 Percentage of respiratory specimens tested positive for influenza viruses, 2021-25 (upper: overall positive percentage, lower: positive percentage by subtypes)

[Notes: The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health closely monitors the local seasonal influenza activity through a series of surveillance systems. Among them, the CHP sets threshold levels for two important influenza indicators, including the positive percentage of influenza detections among respiratory specimens and the admission rate of patients diagnosed with influenza in public hospitals. These threshold levels are calculated statistically based on data collected for both indicators in the past years during non-season periods. Using these thresholds, the CHP assesses the current local situation of seasonal influenza with higher accuracy and determines whether Hong Kong enters influenza season. The CHP annually reviews and analyses the latest surveillance data, and updates these threshold levels where appropriate. The sensitivity of the surveillance system is enhanced with the updated thresholds of positive percentage of influenza detection and admission rate of higher coherence.]

Remarks: Some specimens may contain vaccine strains from people with recent history of receiving live-attenuated influenza vaccine

Surveillance of oseltamivir resistant influenza A and B viruses

- In November 2024, there was one new report of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A(H1) viruses.
- For the results of previous months, please refer to the following webpage: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/statistics/data/10/641/695/7068.html>

* Including 8,864 specimens received by Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Centre for Health Protection and 1,116 specimens received by the Hospital Authority

Influenza-like illness outbreak surveillance, 2021-25

In week 2, 10 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (affecting 40 persons), as compared to 7 outbreaks recorded in the previous week (affecting 50 persons) (Figure 2.3). The overall number was at the low intensity level currently (Figure 2.4*). In the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 to 15), 14 ILI outbreaks in schools/institutions were recorded (affecting 55 persons). Since the start of the influenza season in week 2, 24 outbreaks were recorded (as of Jan 15).

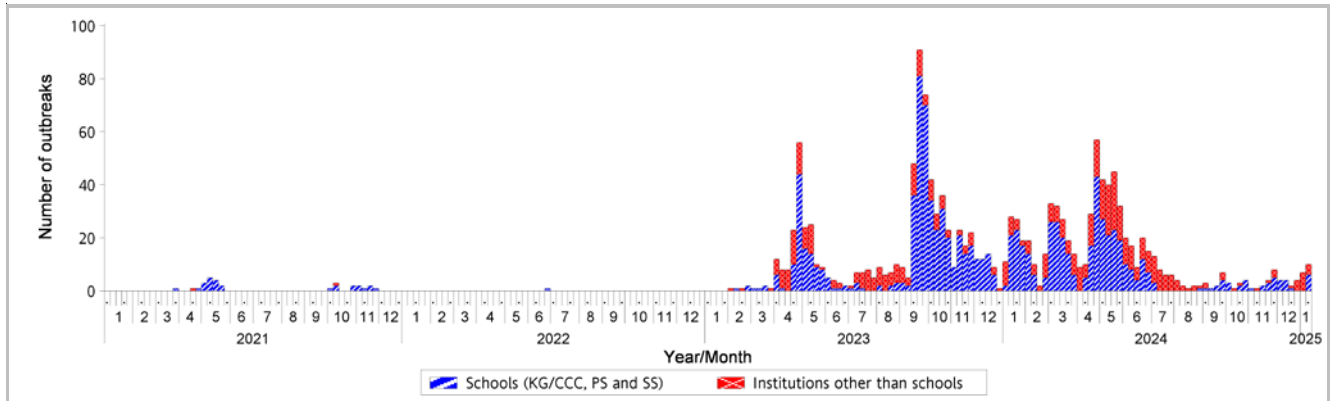


Figure 2.3 ILI outbreaks in schools/institutions, 2021-25

Type of institutions	Week 1	Week 2	Cumulative number of outbreaks since week 2 (as of Jan 15)
Child care centre/ kindergarten (CCC/KG)	0	0	1
Primary school (PS)	0	5	13
Secondary school (SS)	0	1	1
Residential care home for the elderly	5	4	8
Residential care home for persons with disabilities	1	0	1
Others	1	0	0
<i>Total number of outbreaks</i>	7	10	24
<i>Total number of persons affected</i>	50	40	95

In comparison, 6, 8, 10 and 28 outbreaks were recorded in the same duration of surveillance (1 complete week) in the 2018/19 winter, 2023 April, 2023 summer and 2023/24 seasons respectively, as compared with 10 outbreaks in the current season (Figure 2.5).

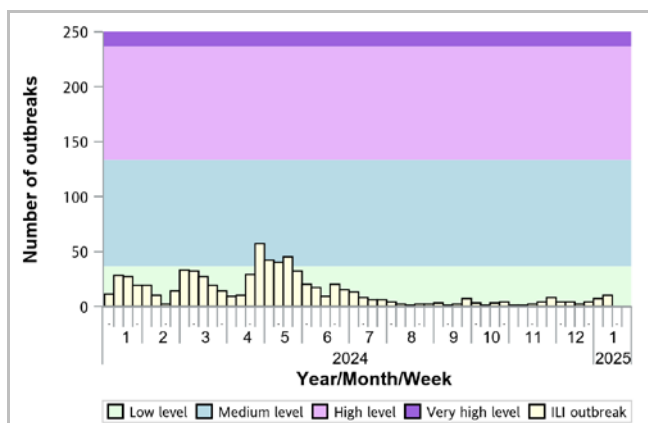


Figure 2.4 ILI outbreaks in schools/institutions, 2024-25

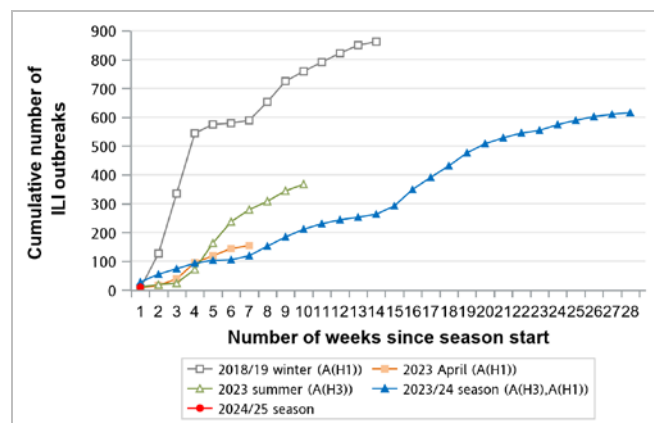


Figure 2.5 Cumulative numbers of ILI outbreaks reported during major influenza seasons, 2019 and 2023-25

Note: The predominating virus was shown in bracket.

* Various intensity levels applicable for this year were calculated with the moving epidemic method (MEM). For details, please refer to this webpage: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/explanatory_note_for_flux_mem_eng.pdf

Influenza-associated hospital admission rates in public hospitals based on discharge coding, 2021-25

In week 2, the overall admission rate in public hospitals with principal diagnosis of influenza was 0.43 (per 10,000 population) as compared to 0.41 recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.6). It was above the baseline threshold of 0.27 but was at the low intensity level (Figure 2.7*). The influenza-associated admission rates for persons aged 0-5 years, 6-11 years, 12-17 years, 18-49 years, 50-64 years and 65 years or above were 1.93, 0.64, 0.19, 0.13, 0.25 and 0.97 cases (per 10,000 people in the age group) respectively, as compared to 1.51, 0.64, 0.11, 0.15, 0.20 and 0.97 cases in the previous week (Figure 2.6).

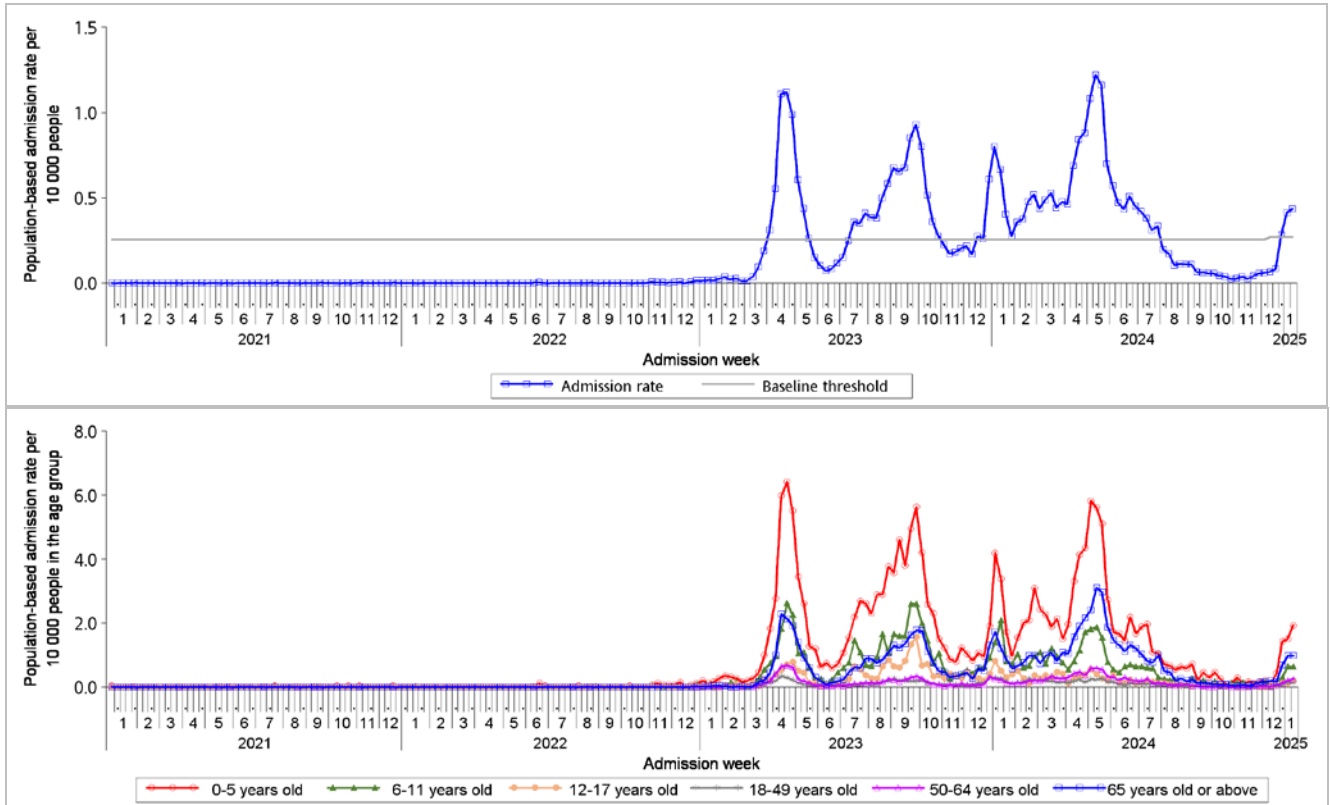


Figure 2.6 Influenza-associated hospital admission rates, 2021-25 (upper: overall rate, lower: rates by age groups)

[Notes: The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health closely monitors the local seasonal influenza activity through a series of surveillance systems. Among them, the CHP sets threshold levels for two important influenza indicators, including the positive percentage of influenza detections among respiratory specimens and the admission rate of patients diagnosed with influenza in public hospitals. These threshold levels are calculated statistically based on data collected for both indicators in the past years during non-season periods. Using these thresholds, the CHP assesses the current local situation of seasonal influenza with higher accuracy and determines whether Hong Kong enters influenza season. The CHP annually reviews and analyses the latest surveillance data, and updates these threshold levels where appropriate. The sensitivity of the surveillance system is enhanced with the updated thresholds of positive percentage of influenza detection and admission rate of higher coherence.]

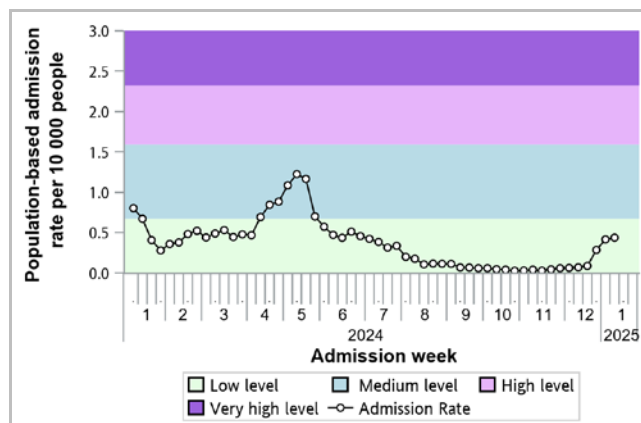


Figure 2.7 Influenza-associated hospital admission rates,

2024-25

*Various intensity levels applicable for this year were calculated with the moving epidemic method (MEM). For details, please refer to this webpage: https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/explanatory_note_for_flux_mem_enq.pdf

Rate of ILI syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2021-25[#]

In week 2, the rate of the ILI syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AEDs) was 154.7 (per 1,000 coded cases), which was lower than the rate of 163.6 in the previous week (Figure 2.8).

#Note: This syndrome group includes codes related to ILI such as influenza, upper respiratory tract infection, fever, cough, throat pain, and pneumonia.

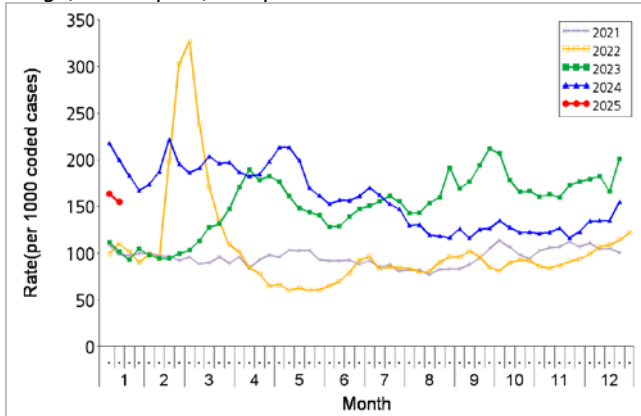


Figure 2.8 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AEDs, 2021-25

Fever surveillance at sentinel child care centres/ kindergartens, 2021-25

In week 2, 0.78% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCCs/KGs) had fever (38°C or above). The surveillance for week 1, 2025 and week 52, 2024 was suspended due to Christmas and New Year holidays (Figure 2.9).

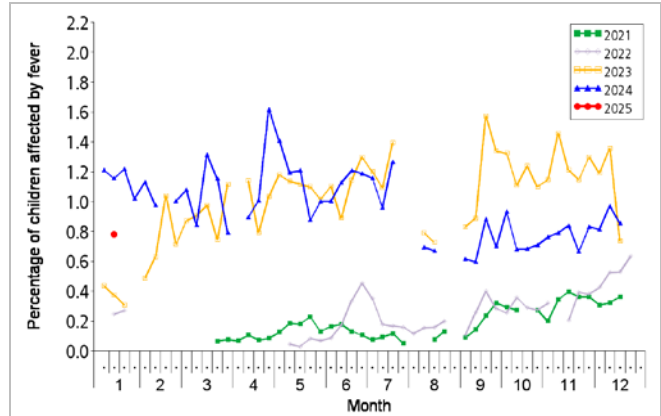


Figure 2.9 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCCs/KGs, 2021-25

Fever surveillance at sentinel residential care homes for the elderly, 2021-25

In week 2, 0.14% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHes) had fever (38°C or above), compared to 0.21% recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.10).

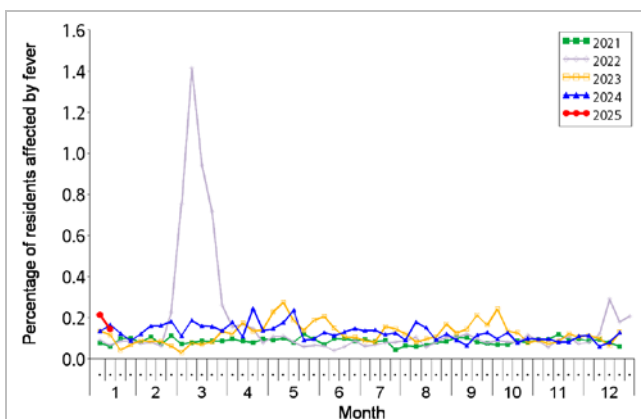


Figure 2.10 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHes, 2021-25

Influenza-like illness surveillance among sentinel Chinese medicine practitioners, 2021-25

In week 2, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 1.06 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations as compared to 1.12 recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.11).

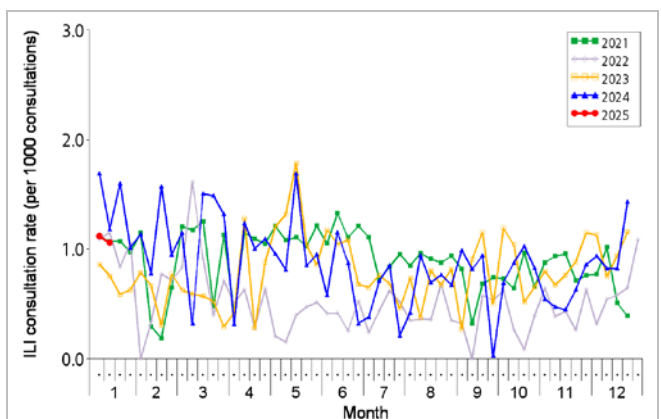


Figure 2.11 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMPs, 2021-25

Surveillance of severe influenza cases

(Note: The data reported are provisional figures and subject to further revision.)

Surveillance for intensive care unit (ICU) admission/death with laboratory confirmation of influenza among adult patients (Aged 18 years or above)

Since 2018, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has collaborated with the Hospital Authority and private hospitals to monitor ICU admissions and deaths with laboratory confirmation of influenza among adult patients regularly. For surveillance purpose, the cases refer to laboratory-confirmed influenza patients who required ICU admission or died within the same admission of influenza infection. Their causes of ICU admission or death may be due to other acute medical conditions or underlying diseases.

- In week 2, 37 adult cases of ICU admission/death with laboratory confirmation of influenza were recorded, in which 15 of them were fatal. Among the 37 adult cases, 25 were known to have not received the 2024/25 seasonal influenza vaccine (SIV). In the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 – 15), 28 cases were recorded, in which 19 of them were fatal.

Week	Influenza type				
	A(H1)	A(H3)	A (pending subtype)	B	C
Week 2	31	2	4	0	0
First 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 – 15)	18	0	10	0	0

- Since the start of influenza season in week 2 (as of Jan 15), 65 adult cases of ICU admission/death with laboratory confirmation of influenza were recorded, in which 34 of them were fatal. Among them, 49 patients had influenza A(H1) infection, 2 patients with influenza A(H3) and 14 patients with influenza A (pending subtype).
- In comparison, 37, 26, 15 and 44 adult cases were recorded in the same duration of surveillance (1 complete weeks) in the 2018/19 winter, 2023 April, 2023 summer and 2023/24 seasons respectively, as compared with 37 cases in the current season (Figure 2.12, left). The corresponding figures for deaths were 17, 12, 10, 26 in the above seasons, as compared with 15 deaths in the current season (Figure 2.12, right).

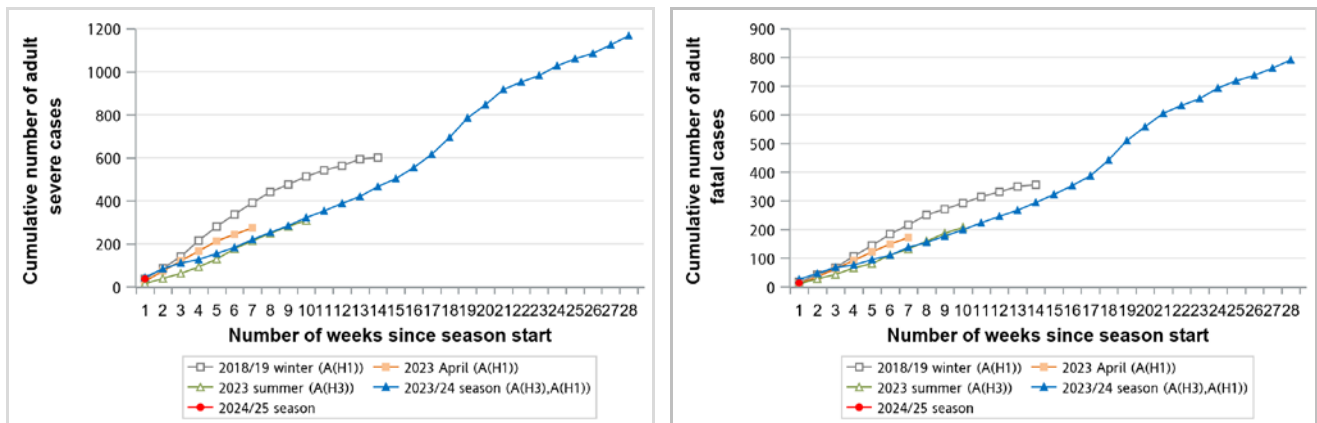


Figure 2.12 Cumulative numbers of adult severe influenza cases reported during major influenza seasons, 2019 and 2023–25 (left: ICU admission/death cases; right: deaths)

Note: The predominating virus was shown in bracket.

Surveillance of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death (Aged below 18 years)

- In week 2 and the first 4 days of week 3 (Jan 12 – 15), there was one case of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death.

Reporting week	Age	Sex	Complication	Fatal case?	Influenza subtype	History of receiving influenza vaccine for this season
2	4 years	Male	Severe pneumonia	No	Influenza A(H1)	No

- Since the start of influenza season in week 2, 1 non-fatal paediatric case of influenza-associated complication was reported. The case had infections with influenza A(H1). He did not receive the 2024/25 SIV. In 2025, 1 paediatric case of influenza-associated complication/death was recorded, and the case was non-fatal (as of Jan 15).
- In comparison, 5, 1, 2 and 2 paediatric cases of influenza-associated complication/death were recorded in the same duration of surveillance (1 complete weeks) in the 2018/19 winter, 2023 April, 2023 summer and 2023/24 seasons respectively, as compared with 1 cases in the current season (Figure 2.13, left). The corresponding figures for deaths were 0, 1, 0 and 0 in the above seasons, as compared with 0 death in current season (Figure 2.13, right).

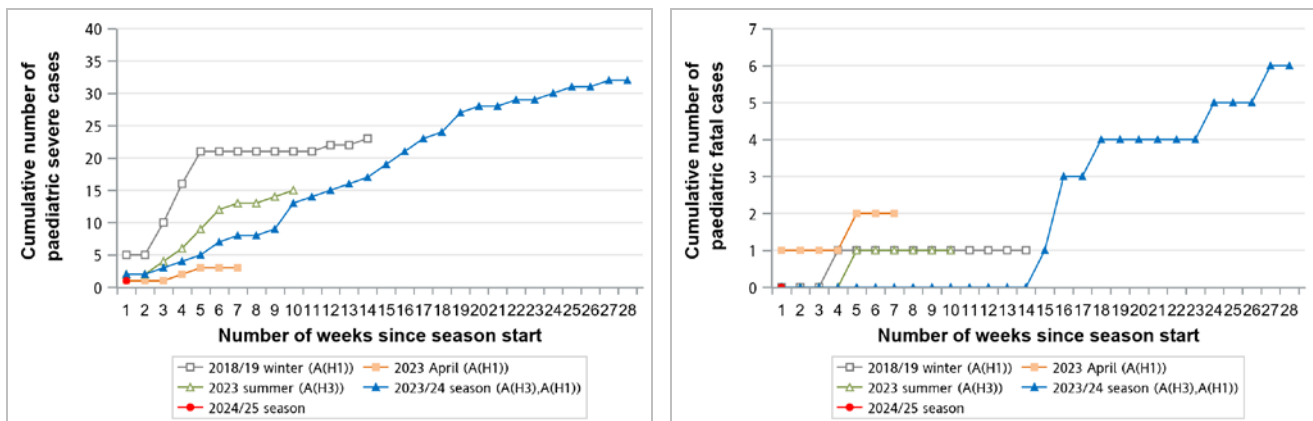


Figure 2.13 Cumulative numbers of cases of paediatric influenza-associated complication/death reported during major influenza seasons, 2019 and 2023–25 (left: complication/death cases; right: deaths)

Note: The predominating virus was shown in bracket.

Severe influenza cases of all ages

- Since the start of influenza season in week 2, 66 severe influenza cases among all ages have been reported, including 34 deaths (as of Jan 15).

Age group	Cumulative number of cases (death)
0-5	1 (0)
6-11	0
12-17	0
18-49	8 (1)
50-64	20 (3)
>=65	37 (30)

- Among the adult fatal cases with available clinical information, about 80% had chronic diseases.
- Among patients with laboratory confirmation of influenza admitted to public hospitals in this season (from Jan 5 to Jan 15), 2.8% of admitted cases died during the same episode of admission. It was lower than the historical range between 2.5% (2017/18 winter season) and 3.9% (2023/24 season).

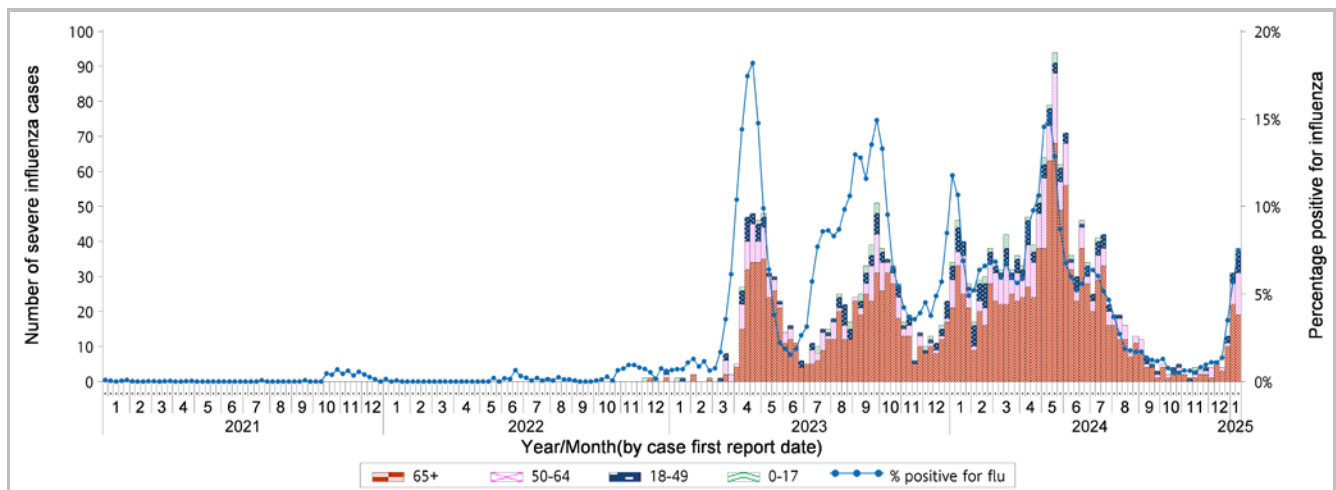


Figure 2.14 Weekly number of severe influenza cases by age groups, 2021-25 (the percentage positive for influenza viruses in Figure 2.2 is also shown in this graph)

Global Situation of Influenza Activity

In the Northern hemisphere, influenza activities in many countries in Europe, America and Asia were elevated and increasing. In the Southern Hemisphere, influenza activity in most countries remained similar or declined (data up to Dec 29, 2024).

- In the United States (week ending Jan 4, 2025), influenza activity remained elevated across most of the country. The percentage of specimens tested positive for influenza was 18.6%, as compared to 18.3% in preceding week. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses were co-circulating.
- In Canada (week ending Jan 4, 2025), indicators of influenza activity are increasing. The 2024-2025 influenza epidemic officially began in week 51 (week ending December 21, 2024). The weekly percentage of tests positive for influenza increased to 11.3%, higher than the threshold of 5%. Laboratory detections are predominantly influenza A and among subtyped influenza A detections, influenza A(H1N1) is predominant.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Jan 5, 2025), influenza activity showed a mixed picture with some indicators suggesting that activity may have reached a peak, though activity remains at high levels. Influenza positivity in England decreased to 21.9% as compared with 27.7% in preceding week, but the number of influenza-confirmed acute respiratory infections incidents increased in week 1. Influenza A(H1N1) viruses were predominating.
- In Europe (week ending Jan 5, 2025), 2024/2025 seasonal influenza epidemic started in early December last year. Influenza positivity from sentinel specimens was 36% as compared to 50% in preceding week, which was higher than 10% epidemic threshold. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses dominant subtype across the region.
- In Mainland China (week ending Jan 5, 2025), influenza surveillance data showed the percentage of specimens tested positive for influenza in southern and northern provinces continued to increase, with 31.9% and 35.4% in week 1 respectively. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominated.
- In Taiwan (Jan 14, 2025), influenza epidemic started in first week of 2025. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity markedly increased with ILI consultation rate at emergency department higher than the same period in the past 10 seasons. The predominating circulating viruses in the community were influenza A(H1N1).
- In Japan (week ending Jan 5, 2025), influenza activity remained high since the arrival of influenza epidemic in early November last year. In week 1, the average number of reported ILI cases per sentinel site was 33.82, though decreased from 64.39 in preceding week, and was above the baseline level of 1.00. Most of the influenza detections in recent weeks were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses.
- In South Korea (Jan 10, 2025), the weekly ILI rate continued to increase. The rate in week 1 was 99.8 per 1,000 out-patient visits, which was above the seasonal epidemic threshold of 8.6. It was the highest number since 2016 (86.2). The most affected age group was the school-age children and adolescents. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses were co-circulating.

Sources:

Information have been extracted from the following sources when updates are available: [World Health Organization](#), [United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [Public Health Agency of Canada](#), [UK Health Security Agency](#), [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#) and [WHO Regional Office for Europe \(WHO Euro\)](#), [Chinese National Influenza Center](#), [Taiwan Centers for Disease Control](#) and [Japan Ministry of Health](#) and [Korean Disease Control and Prevention Agency](#).