

# 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 summarises the latest local and global COVID-19 and influenza activities.

## Local Situation of COVID-19 Activity (as of Oct 1, 2025)

**Reporting period: Sep 21, 2025 – Sep 27, 2025 (Week 39)**

- The latest surveillance data showed that the overall local activity of COVID-19 has remained at a low level.
- The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has been closely monitoring the local prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 variants. The latest sewage surveillance data and genetic analysis of positive respiratory specimens showed that NB.1.8.1 has become the dominating variant strains in Hong Kong. NB.1.8.1 is one of the descendant lineages of XDV, in turn a descendent of JN.1. The World Health Organization (WHO) listed NB.1.8.1 as a variant under monitoring (VUM) on May 23, 2025, and stated that NB.1.8.1 poses a low risk to global public health based on the available evidence, and that the currently approved COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be effective against NB.1.8.1, and there is no evidence to suggest that NB.1.8.1 will cause more serious diseases.
- 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**

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

In week 39, the weekly number of newly recorded positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus was 37 as compared to 46 in the preceding week. (Figure 1.1)

In the first 4 days of week 40 (Sep 28 – Oct 1), the daily number of newly recorded positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus ranged from 0 to 8.

Since Jan 30, 2023, the cumulative number of positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections was 84,257 (as of Oct 1, 2025).

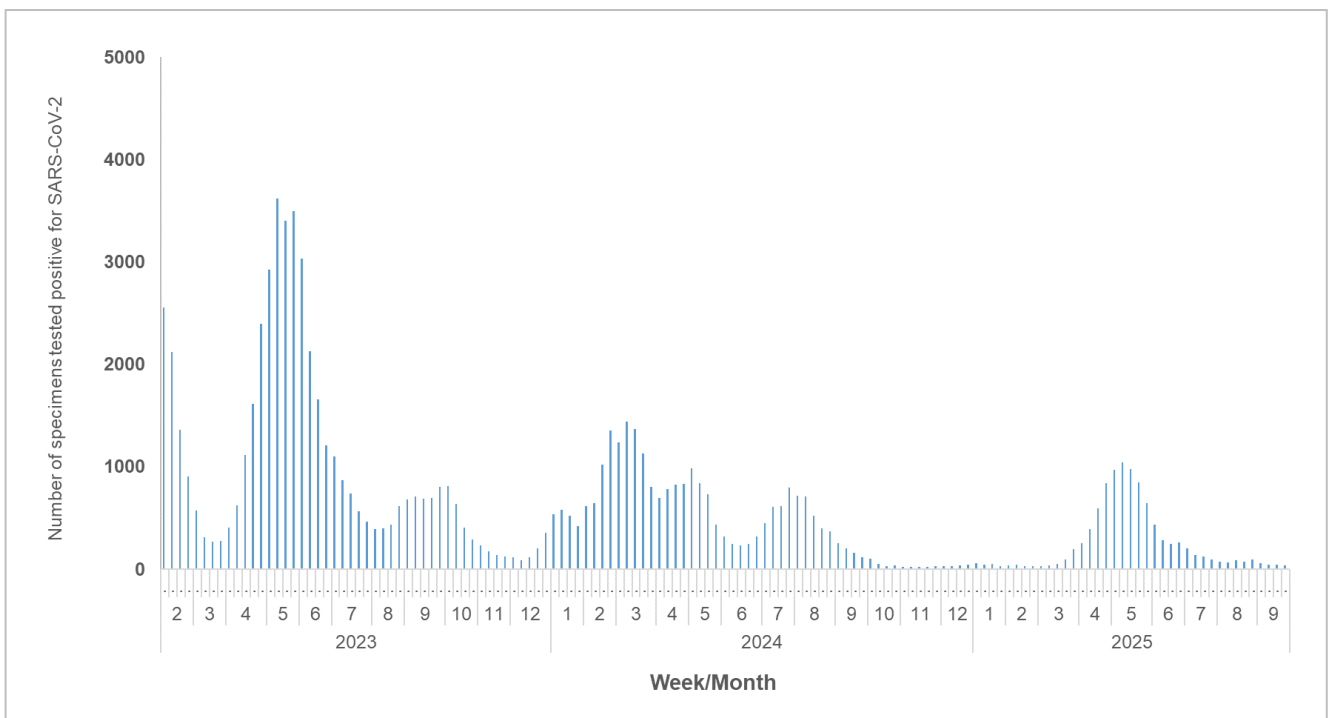


Figure 1.1 Weekly number of positive nucleic acid test laboratory detections for SARS-CoV-2 virus

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

Among the 7,867 respiratory specimens received by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) in week 39, 53 (0.67%) were tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus as compared to 55 (0.65%) in the preceding week. (Figure 1.2)

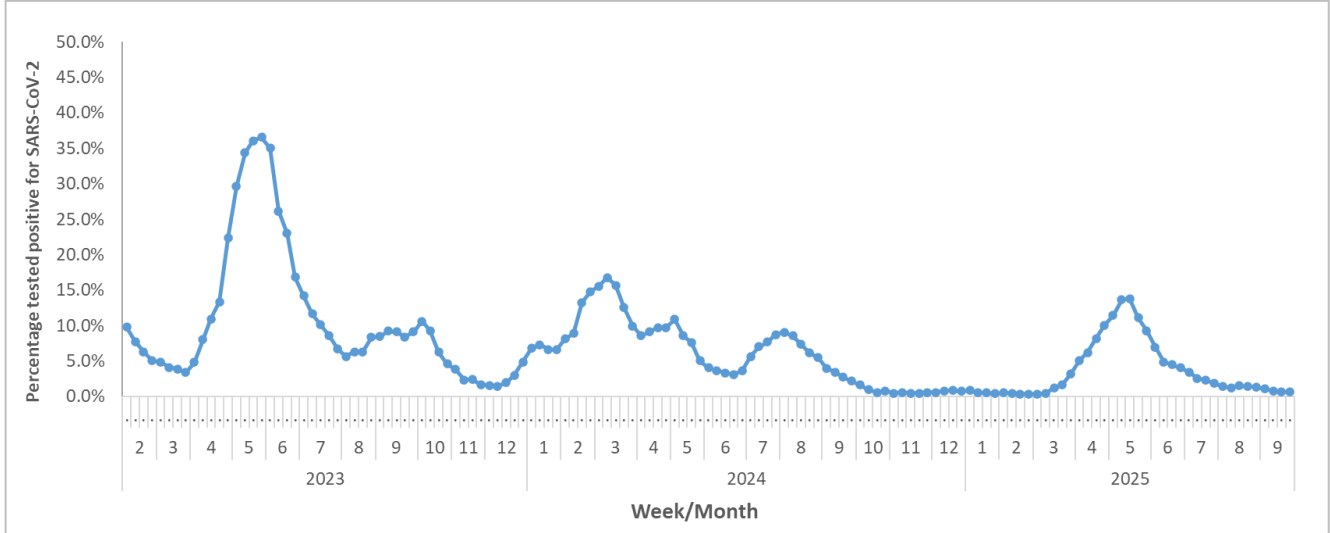


Figure 1.2 Percentage of specimens tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus at PHLSB

COVID-19 outbreak surveillance

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

In week 39, 0 COVID-19 outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (affecting 0 persons), as compared to 0 outbreaks recorded in the previous week (affecting 0 persons). (Figure 1.3)

In the first 4 days of week 40 (Sep 28–Oct 1), 0 COVID-19 outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (affecting 0 persons).

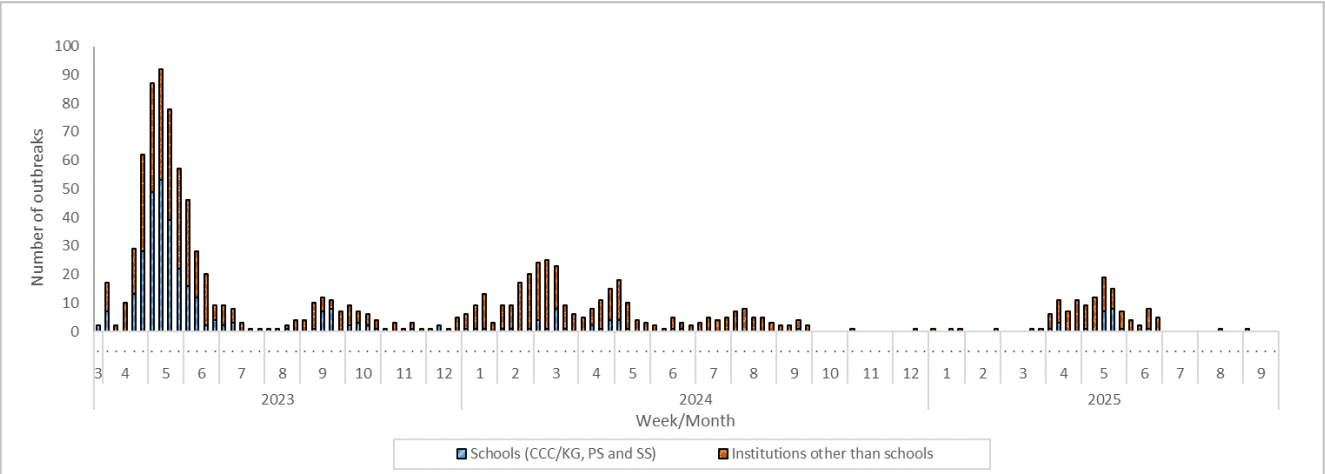


Figure 1.3 COVID-19 outbreaks in schools/institutions

Type of institutions	Week 38	Week 39	First 4 days of week 40 (Sep 28 – Oct 1)
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	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0
<i>Total number of outbreaks</i>	0	0	0
<i>Total number of persons affected</i>	0	0	0

## Surveillance of severe and fatal COVID-19 cases

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

In week 39, the weekly number of severe COVID-19 cases including deaths with cause of death preliminarily assessed to be related to COVID-19 was 3 as compared to 4 in the preceding week. (Figure 1.4)

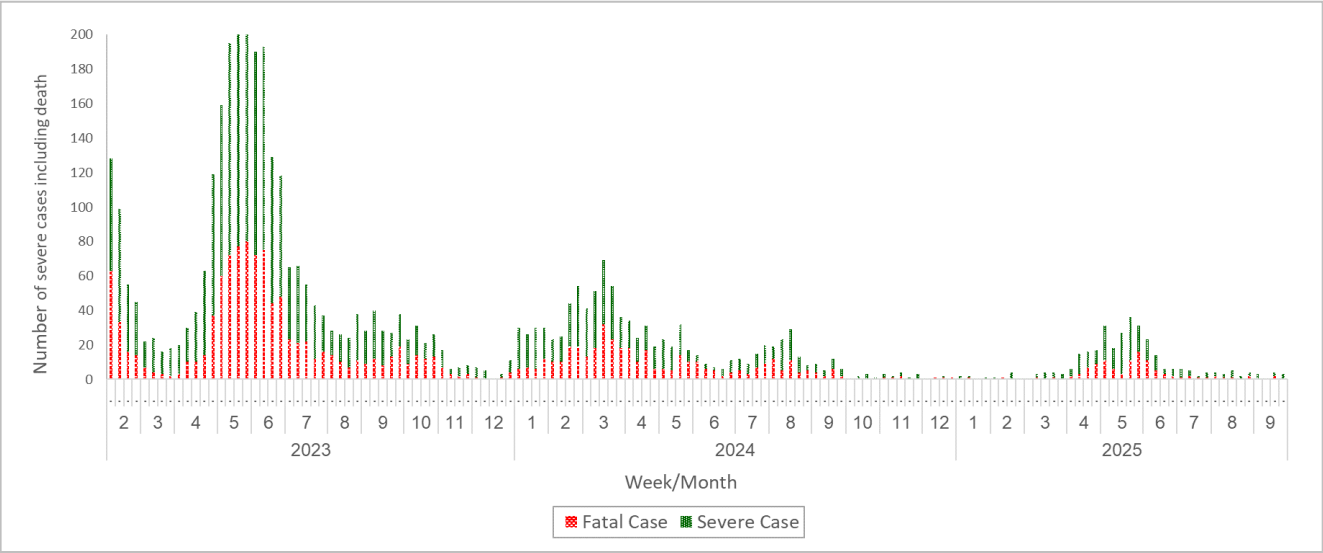


Figure 1.4 Weekly number of severe COVID-19 cases including deaths

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

## Sewage surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 virus

In week 39, the 7-day geometric mean per capita viral load of SARS-CoV-2 virus from sewage surveillance was around 43,000 copy/L as compared to around 36,000 copy/L in the preceding week. (Figure 1.5)

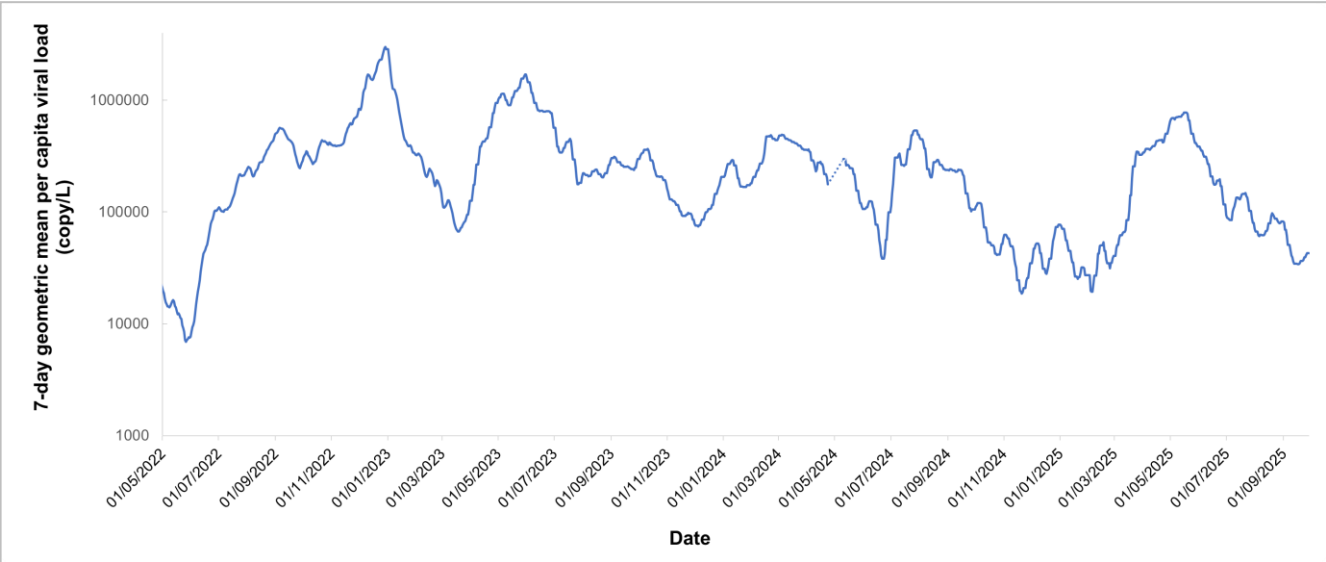


Figure 1.5 7-day geometric mean per capita viral load of SARS-CoV-2 virus from sewage surveillance since May 1, 2022

*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 39, the average consultation rate for COVID-19 among sentinel general out-patient clinics (GOPC) and sentinel private medical practitioner clinics were 1.6 (Figure 1.6) and 1.0 (Figure 1.7) COVID-19 cases per 1,000 consultations, respectively.

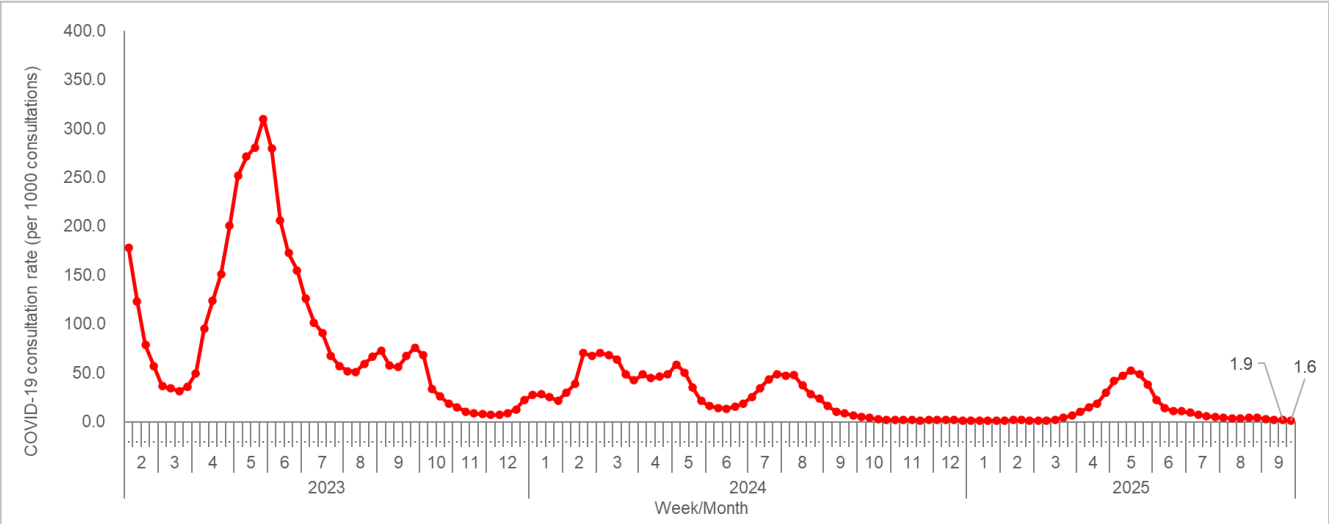


Figure 1.6 Average consultation rate of COVID-19 cases in GOPC

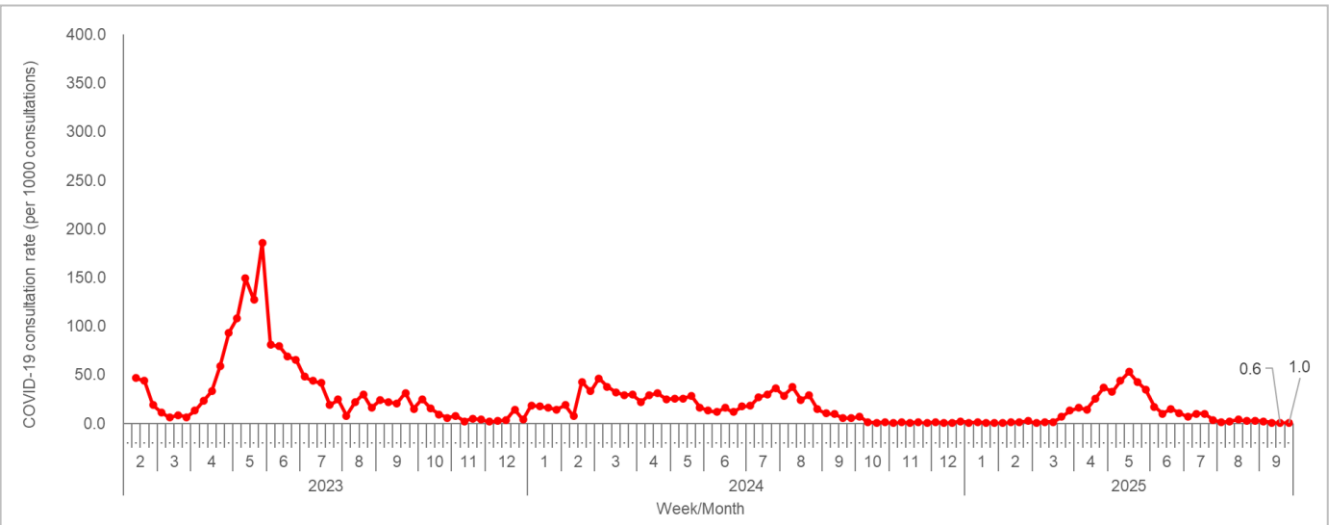


Figure 1.7 Average consultation rate of COVID-19 cases in private medical practitioner clinics

## Surveillance on SARS-CoV-2 variants

Currently, WHO is monitoring one variant of interest (VOI), which is JN.1, and five VUMs, which are KP.3.1.1, LP.8.1, NB.1.8.1, XEC and XFG. CHP conducts surveillance on SARS-CoV-2 variants from sewage samples. The latest surveillance data (as of Sep 29, 2025) showed that NB.1.8.1 (one of the descendant lineages of XDV) is the most prevalent variant, comprising 67.5% of all characterised specimens. (Figure 1.8)

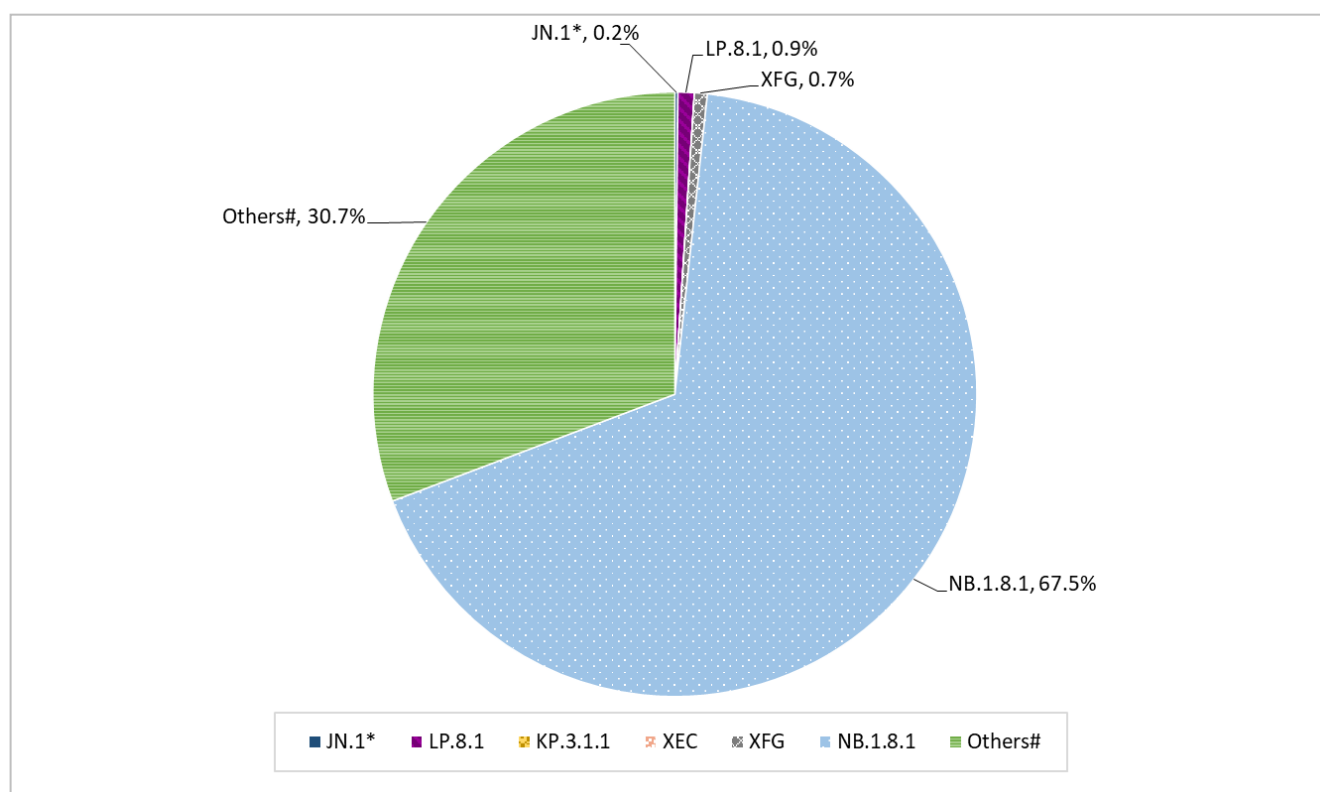


Figure 1.8 Estimated proportion of variants among sewage samples

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

#Those SARS-CoV-2 variants not classified as VOIs/VUMs by WHO at the time of reporting.

Note: KP.3.1.1, LP.8.1, XEC and XFG are the descendant lineages of JN.1.

CHP also conducted genetic characterisation on reported severe and fatal cases of COVID-19 between Sep 10 and Sep 22, 2025. The results showed that NB.1.8.1 comprising 50% of all characterised specimens and XFG comprising the other 50%.

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 NB.1.8.1 was the most prevalent variant, comprising 100 % of all characterised specimens.



## Global situation of COVID-19 activity

- According to the WHO, global SARS-CoV-2 activity were stable, although some countries reported higher activity or increase.
- The COVID-19 activity in some of the neighbourhood regions decreased gradually or remained stable at low levels, while it was increasing or remained elevated in the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe and South Korea.
  - ◆ In Chinese Mainland (week ending Sep 21, 2025), the overall percentage of specimens tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 has shown a fluctuating downward trend. The predominant variant was NB.1.8.1 recently. In Taiwan region (week ending Sep 20, 2025), the COVID-19 activity continued to decrease, with the number of COVID-19 outpatient and emergency visits and inpatient admissions declining compared to the previous week. The predominant variant was NB.1.8.1.
  - ◆ In Japan (week ending Sep 21, 2025), the average number of reported COVID-19 cases per sentinel site was 6.93 compared to 8.43 in the preceding week. The predominant variant was NB.1.8.1.
  - ◆ In South Korea (week ending Sep 20, 2025), the weekly detection rate for SARS-CoV-2 was 31.1% compared to 30.8% in the preceding week. The predominant variant was NB.1.8.1.
  - ◆ In Singapore (week ending Sep 20, 2025), the positivity rate for COVID-19 among acute respiratory infection (ARI) samples in the community was 1% compared to 3% in the preceding week.
  - ◆ In the United States (week ending Sep 20, 2025), the percent positivity of COVID-19 was 7.8% compared to 9.7% in the preceding week. The predominant variant was XFG.
  - ◆ In Canada (week ending Sep 20, 2025), all indicators of COVID-19 activity were increasing. The percentage of tests positive for COVID-19 increased to 10.5%, compared to 9.6% in the preceding week. The predominant variant was XFG.3.
  - ◆ In the United Kingdom (week ending Sep 21, 2025), COVID-19 activity has increased and circulated at baseline levels. COVID-19 PCR positivity in hospital settings was 8.4% compared to 7.6% in the preceding week. The predominant variant was XFG.3.
  - ◆ In Europe (week ending Sep 21, 2025), SARS-CoV-2 positivity from sentinel specimens was 25% compared to 22% in the prior week. The predominant variant was XFG.
  - ◆ In Australia (fortnight ending Sep 21, 2025), test positivity for SARS-CoV-2 continued to decrease. The predominant variant was NB.1.8.1.

### Sources:

Information have been extracted from the following sources when updates are available: [World Health Organization](#), [Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [Taiwan Centers for Disease Control](#), [Japan Ministry of Health](#), [Korean Disease Control and Prevention Agency](#), [Singapore Communicable Diseases Agency](#), [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 \(WHO Euro\)](#), and [Australian Department of Health and Aged Care](#).

## Local Situation of Influenza Activity (as of Oct 1, 2025)

**Reporting period: Sep 21 – 27, 2025 (Week 39)**

- Hong Kong is currently in the summer influenza season. The latest surveillance data showed that local 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.
- 2025/26 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (SIV) Programmes, including the SIV School Outreach Programme, the Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme and the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme, have been commenced on September 25, 2025. Eligible high-risk groups can receive a free or subsidised SIV through various vaccination programmes. 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](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 39, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPC) was 11.7 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 13.6 recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.1, left). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner (PMP) clinics was 43.4 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 49.2 recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.1, right).

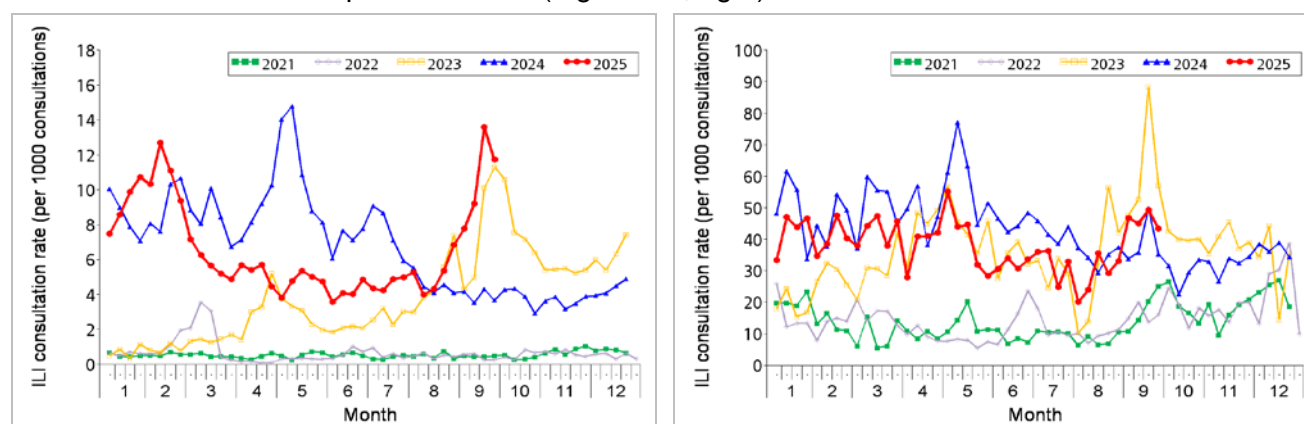


Figure 2.1 ILI consultation rates at sentinel GOPC (left) and PMP clinics (right), 2021-25

## Laboratory surveillance, 2021-25

Among the 8,573 respiratory specimens received in week 39, 871 (10.16%) were tested positive for seasonal influenza A or B viruses. Among the subtyped influenza detections, there were 143 (17%) influenza A(H1), 668 (80%) influenza A(H3) and 26 (3%) influenza B viruses. The positive percentage (10.16%) was above the baseline threshold of 4.94% and was higher than 8.95% recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.2).

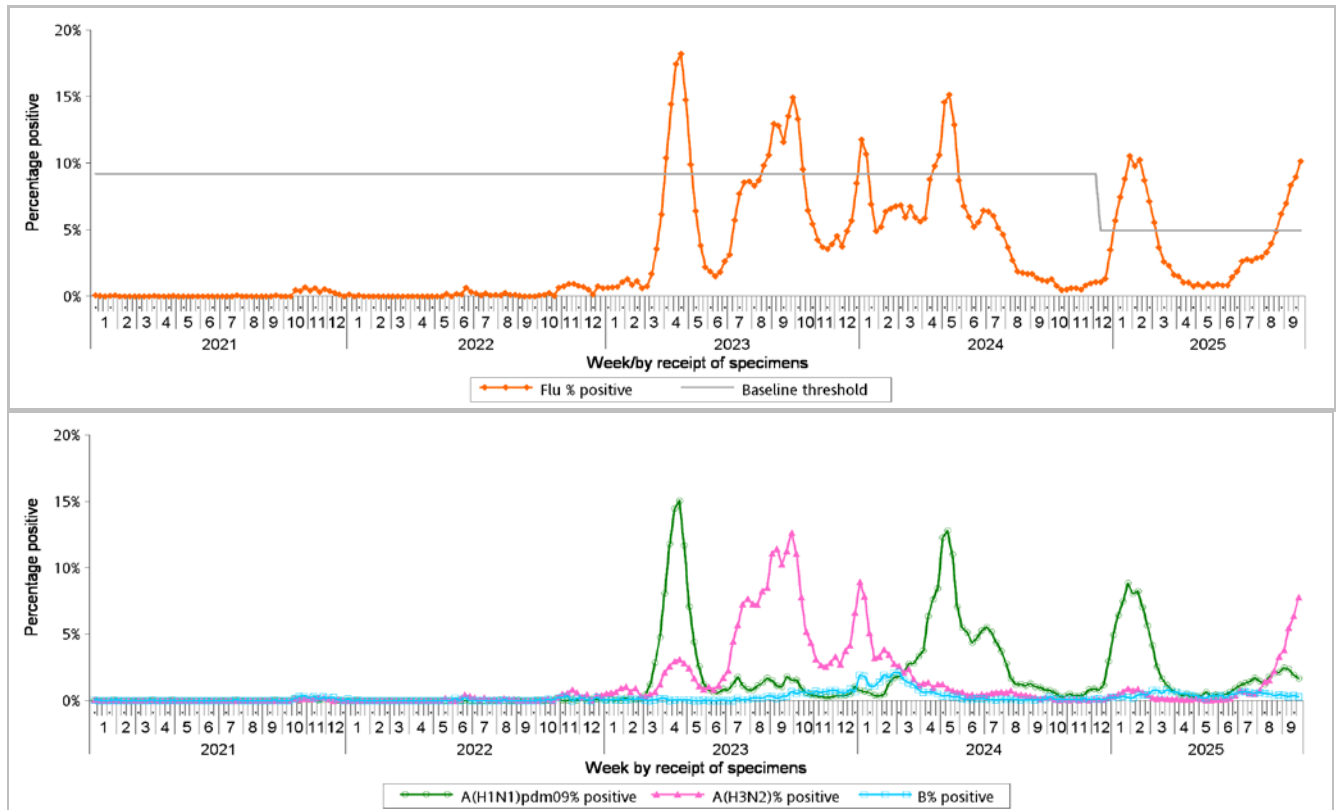


Figure 2.2 Percentage of respiratory specimens tested positive for influenza viruses, 2021-25 (upper: overall positive percentage, lower: positive percentage by subtypes)

[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

\* Including 7,867 specimens received by Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Centre for Health Protection and 706 specimens received by the Hospital Authority

## Surveillance of oseltamivir resistant influenza A and B viruses

- Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Centre for Health Protection tests influenza virus isolates obtained from cell culture for antiviral susceptibility.
- In August 2025, there were no new reports of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A and B viruses.
- For the results of previous months, please refer to the following webpage: <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/statistics/data/10/641/695/7088.html>
- Low detection rates of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistant influenza A and B viruses from latest surveillance data of overseas countries (less than 5%).
- CHP will continue laboratory surveillance on oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistance of influenza viruses to monitor the trend.

## Influenza-like illness outbreak surveillance, 2021-25

In week 39, 64 ILI outbreaks occurring in schools/institutions were recorded (affecting 459 persons), as compared to 91 outbreaks recorded in the previous week (affecting 672 persons) (Figure 2.3). The overall number was at the medium intensity level currently (Figure 2.4\*). In the first 4 days of week 40 (Sep 28 to Oct 1), 38 ILI outbreaks in schools/institutions were recorded (affecting 280 persons). Since week 36, 286 outbreaks were recorded (as of Oct 1).

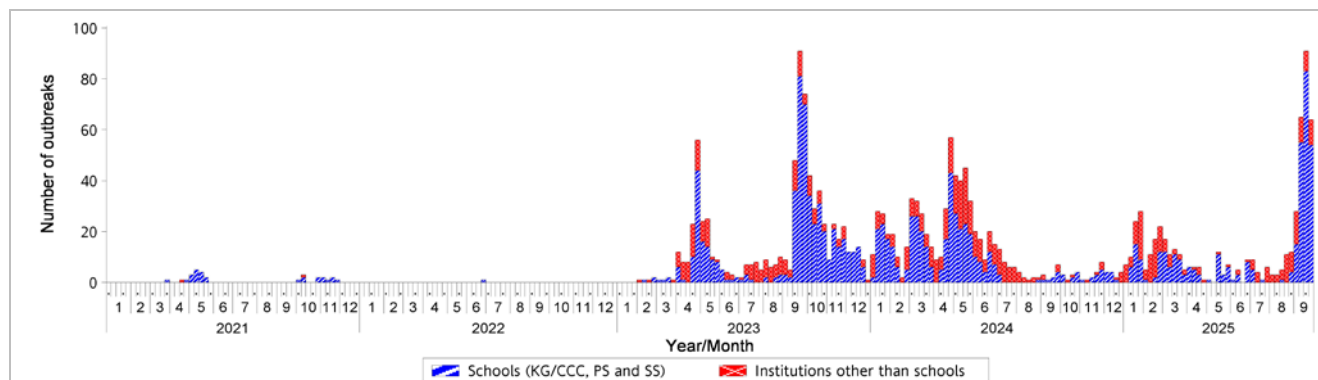


Figure 2.3 ILI outbreaks in schools/institutions, 2021-25

Type of institutions	Week 38	Week 39	Cumulative number of outbreaks since week 36 (as of Oct 1)
Child care centre/ kindergarten (CCC/KG)	9	4	22
Primary school (PS)	44	29	131
Secondary school (SS)	30	21	89
Residential care home for the elderly	1	5	19
Residential care home for persons with disabilities	2	2	14
Others	5	3	11
<i>Total number of outbreaks</i>	91	64	286
<i>Total number of persons affected</i>	672	459	2546

In comparison, 544, 72, 93 and 67 outbreaks were recorded in the same duration of surveillance (4 complete weeks) in the 2018/19 winter, 2023 summer, 2023/24 season and 2024/25 winter seasons respectively, as compared with 248 outbreaks in the current season (Figure 2.5).

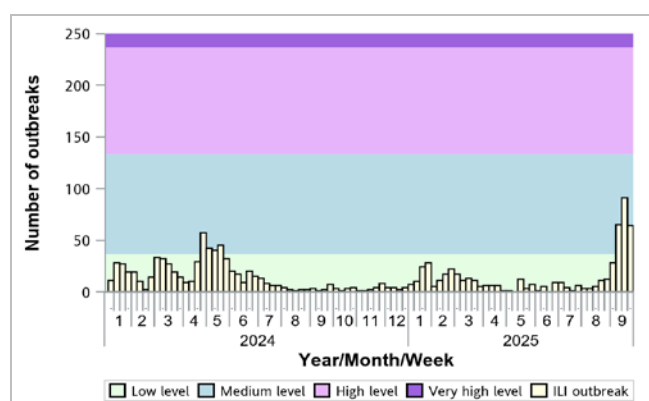


Figure 2.4 ILI outbreaks in schools/institutions, 2024-25

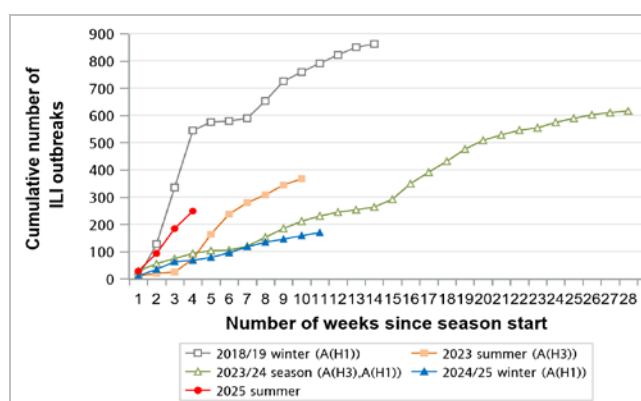


Figure 2.5 Cumulative numbers of ILI outbreaks reported during major influenza seasons, 2019 and 2023–25  
Note: The predominating virus was shown in bracket.

\* 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](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 39, the overall admission rate in public hospitals with principal diagnosis of influenza was 0.46 (per 10,000 population) as compared to 0.56 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 1.73, 1.92, 1.35, 0.15, 0.10 and 0.74 cases (per 10,000 people in the age group) respectively, as compared to 2.31, 2.29, 1.24, 0.14, 0.20 and 0.96 cases in the previous week (Figure 2.6).

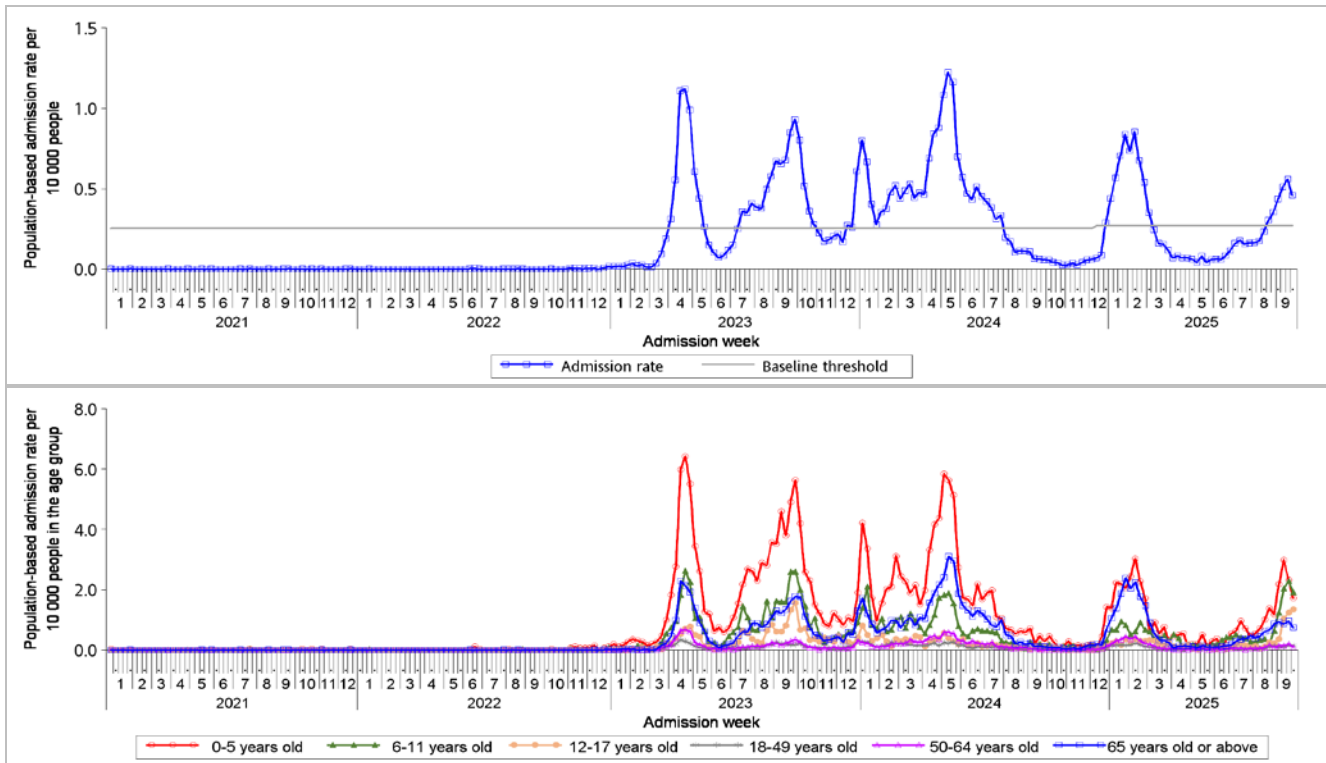


Figure 2.6 Influenza-associated hospital admission rates, 2021-25 (upper: overall rate, lower: rates by age groups)

[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.]

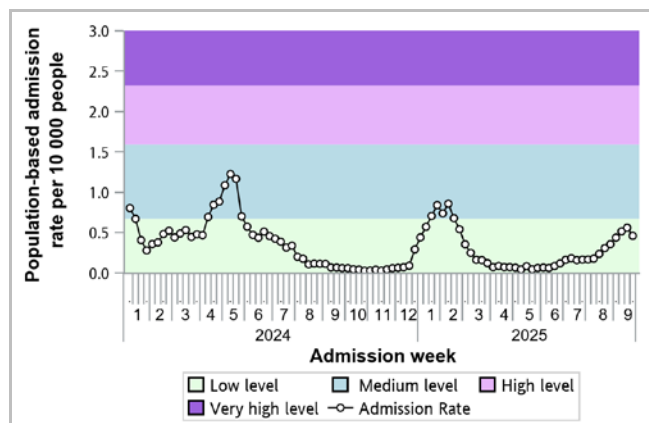


Figure 2.7 Influenza-associated hospital admission rates, 2024-25

\*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\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/explanatory_note_for_flux_mem_eng.pdf)



### Rate of ILI syndrome group in accident and emergency departments, 2021-25<sup>#</sup>

In week 39, the rate of the ILI syndrome group in the accident and emergency departments (AEDs) was 164.3 (per 1,000 coded cases), which was higher than the rate of 149.2 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.*

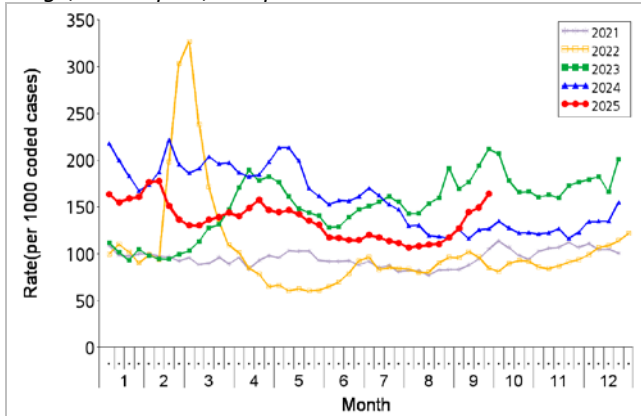


Figure 2.8 Rate of ILI syndrome group in AEDs, 2021-25

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

The surveillance for week 39 was suspended due to typhoon. In week 38, 0.77% of children in the sentinel child care centres / kindergartens (CCCs/KGs) had fever (38°C or above) (Figure 2.9).

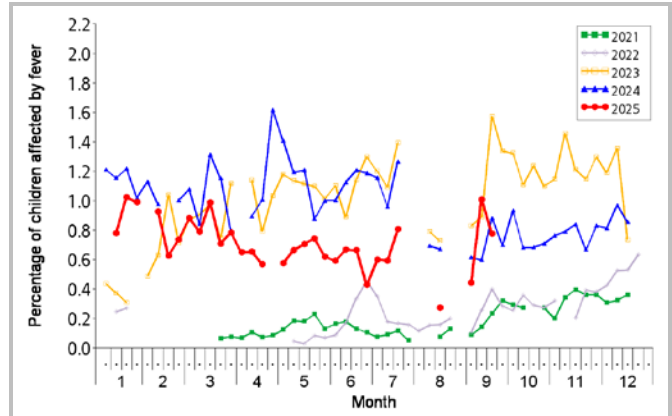


Figure 2.9 Percentage of children with fever at sentinel CCCs/KGs, 2021-25

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

In week 39, 0.14% of residents in the sentinel residential care homes for the elderly (RCHes) had fever (38°C or above), compared to 0.12% recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.10).

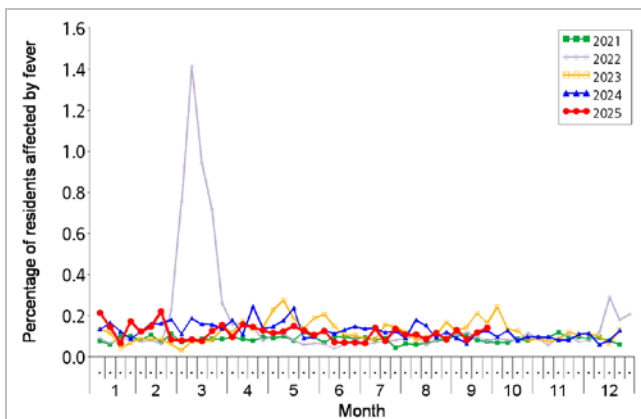


Figure 2.10 Percentage of residents with fever at sentinel RCHes, 2021-25

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

In week 39, the average consultation rate for ILI among Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) was 0.98 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations as compared to 0.63 recorded in the previous week (Figure 2.11).

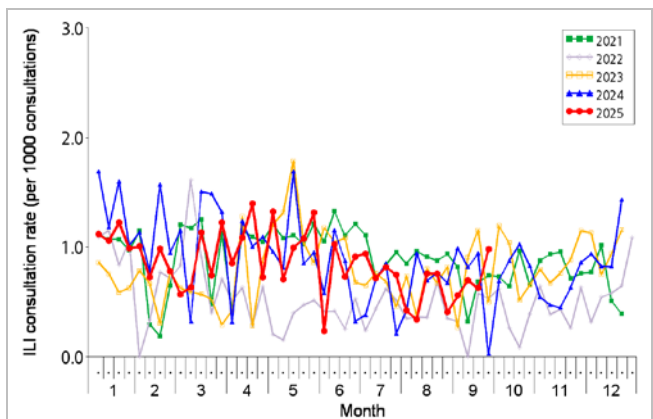


Figure 2.11 ILI consultation rate at sentinel CMPs, 2021-25

## 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 39, 26 adult cases of ICU admission/death with laboratory confirmation of influenza (including 18 deaths) were recorded, as compared to 31 cases (including 21 deaths) in the previous week. Among the 26 adult cases, 14 were not known to have received the 2024/25 seasonal influenza vaccine (SIV). In the first 4 days of week 40 (Sept 28 – Oct 1), 12 cases were recorded, in which 8 of them were fatal.

Week	Influenza type					
	A(H1)	A(H3)	A (pending subtype)	B	A and B	C
Week 39	6	20	0	0	0	0
First 4 days of week 40 (Sept 28 – Oct 1)	1	7	3	1	0	0

- In comparison, 215, 93, 127 and 199 adult cases were recorded in the same duration of surveillance (4 complete weeks) in the 2018/19 winter, 2023 summer, 2023/24 season and 2024/25 winter seasons respectively, as compared with 107 cases in the current season (Figure 2.12, left). The corresponding figures for deaths were 107, 66, 76, 130 in the above seasons, as compared with 77 deaths in the current season (Figure 2.12, right).

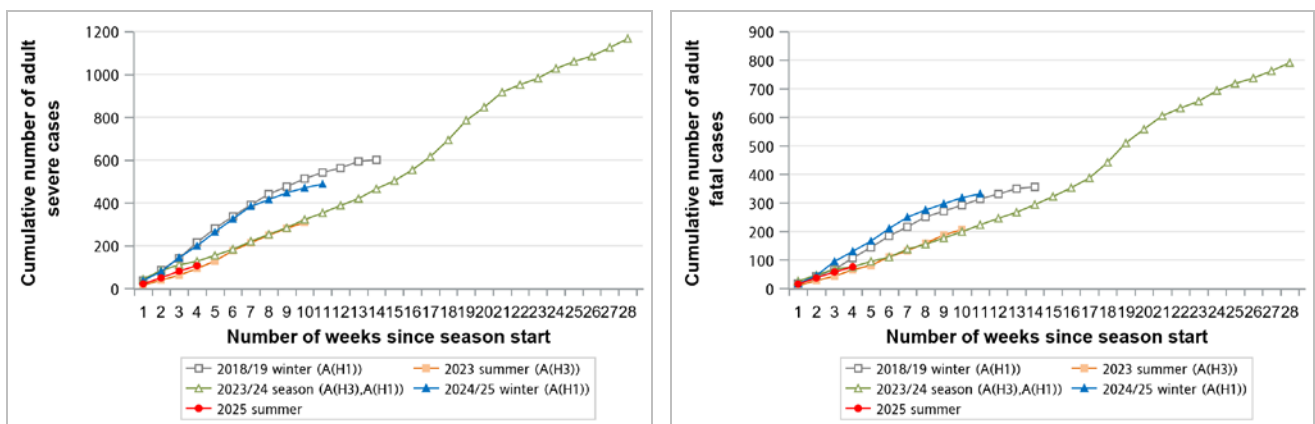


Figure 2.12 Cumulative numbers of adult severe influenza cases reported during major influenza seasons, 2019 and 2023–25 (left: ICU admission/death cases; right: deaths)

Note: The predominating virus was shown in bracket.

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

- In week 39 and the first 4 days of week 40 (Sep 28 – Oct 1), there were 2 cases of severe paediatric influenza-associated complication/death.

Reporting week	Age	Sex	Complication	Fatal case?	Influenza subtype	History of receiving 2024/25 influenza vaccine
40	13 years	Female	Encephalopathy and shock	No	Influenza A (H3)	No
40	6 years	Female	Severe pneumonia	No	Influenza A (H3)	Yes

- During this summer season, 9 paediatric cases of influenza-associated complication/death were reported, in which none of them were fatal. Seven cases had infections with influenza A(H3), 1 with influenza A(H1) and 1 with influenza A(untyped). 4 cases did not receive the 2024/25 SIV. In 2025, 20 paediatric cases of influenza-associated complication were reported, in which none of them were fatal (as of Oct 1).
- In comparison, 16, 6, 4 and 9 paediatric cases of influenza-associated complication/death were recorded in the same duration of surveillance (4 complete weeks) in the 2018/19 winter, 2023 summer, 2023/24 season and 2024/25 winter seasons respectively, as compared with 7 cases in the current season (Figure 2.13, left). The corresponding figures for deaths were 1, 0, 0 and 0 in the above seasons, as compared with 0 death in current season (Figure 2.13, right).

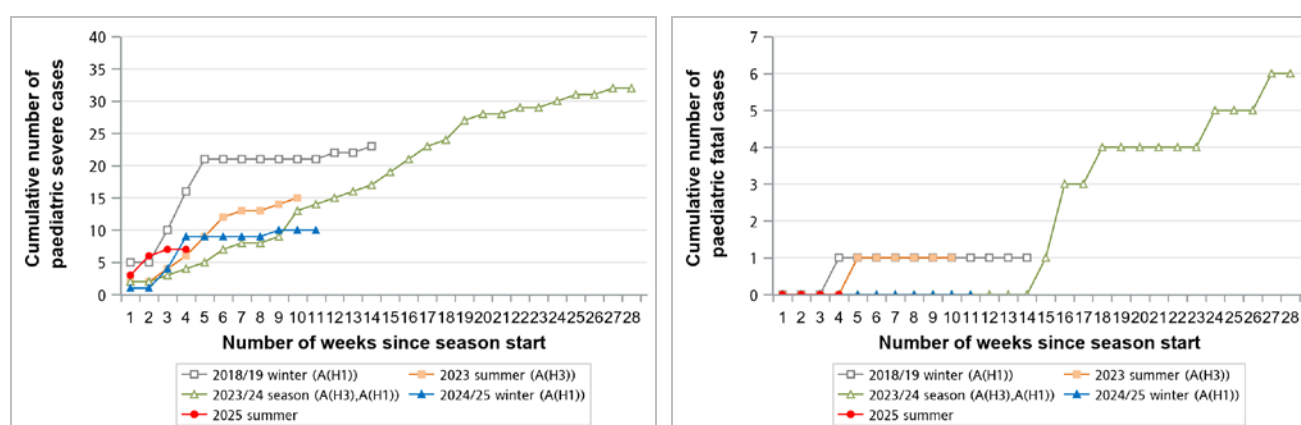


Figure 2.13 Cumulative numbers of cases of paediatric influenza-associated complication/death reported during major influenza seasons, 2019 and 2023–25 (left: complication/death cases; right: deaths)

Note: The predominating virus was shown in bracket.



### **Severe influenza cases of all ages**

- During this influenza season, 128 severe influenza cases among all ages have been reported, including 85 deaths (as of Oct 1).

Age group	Cumulative number of cases (death)
0-5	1 (0)
6-11	4 (0)
12-17	4 (0)
18-49	3 (0)
50-64	20 (5)
>=65	96 (80)

- Among the adult fatal cases with available clinical information, about 91% had chronic diseases.
- Among patients with laboratory confirmation of influenza admitted to public hospitals in this season, 2.6% of admitted cases died during the same episode of admission. It was within the historical range between 2.5% (2017/18 winter season) and 4.5% (2024/25 winter season).

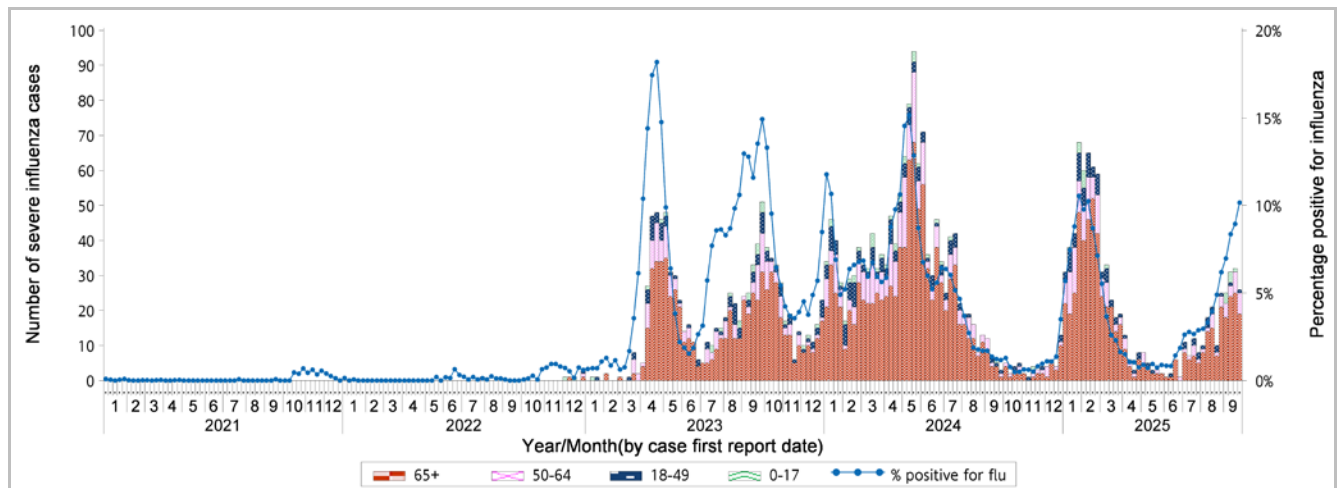


Figure 2.14 Weekly number of severe influenza cases by age groups, 2021-25 (the percentage positive for influenza viruses in Figure 2.2 is also shown in this graph)

## Global Situation of Influenza Activity

In the Northern Hemisphere, influenza activities remained low and stable in most countries, but influenza positivity was elevated in South-East Asia. In the Southern Hemisphere, influenza positivity in some countries in Oceania slightly increased (data up to Sep 21, 2025).

- In the United States (week ending Sep 20, 2025), influenza activity was low. The percentage of specimens tested positive for influenza was 0.4%.
- In Canada (week ending Sep 20, 2025), influenza activity was at interseasonal level. Influenza positivity remained low at 0.5%.
- In the United Kingdom (week ending Sep 21, 2025), influenza activity was at baseline level. Influenza positivity in England was 1.3% as compared with 1.1% in preceding week.
- In Europe (week ending Sep 21, 2025), indicators of influenza activity were at interseasonal levels. Influenza positivity from sentinel specimens was at 3%, which was below the 10% epidemic threshold.
- In Chinese Mainland (week ending Sep 21, 2025), influenza activities in both southern and northern provinces were at low levels, except that activities in some provinces in southern China increased. The percentage of specimens tested positive for influenza in southern and northern provinces was 3.6% and 0.5% in week 38 respectively. In Guangdong (week ending Sep 21, 2025), influenza epidemic has arrived with influenza A(H3N2) viruses predominating. The percentage of specimens tested positive for influenza is 16.14% in the week ending Sep 21, higher than the baseline of 12.44%. In Macao (week ending Sep 20, 2025), influenza detection rate fluctuated with an increase to above the alert level last week. Influenza A(H1), A(H3) and B viruses co-circulated. In Taiwan (week ending Sep 20, 2025), the number of ILI consultation was on an increasing trend. Influenza epidemic has arrived. Influenza A(H1) predominates, but the proportion of influenza A(H3) increased.
- In Australia (fortnight ending Sep 21, 2025), the number of influenza cases decreased last fortnight but was higher than observed at the same time in previous years. Most of the influenza notifications were influenza A, followed by influenza B.
- In New Zealand (week ending Sep 21, 2025), the national ILI rate remained elevated at 30.07 as compared to 31.17 per 100,000 population in preceding week. 18 (32.1%) out of 56 sentinel samples were tested positive for influenza in week 38. Influenza A(H3) and A(H1) viruses have been co-circulating in recent weeks while influenza B viruses begin to decline.

### 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](#), [Australian Department of Health and Aged Care](#) and [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#)