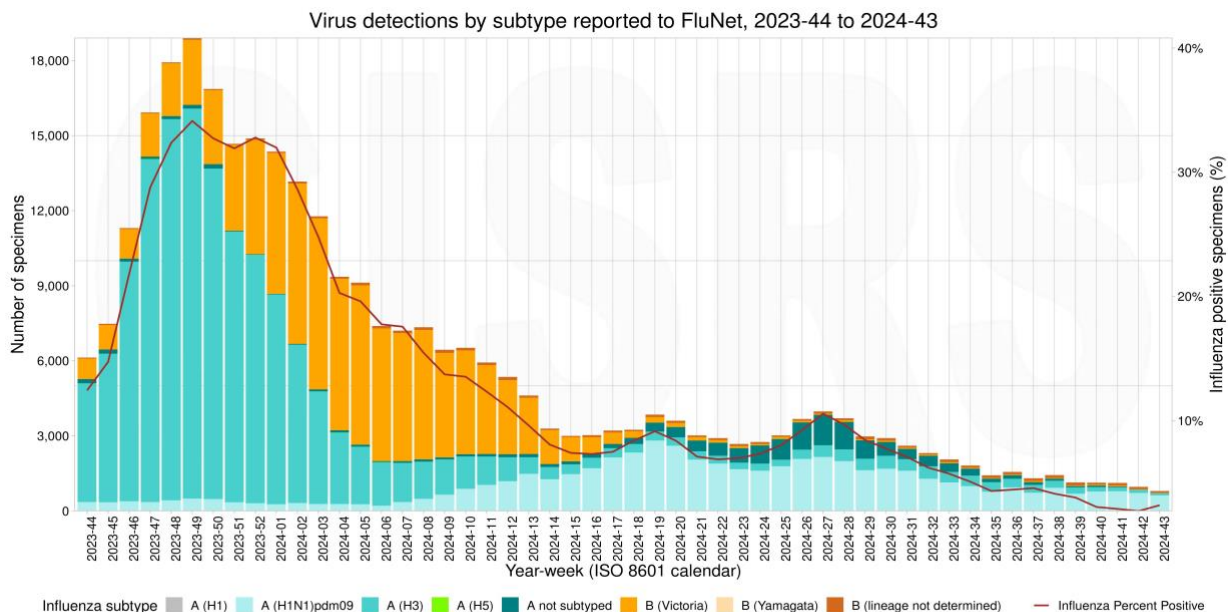


Virological Surveillance Summary

The total number of specimens and number of positive specimens reported to FluNet by Western Pacific Region countries and areas between week 1 and week 43 of 2024 are presented in Table 1 below. In recent weeks, Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 has been dominating (**Figure 1**). Caution should be taken when interpreting this data as there are reporting delays.

Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, week 1 to week 43, 2024

Country (most recent week of report)	Total number of specimens processed	Total number of influenza-positive specimens
Australia (43 of 2024)	211,450	15,334
Brunei Darussalam (43 of 2024)	1,485	231
Cambodia (41 of 2024)	5,050	970
China (43 of 2024)	1,414,267	150,316
Fiji (43 of 2024)	1,323	166
Japan (42 of 2024)	-	3,246
Lao People's Democratic Republic (43 of 2024)	3,230	407
Malaysia (43 of 2024)	40,913	6,518
Mongolia (43 of 2024)	3,305	477
New Caledonia (43 of 2024)	1,798	93
New Zealand (41 of 2024)	3,060	633
Papua New Guinea (39 of 2024)	471	76
Philippines (43 of 2024)	3,654	400
Republic of Korea (43 of 2024)	14,351	1,042
Singapore (43 of 2024)	10,217	2,310
Viet Nam (43 of 2024)	3,806	979
Grand Total	1,718,380	183,198



The chart above is displayed for WPR in all sites for year-weeks (ISO 8601) 2023-44 to 2024-43

Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 44, 2023 to week 43, 2024 (Source: [WHO FLUNET](https://www.who.int/flu-net))

Influenza surveillance summary

Influenza surveillance in the WHO Western Pacific Region is based on outpatient and inpatient indicator-based surveillance (IBS) systems, as well as event-based surveillance. Case definitions, population groups included, and data formats differ among countries. This influenza surveillance summary includes countries and areas where routine IBS is conducted, and information is available.

The [WHO surveillance case definition](#) for influenza-like illness (ILI) is an acute respiratory infection with a measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ and cough, with symptom onset within the last 10 days. For SARI, it is an acute respiratory infection (ARI) with a history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ and cough, with symptom onset within 10 days that requires hospitalization.

Sentinel site data should be interpreted with caution since the number of sites reporting may vary between weeks.

Countries in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere

In countries within the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere, ILI and influenza activity are similar to the corresponding period from previous years.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

[China \(North\)](#)

During week 43 (21 to 27 October 2024), sentinel hospitals in the northern provinces reported the ILI rate at 3.3%, lower than the last week (3.4%), higher than the same week of 2021-2022 (2.6%, 2.7%), and lower than the same week of 2023 (4.2%) (**Figure 2**).

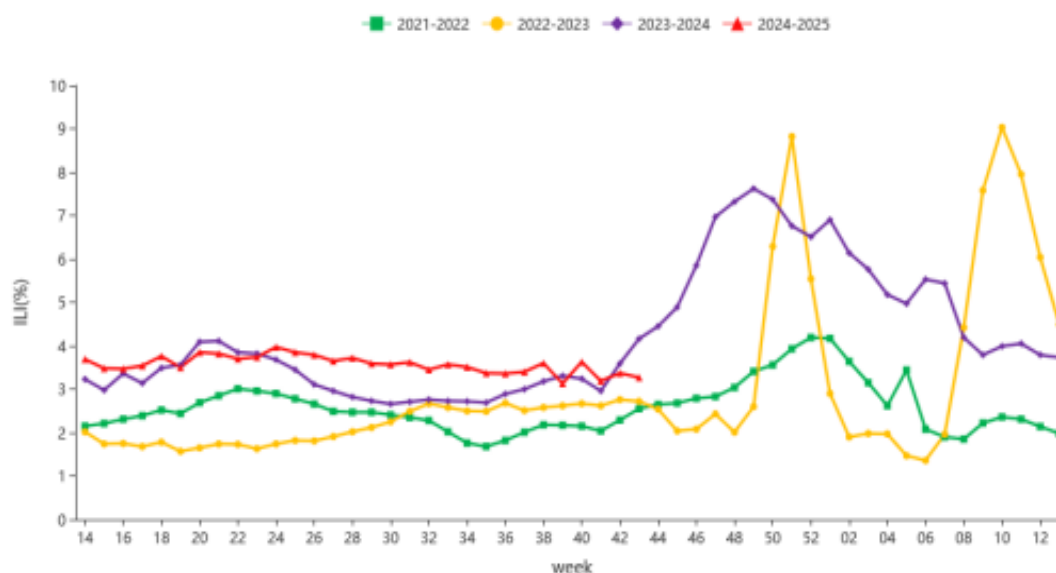
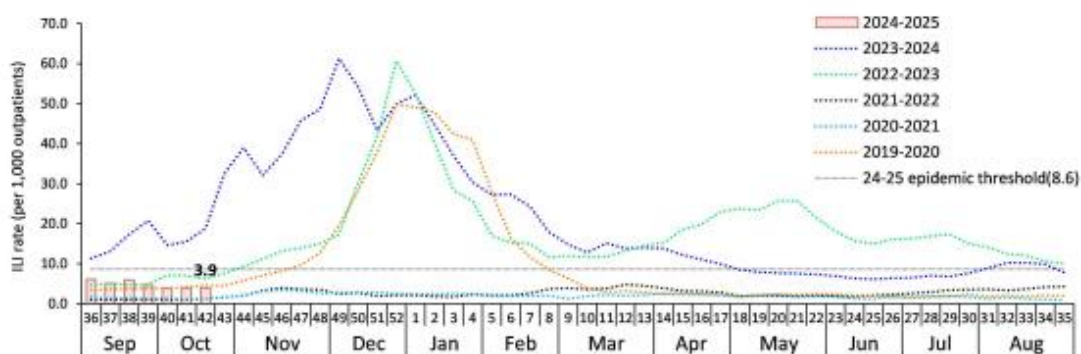


Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in northern China, 2020-2024 (as of week 43) ([Source](#): Chinese National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea

In week 42 (13 October to 19 October 2024), the overall weekly ILI rate was 3.9 per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was the same as the previous week (3.9) (Figure 3).



※ 2024–2025 season epidemic threshold: 8.6 cases (/1,000)

Figure 3: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1,000 outpatient consultations, Republic of Korea, 2019 (from week 36-52)-2024 (as of week 42)

(Source: Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency).

Sentinel influenza surveillance

Japan

In week 42 of 2024, the weekly number of cases reported by sentinel hospital sites in Japan remains low. (Figure 4).

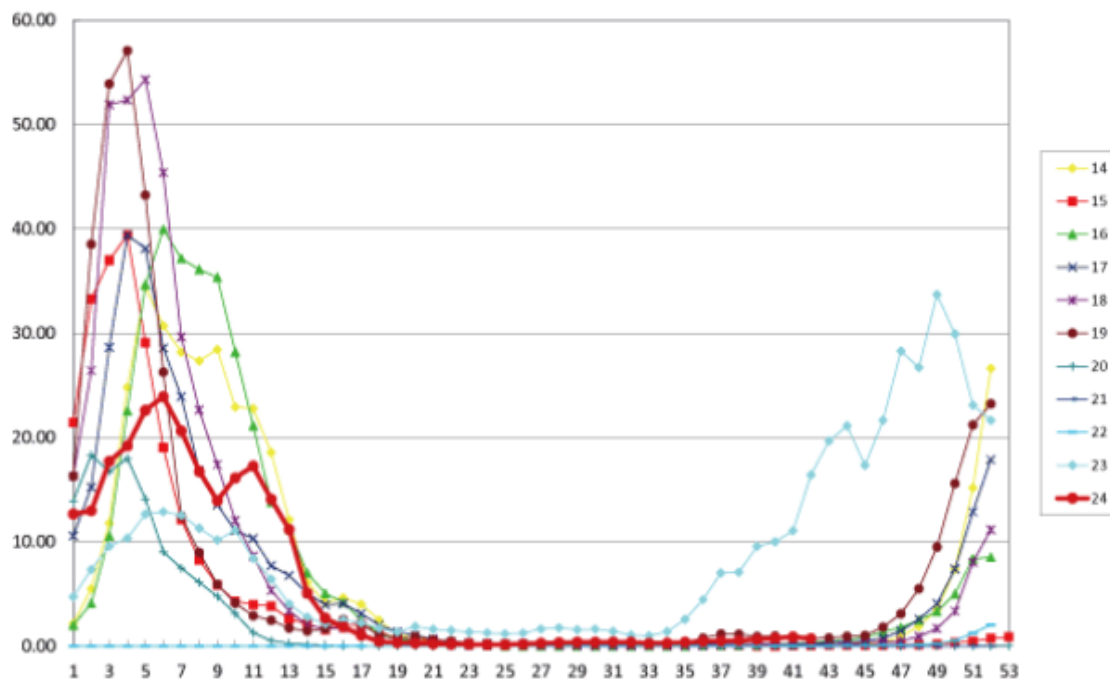


Figure 4: Weekly number of influenza cases reported per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2014-2024

(Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

In the tropical zone, ILI activity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years in most countries and areas.

Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance

In week 43, the average consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) among sentinel general outpatient clinics (GOPC) was 2.9 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 3.9 recorded in the previous week (**Figure 5**). The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner (PMP) clinics was 33.5 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was higher than 29.6 recorded in the previous week (**Figure 6**).

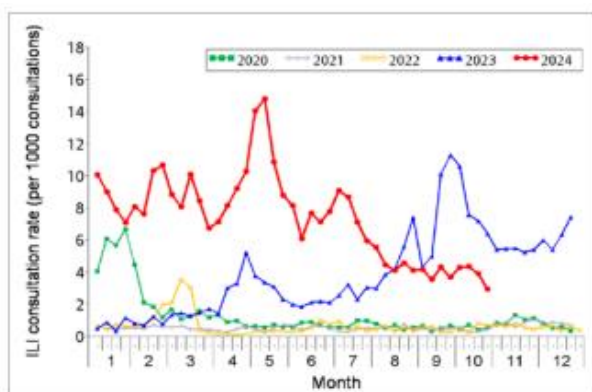


Figure 5: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2020-2024

([Source](#): Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

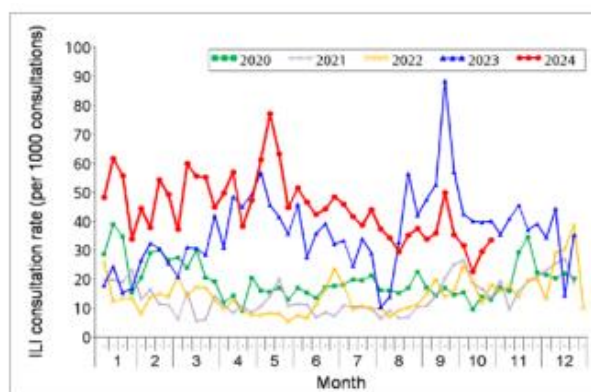


Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private medical practitioner clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2020-2024

([Source](#): Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

China (South) - ILI Surveillance

During week 43, the percentage of outpatient or emergency visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in southern provinces was 3.3%, higher than the last week (3.2%), lower than the same week in 2021 and 2023 (3.6% and 5.7%), higher than the same week of 2022 (3.2%) (**Figure 7**).



Figure 7: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China, 2020-2024 (as of week 43)

([Source](#): China National Influenza Center)

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance

In week 43 (20 to 26 October 2024), the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in the polyclinics for ARI was 2,626 (over 5.5 working days) (**Figure 8**). The proportion of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) among the polyclinic attendances for ARI was 0.5%. The overall positivity rate for influenza among ILI samples (n=143) in the community was 15.4% in week 43. Of the 99 specimens tested positive for influenza in September 2024, 49 were positive for Influenza A(pH1N1) (49.5%), 31 were positive for Influenza A(H3N2) (31.3%) and 19 were positive for Influenza B (19.2%) (**Figure 9**).

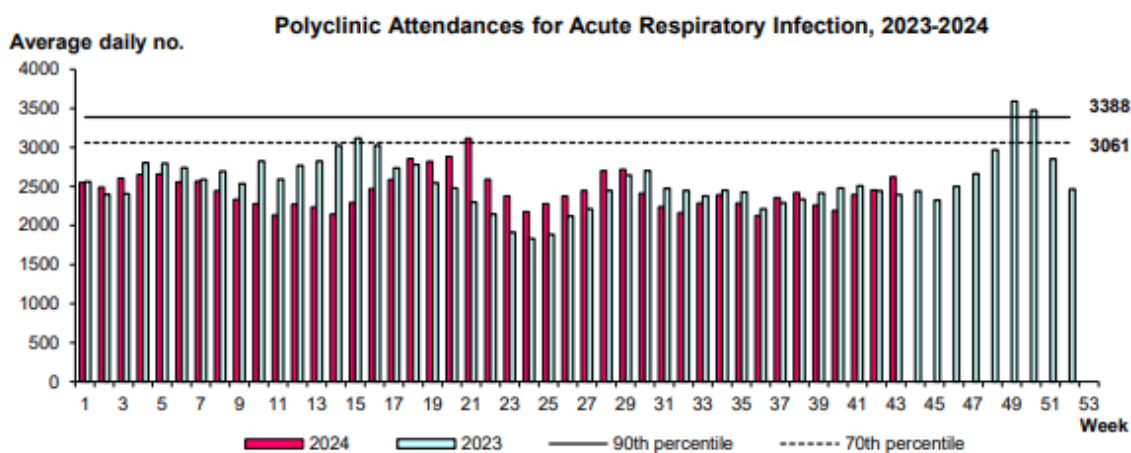


Figure 8: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2023-2024 (to week 43) ([Source](#): Singapore Ministry of Health)

Monthly Influenza Surveillance

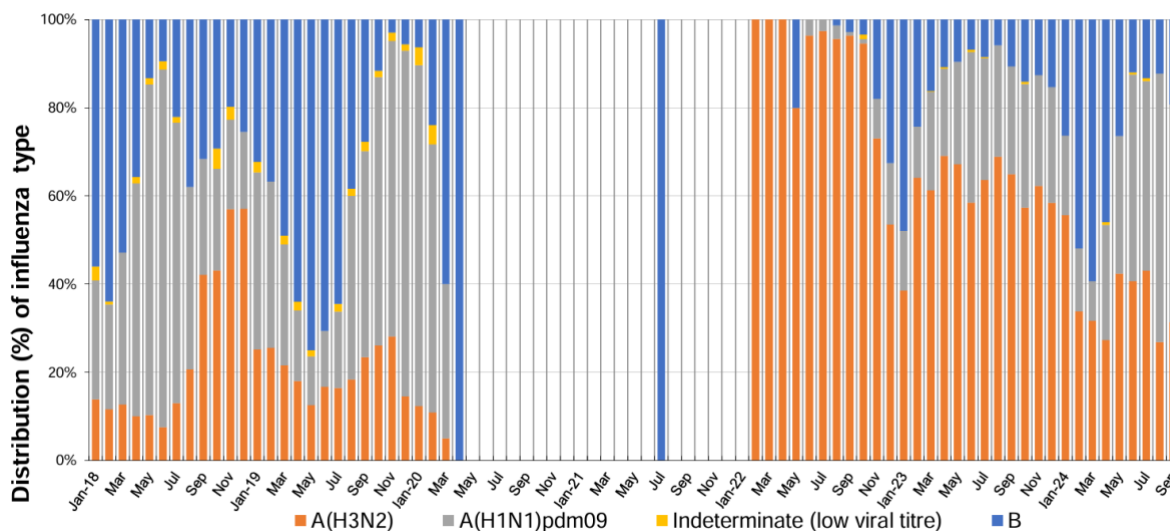


Figure 9: Monthly influenza surveillance for ARI in Singapore, 2018-2024 (to September) ([Source](#): Singapore Ministry of Health)

Lao PDR

During week 43 (21 to 27 October 2024), the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology received data from all sentinel sites in Lao PDR. The number of ILI cases presenting at sentinel sites was lower by 39 cases compared to the previous week (**Figure 10**). There were 27 samples tested for influenza in week 43 of 2024, of which five were positive for Influenza A/pdmH1N1.

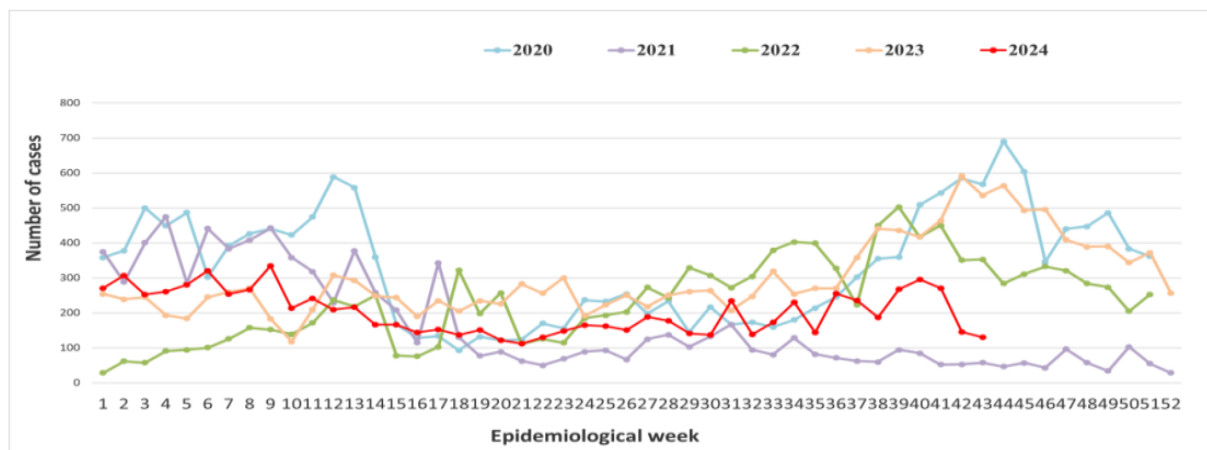


Figure 10: Weekly number of ILI cases at sentinel sites (2020 to 2024)
(Source: Lao PDR National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)

Cambodia

In week 43 of 2024, the Ministry of Health received data from all seven sentinel sites in Cambodia. The number of ILI cases in Cambodia increased slightly in week 43 (209 cases) compared to week 42 (201 cases). However, the positivity rate decreased to 21% compared to last week (28%) (**Figure 11**).

Note: Starting from week 2 of 2024, the ILI surveillance has been updated as follows: a) Changed case definitions of ILI from >38°C (greater than 38) to ≥ 38°C (greater or equal to 38), b) Increasing number of samples per sentinel sites from 5 to 10 per week. Therefore, the number of cases and positivity might also increase.

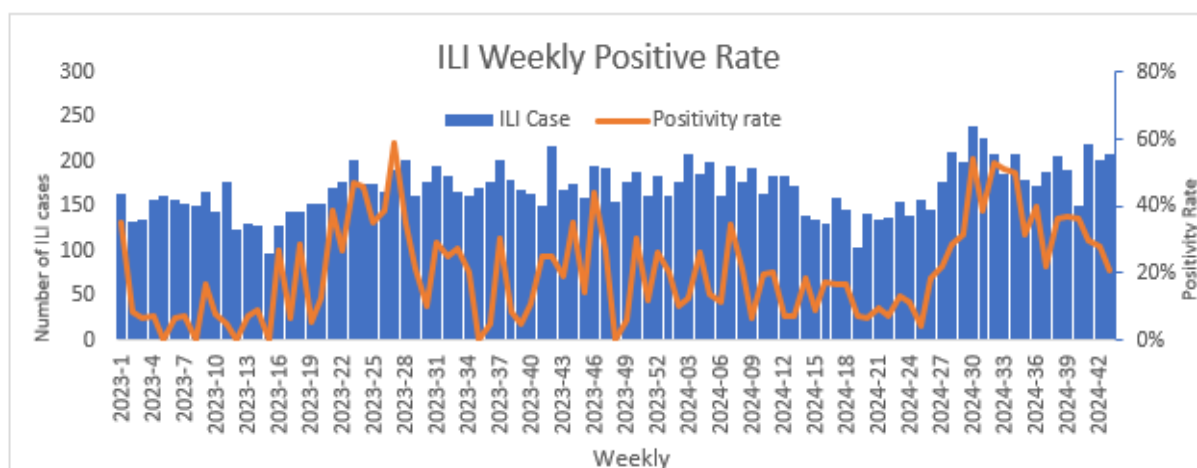


Figure 11: Number of ILI cases from sentinel sites and influenza positivity rate by week, from 2023-2024, Cambodia
(Source: Communicable Disease Control Department, Cambodia Ministry of Health)

Countries in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere

In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity is reported during the influenza season, usually starting in May in Australia and New Zealand.

Australia – Laboratory-confirmed influenza

In the year-to-date (1 January to 20 October 2024), there have been 350,103 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System in Australia, which is higher than the number of notifications in the same period in all other years and the five-year mean. **(Figure 12)**. In the past reporting fortnight, influenza notification rates have continued to decrease or plateau across most jurisdictions compared with the previous fortnight, except in Tasmania where a slight increase was observed compared with the previous fortnight.

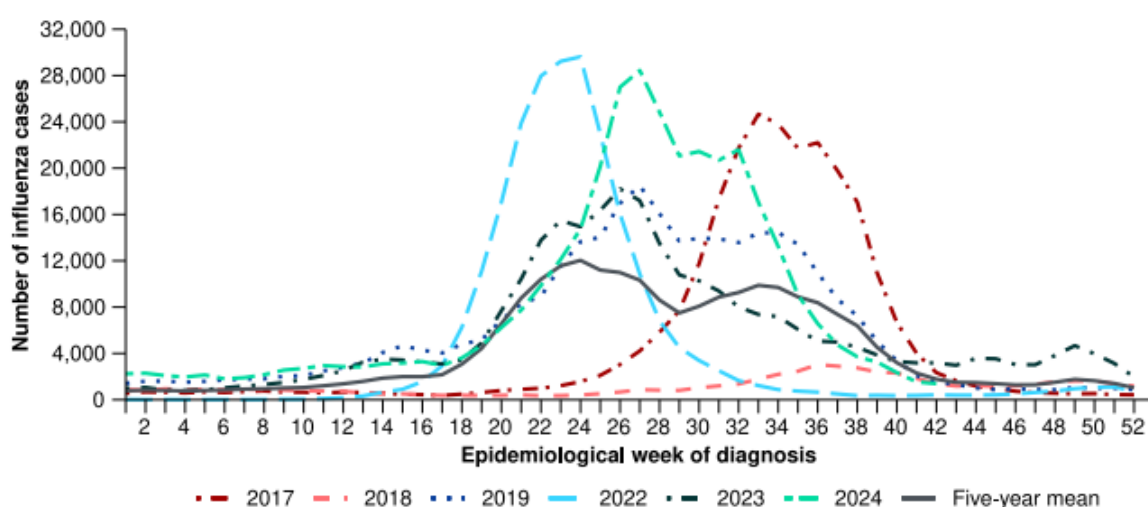


Figure 12: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza by year and week from 2017 to 2024 in Australia
 (Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

New Zealand – ILI Surveillance

Indicators of influenza-like illness in the community remain at levels expected for this time of year. During week 43 (21 to 27 October 2024), the rate of ILI related Healthline calls is 18.42 per 100,000 population, which is lower compared to the same time in 2022 and 2023 **(Figure 13)**.

Weekly Healthline ILI call rates

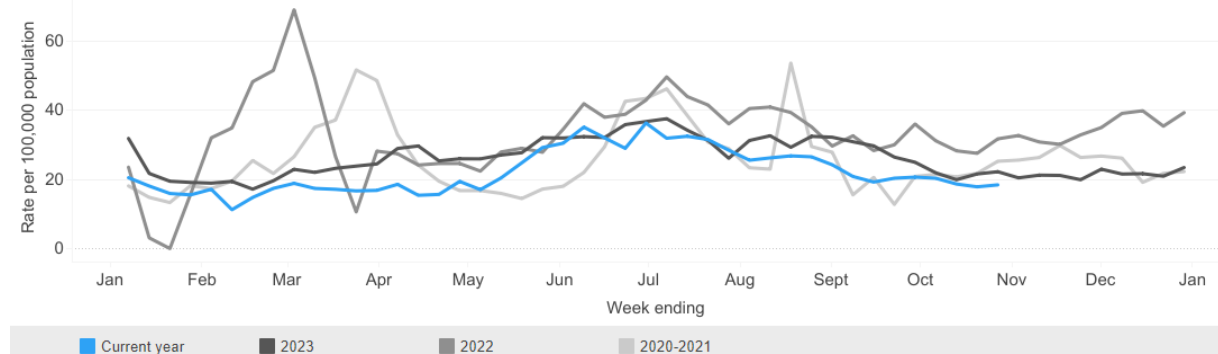


Figure 13: Weekly Healthline ILI call rate per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2015-2024
 (Source: New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research)

Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

There was no update in this reporting period. In week 40 (30 September to 6 October 2024), 18 out of 21 PICs reported ILI surveillance data. No reports are available for American Samoa, Guam and Nauru. Countries and Areas showed stable or decreasing trends in ILI compared to the previous week (**Figure 14**).

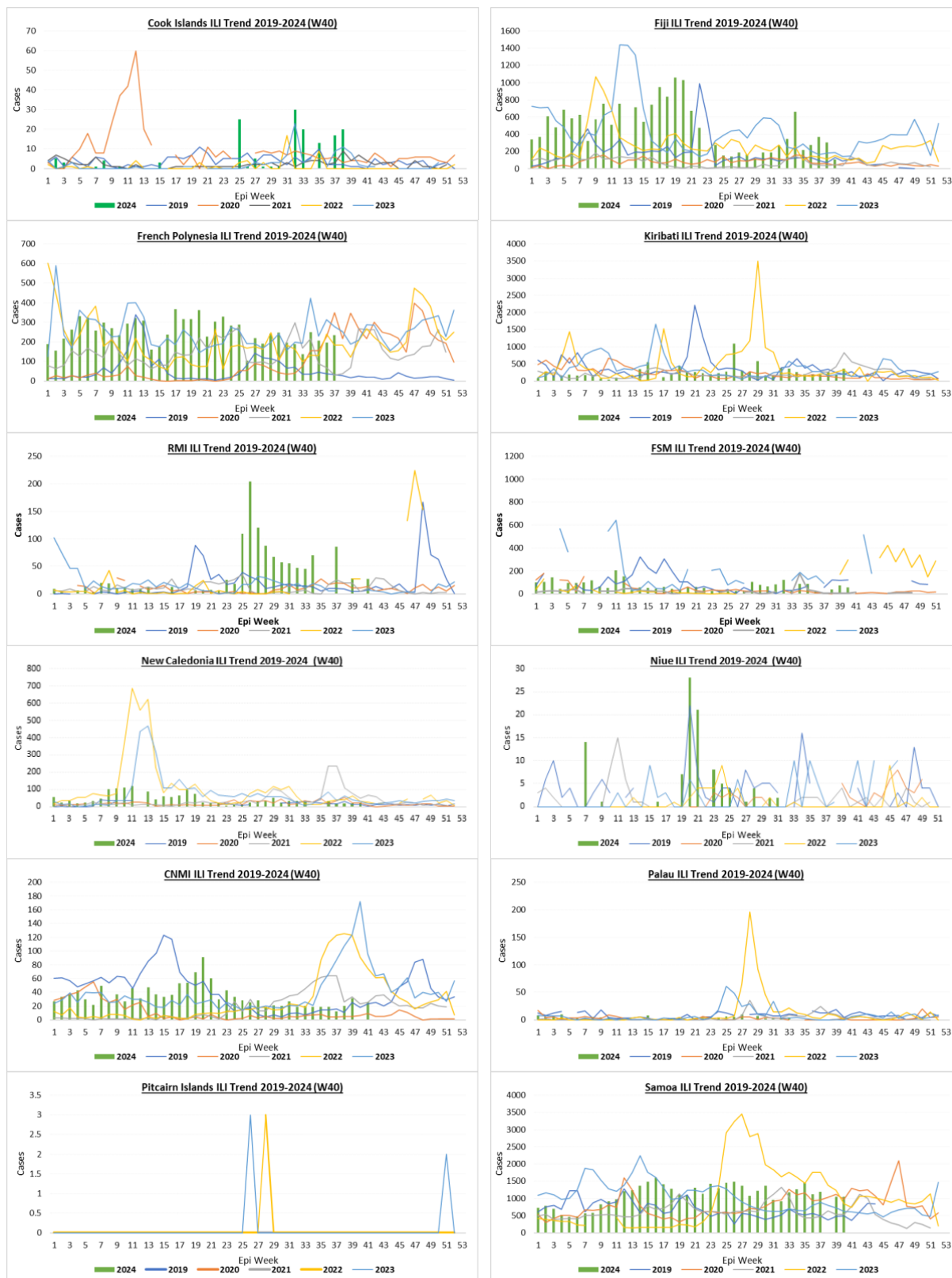




Figure 14: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2019-2024
 (Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

* Caution should be taken in interpreting these data as there may be changes in the number of sentinel sites reporting to the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System.

** RMI: Republic of Marshall Islands, FSM: Federated States of Micronesia, CMNI: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Global influenza situation updates

[Virological update](#)

[Global update](#)

Others:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2024-2025 northern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2024 southern hemisphere influenza season [Link](#)
- WHO Consultation on the Composition of Influenza Virus Vaccines for Use in the 2024 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Season 25-28 September 2023 [Link](#)
- WHO issues updated influenza vaccines position paper [Link](#)

WHO's YouTube Channel: film exploring a number of key aspects of the constant evolution of influenza viruses and associated impacts on public health. [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)