Bi-weekly Influenza Situation Update

04 May 2022

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 17 of 2022 are presented in Table 1 below. Influenza A and B are co-circulating, however, the majority of cases reported from week 1 to week 17 2022 have been Influenza B **(Figure 1)**. Caution should be taken when interpreting these data as there are reporting delays.

Table 1: Cumulative data reported to FluNet from Western Pacific Region, week 1, 2022 to week 17, 2022

Country (most recent week of report)	Total number of specimens processed	Total number of influenza positive specimens
Australia (17 of 2022)	62,787	529
Cambodia (14 of 2022)	2,386	0
China (16 of 2022)	174,504	27,746
Fiji (15 of 2022)	644	209
Japan (15 of 2022)	1	1
Lao People's Democratic Republic (16 of 2022)	1,039	0
Malaysia (16 of 2022)	8,749	406
Mongolia (16 of 2022)	2,435	171
New Caledonia	-	-
New Zealand	-	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-
Philippines (15 of 2022)	409	16
Republic of Korea (17 of 2022)	1,611	0
Singapore (16 of 2022)	827	14
Viet Nam (16 of 2022)	9	0

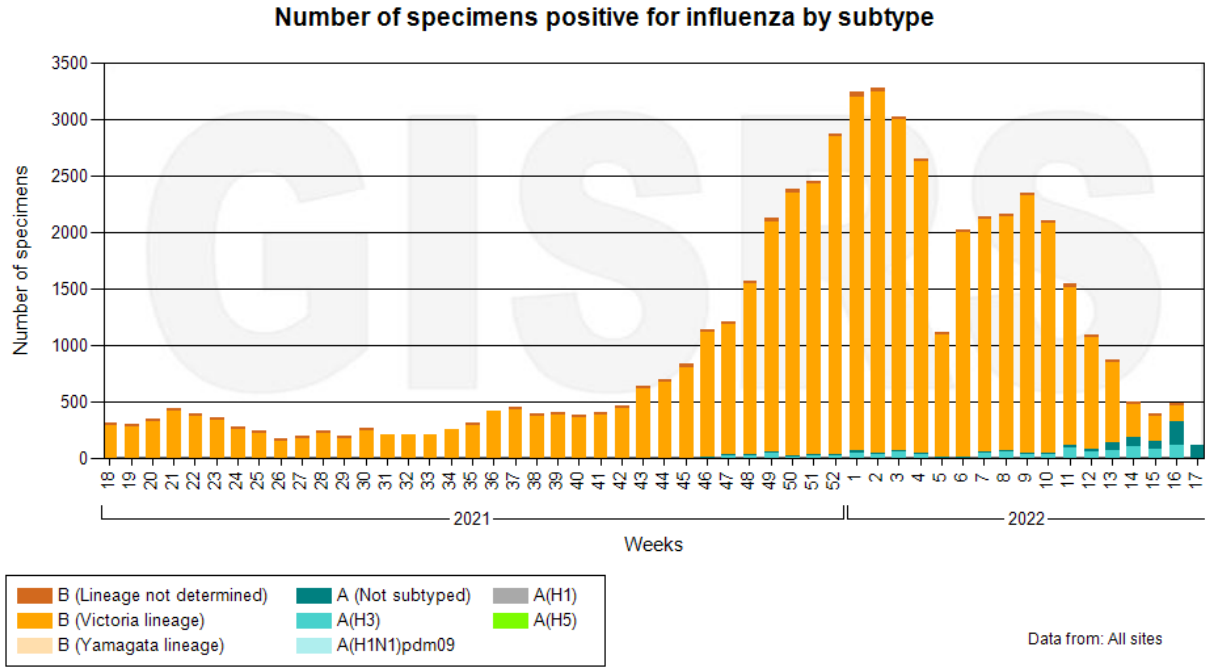


Figure 1: Number of specimens positive for influenza by subtype, Western Pacific Region, week 16, 2021 to week 17, 2022 (Source: WHO FLUNET)

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 ≥38°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 ≥38°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 acitivity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years.

Outpatient ILI Surveillance

China (North)

During week 16 of 2022, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Northern China was 1.7%, lower than the last week (1.9%), lower than the same week of 2019~2021 (3.6%, 1.9% and 2.3%). **(Figure 2)**.

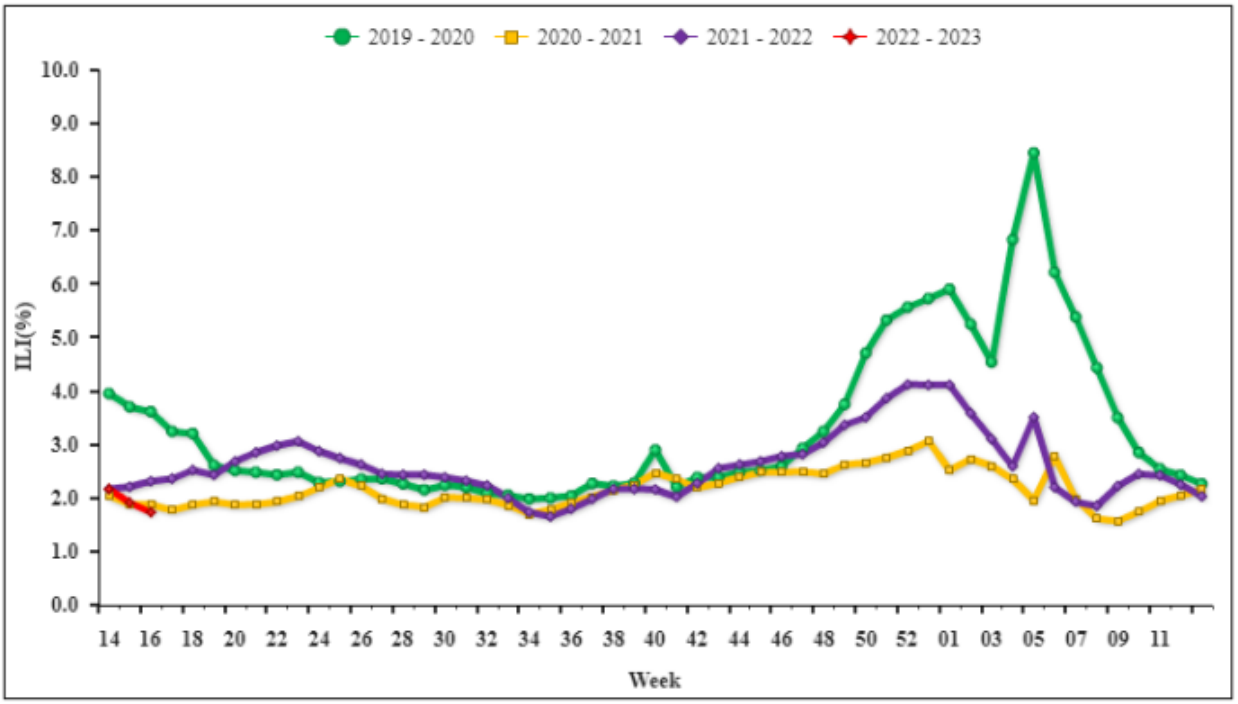


Figure 2: Percentage of visits for ILI at sentinel hospitals in Northern China, 2018-2022
(Source: China National Influenza Center)

Mongolia

During week 15 of 2022, the ILI activity in Mongolia decreased to 71 ILI cases per 10,000 population. This is higher than the upper tolerance limit of 39 ILI cases per 10,000 population **(Figure 3)**.

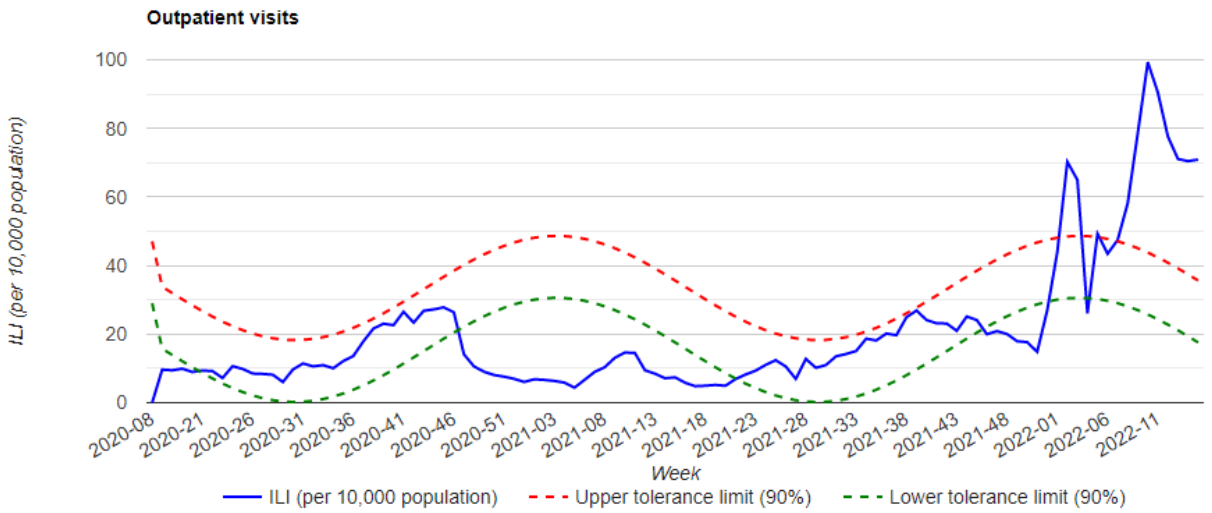


Figure 3: Propertion of outpatient ILI visits per 10,000 people in Mongolia, 2020-2022
(Source: Mongolia National Influenza Center)

Republic of Korea

In week 17 of 2022, the overall weekly ILI rate was 2.8 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits, which was slightly lower compaired to the previous week (3.1). The ILI consultation rate has remained below the national epidemic threshold (5.8 ILI cases per 1,000 outpatient visits) and absence of seasonal peaks since week 10 of 2020 **(Figure 4)**. Between 17 April 2022 and 23 April 2022, of 79 samples collected from patients with Acute Respiratory Infection at sentinel surveillance sites, 32.9% and 5.1% tested positive for rhinovirus and coronavirus, respectively.

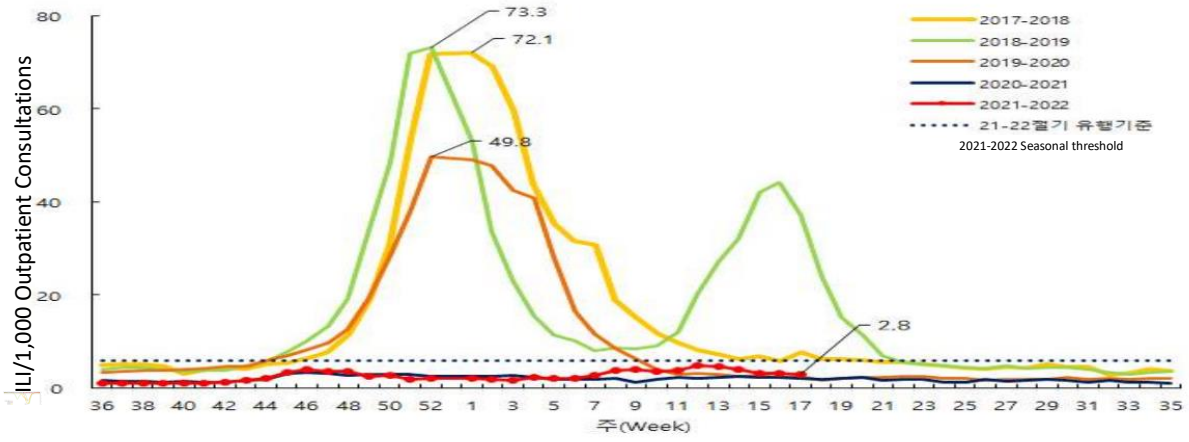


Figure 4: Weekly ILI incidence rate per 1,000 outpatient consultations, Republic of Korea, 2017-2022
(Source: Korean Centres for Disease Control and Prevention)

Sentinel influenza surveillance

Japan

In week 15 of 2022, the number of cases reported weekly by sentinel hospital sites remained very low in Japan. The number of cases in 2022 has been consistently low **(Figure 5).**

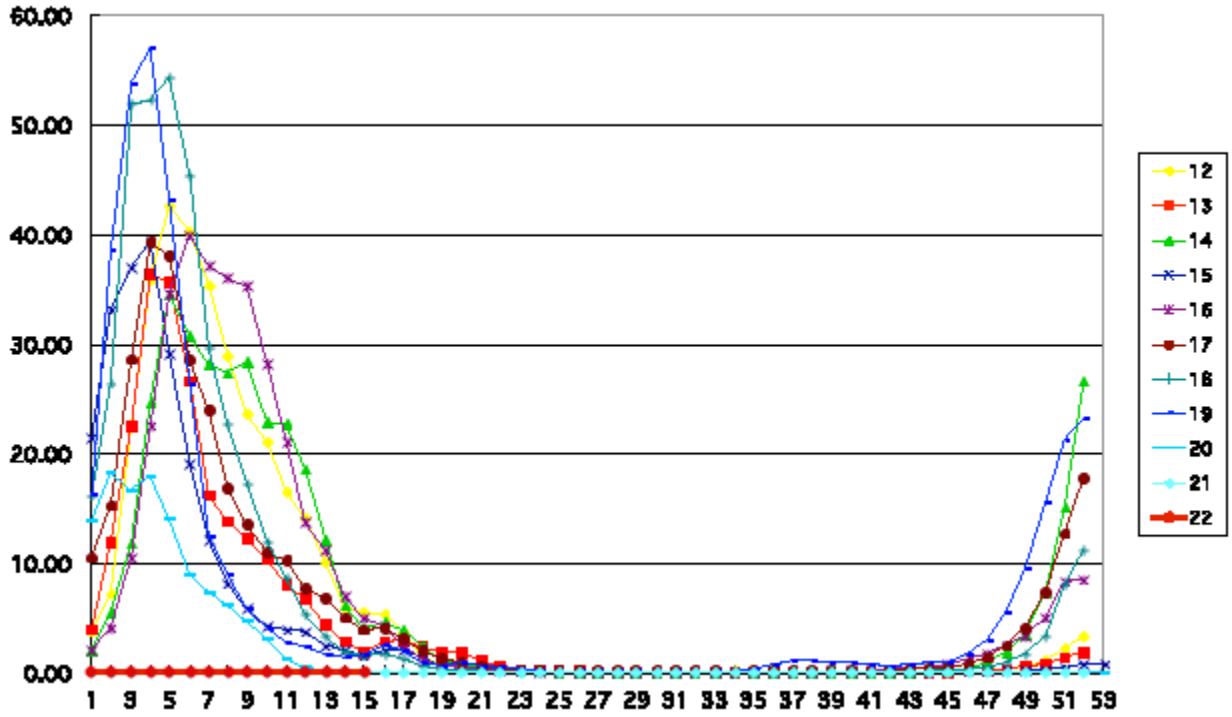


Figure 5: Number of influenza cases reported weekly per reporting sentinel hospital site, Japan 2012-2022
(Source: Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Countries/areas in the tropical zone

ILI and influenza activity is similar to the corresponding period from previous years in some of the countries and areas in the tropical zone.

Hong Kong SAR (China) – ILI and hospital Surveillance

In week 17 of 2022, the average consultation rate for ILI at sentinel general outpatient clinics was 0.2 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was the same as 0.1 reported in the previous week **(Figure 6)**. The average consultation rate for ILI among sentinel private medical practitioner clinics was 7.8 ILI cases per 1,000 consultations, which was lower than 9.2 recorded in the previous week **(Figure 7)**.

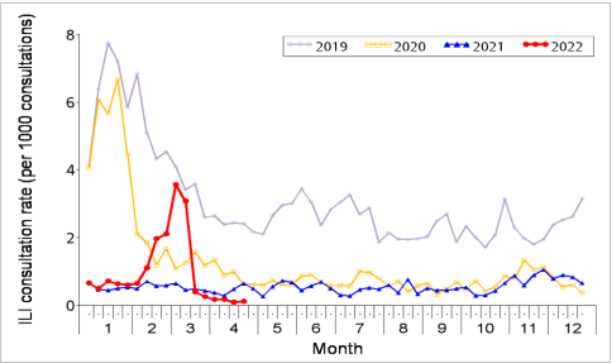


Figure 6: ILI consultation rates at sentinel general outpatient clinics, Hong Kong SAR 2019-2022
(Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

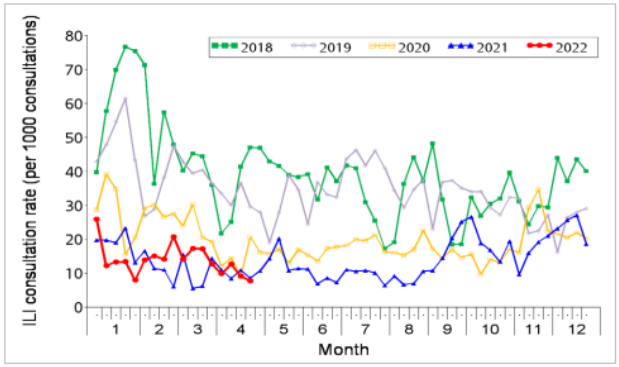


Figure 7: ILI consultation rates at sentinel private doctors, Hong Kong SAR 2018-2022
(Source: Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection)

China (South) - ILI Surveillance

During week 16 of 2022, the percentage of visits for ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China was 3.9%, higher than the last week (3.0%), higher than the same week of 2019 (4.2%), higher than the same week of 2020 and 2021 (2.4% and 3.4%) **(Figure 8)**.

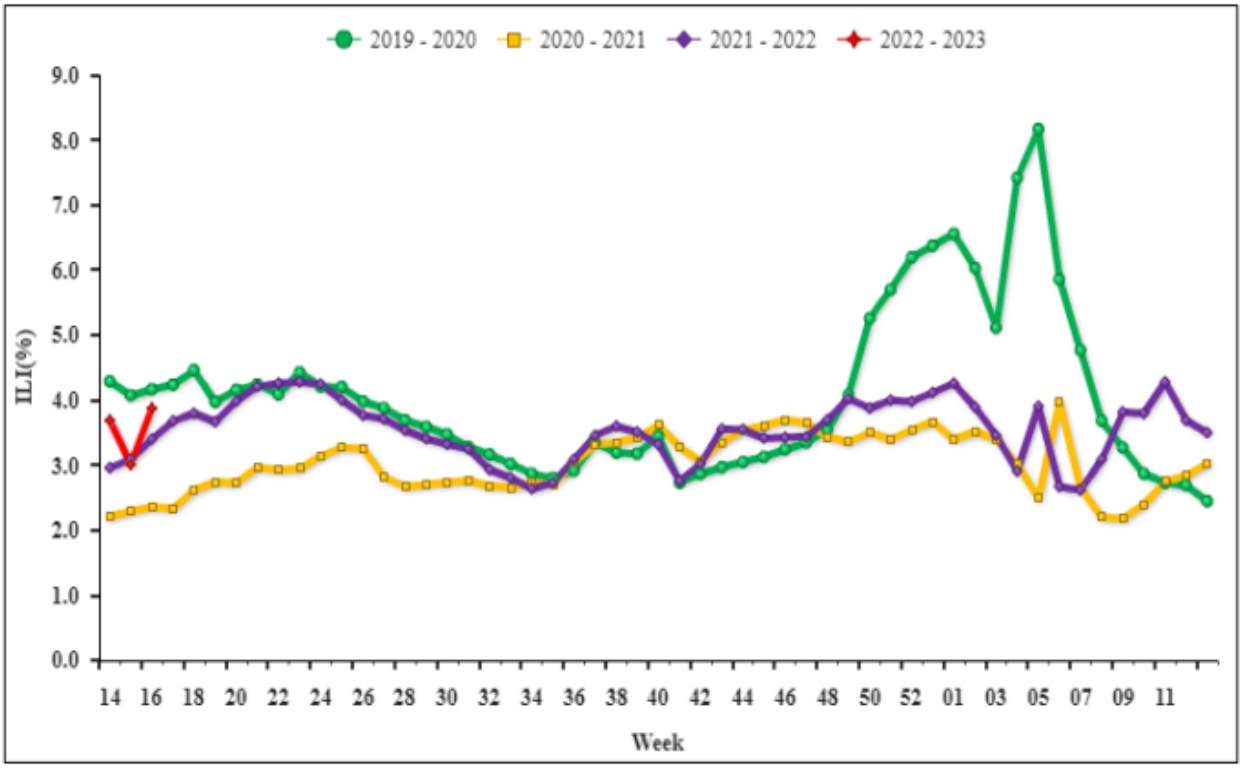


Figure 8: Percentage of visits due to ILI at national sentinel hospitals in Southern China, 2018-2022
(Source: China National Influenza Center)

Singapore – Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Surveillance

In week 16 of 2022, the average daily number of patients seeking treatment in polyclinics for ARI was 1,467, higher than the previous season in 2021 **(Figure 9)**. Of 214 samples tested for influenza in the past 4 weeks, the positivity rate in the community was 0.5%. Of the ten specimens tested positive for influenza in March 2022, all were positive for influenza A(H3N2). **(Figure 10)**.

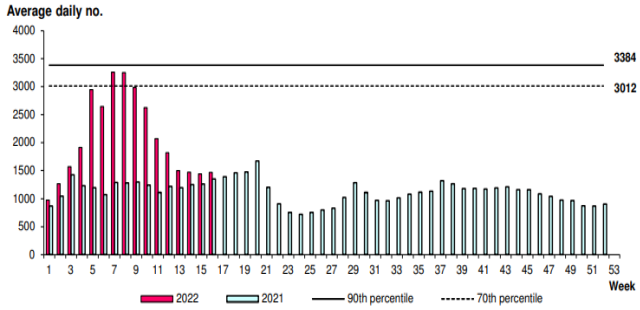


Figure 9: Average daily polyclinic attendances for ARI in Singapore, 2020-2022
(Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

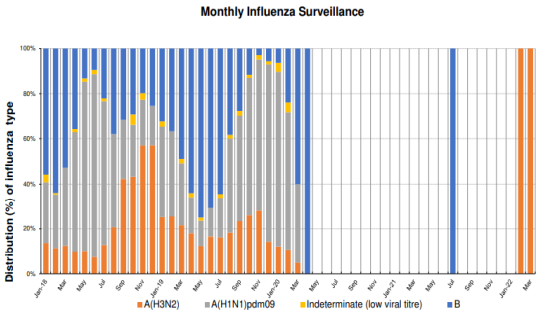


Figure 10: Monthly influenza surveillance for ARI in Singapore, 2020-2022
(Source: Singapore Ministry of Health)

Lao PDR

During week 15 of 2022, 78 ILI cases presented to sentinel sites, which was 172 cases lower than the previous week. Of 4samples tested for influenza in week 15, 2022, zero(0)cases tested positive**(Figure 11)**.

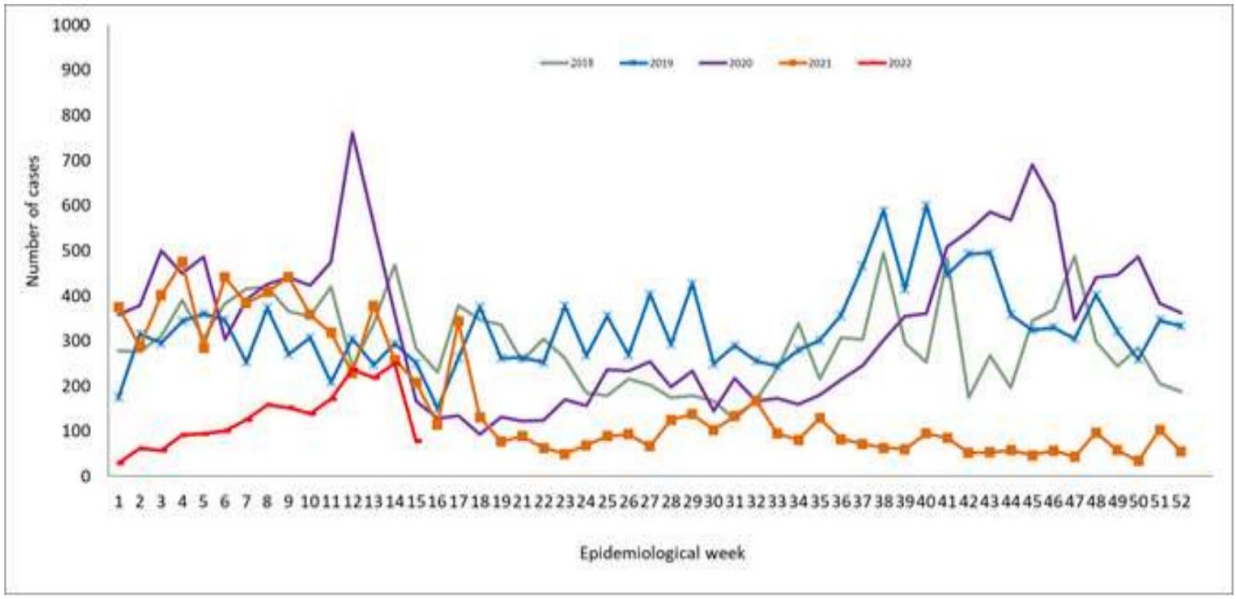


Figure 11: Weekly number of ILI cases at sentinel sites (2018 to 2022)
(Source: Lao National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology)

Cambodia

In week 16 of 2022, Ministry of Health received data from seven sentinel sites in Cambodia. The number of ILI cases low in Cambodia until week 32 of 2021, but started increase from week 8 of 2022 and peaked in this week(week 16 2022) Since week 35 of 2020, there was one human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) detected in week 8 of 2021. There have been no positive case in 2022 **(Figure 12)**.

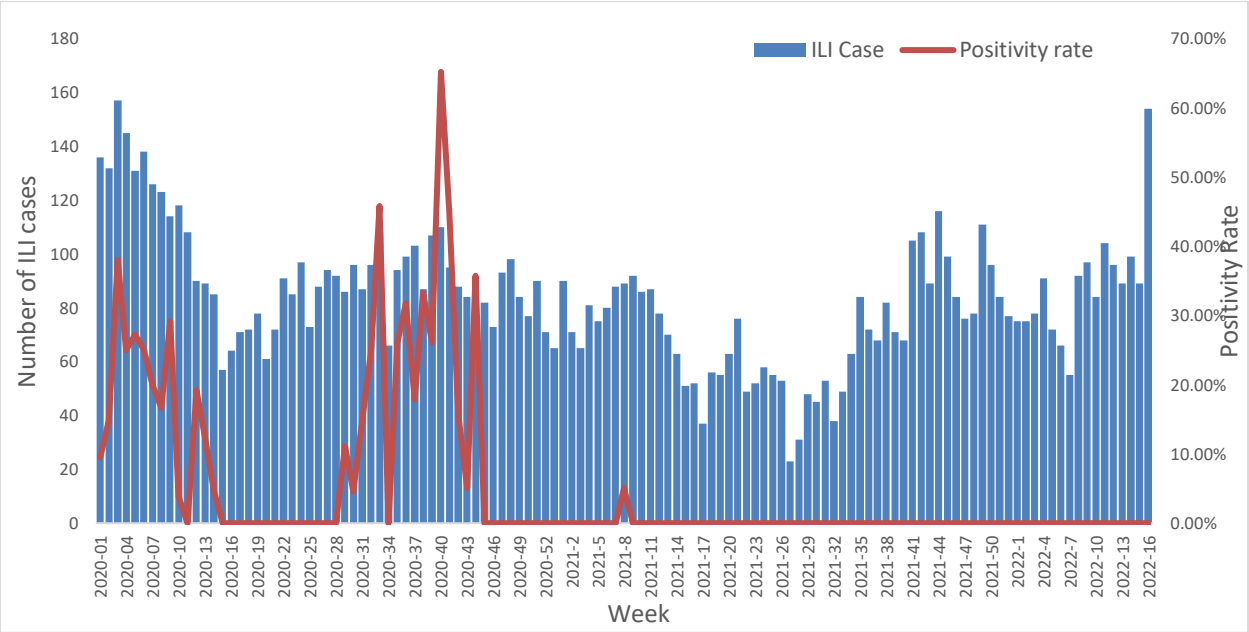


Figure 12: Number of ILI cases from seven sentinel sites and influenza positivity rate by week, 2020-2022, Cambodia

(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

From 11 April to 24 April 2022, there were 1,636 laboratory-confirmed influenza notifications to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS). In the year to date, there have been 2,714 notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza to the NNDSS. The number of notifications in 2022 have increased since March, however overall numbers to date remain below the 5 year average **(Figure 13)**.

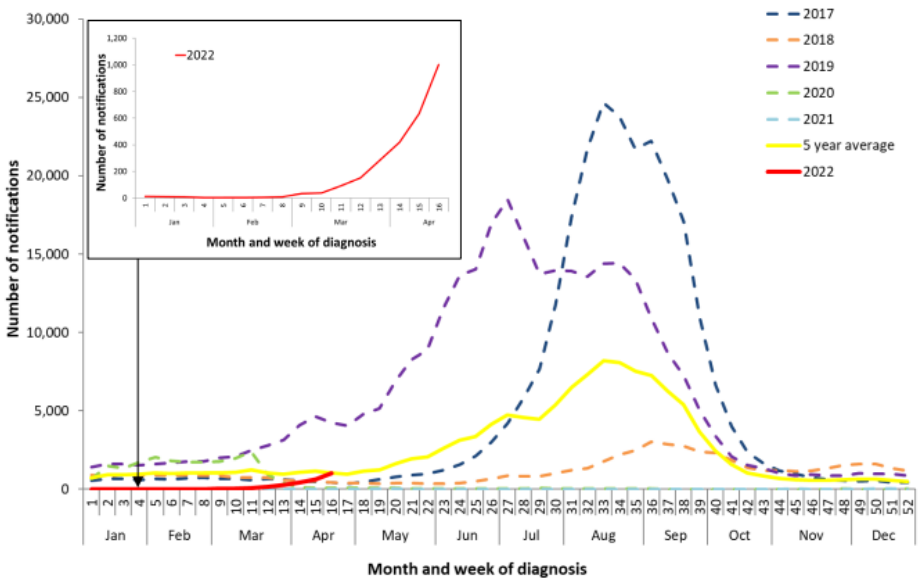


Figure 13: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza by month and week from 2017 to 2022 in Australia
(Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, Australian Department of Health)

New Zealand – Influenza like Illness

Overall, based on multiple sources of surveillance information, influenza-like illness (ILI) activity has remains high in the week ending 22 April 2022. Community ILI activity remains very high for this time of year, driven by the current COVID-19 Omicron outbreak. The rates of Healthstat consultations for ILI are low with limited interpretablity at this time of year. The ILI consultation rates in most age groups in the week ending 22 April are below the historical rates (**Figure 14)**. Public Health Units routinely investigate respiratory outbreaks, including laboratory testing of a sample of cases. There has been no influenza virus detected through the surveillance system in 2022 (source).

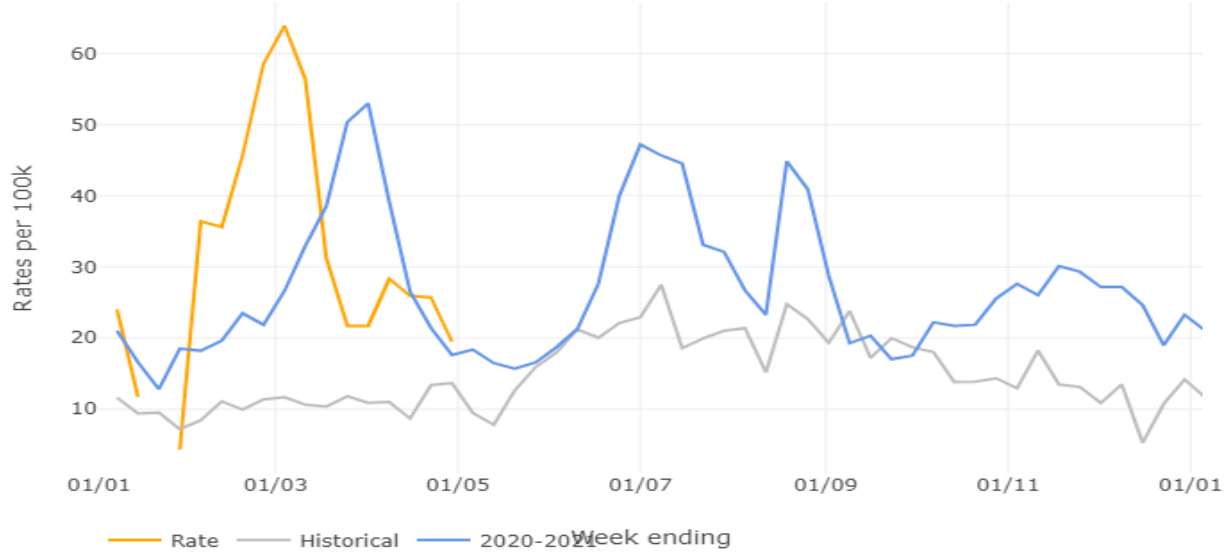
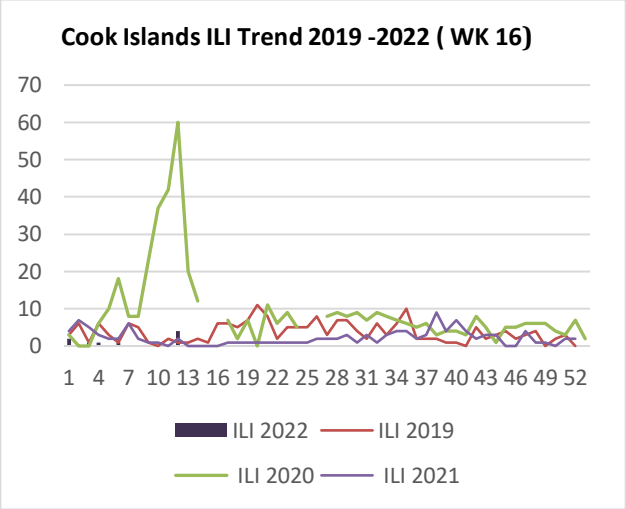
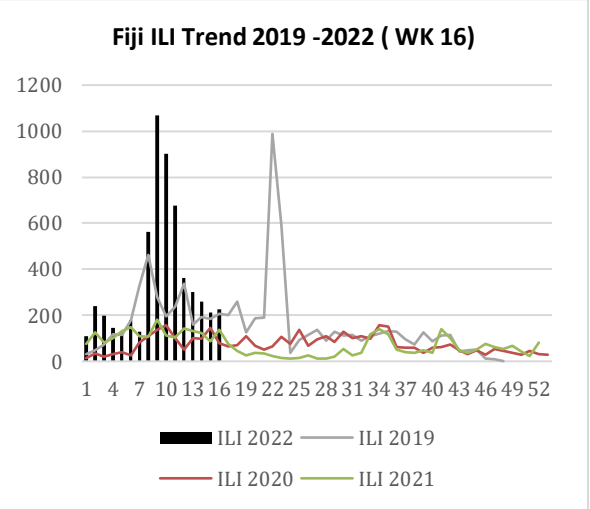


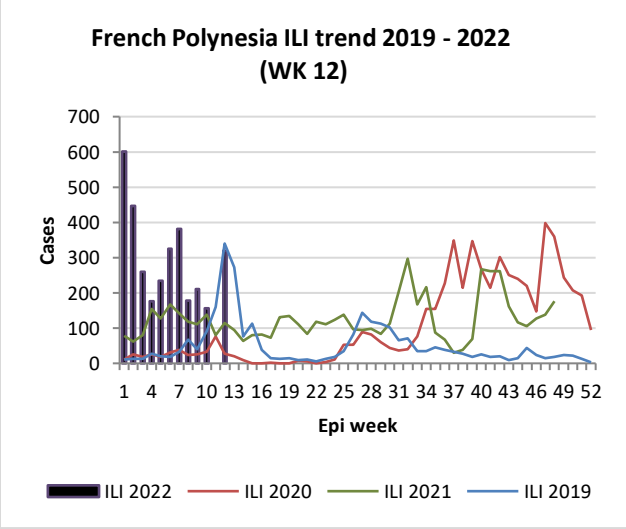
Figure 14: Weekly rates of general practice ILI consultations per 100,000 people in New Zealand in 2020-2021
(Source: New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research)

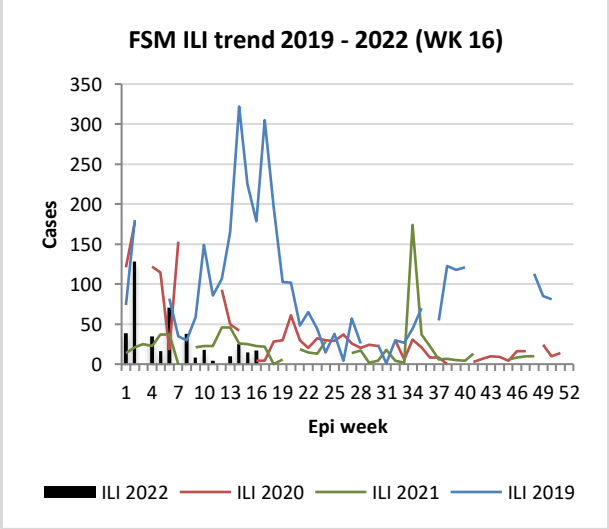
Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) - ILI Surveillance

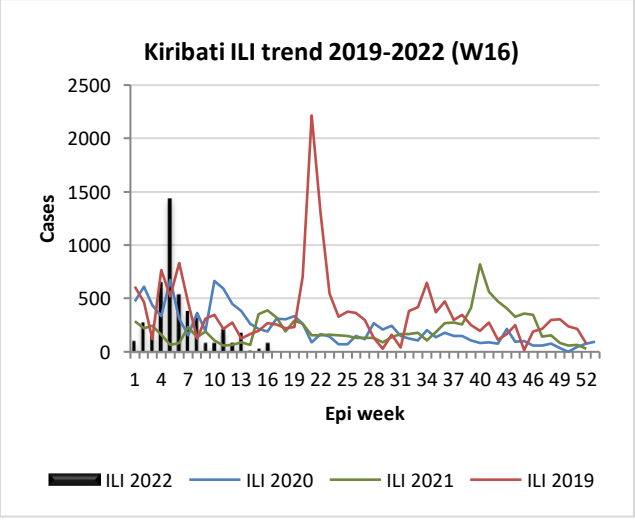
In week 16, 2022, low levels of influenza-like illness activity continue to be reported across the Pacific Island Countries and Areas **(Figure 15).**

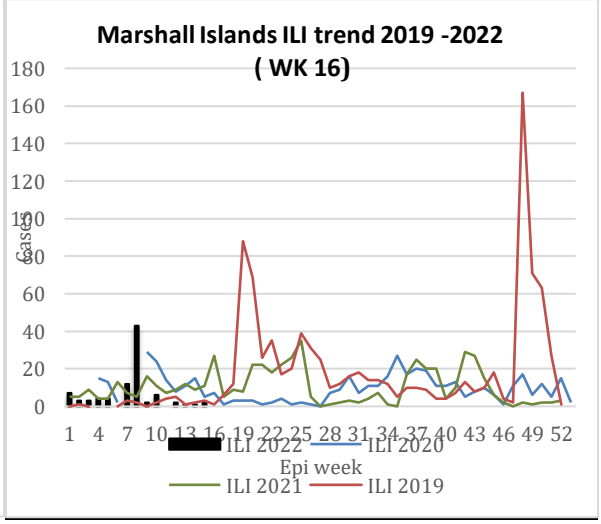


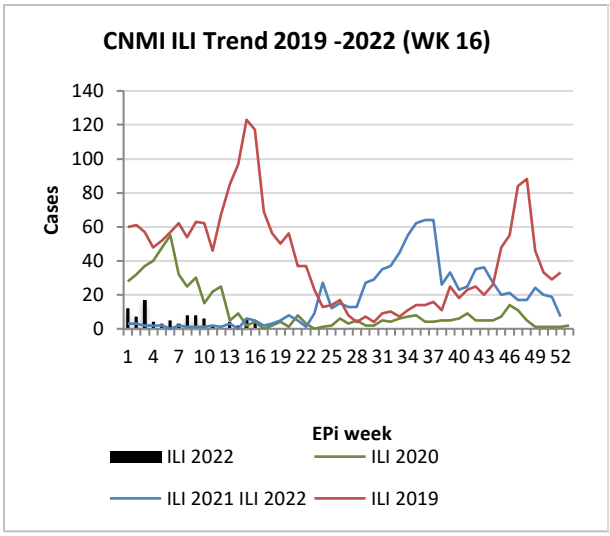


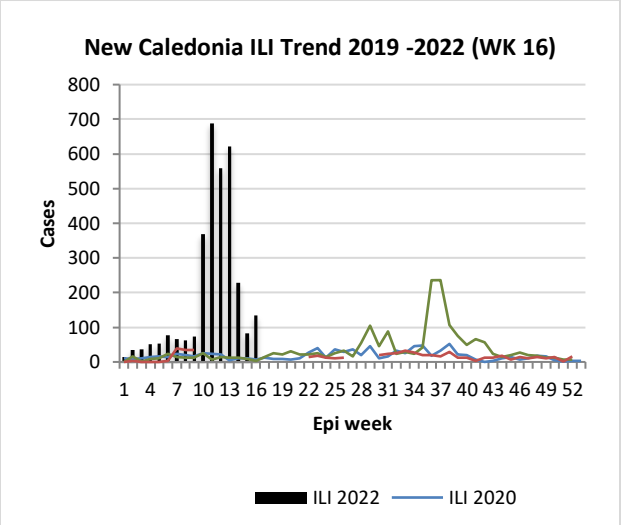


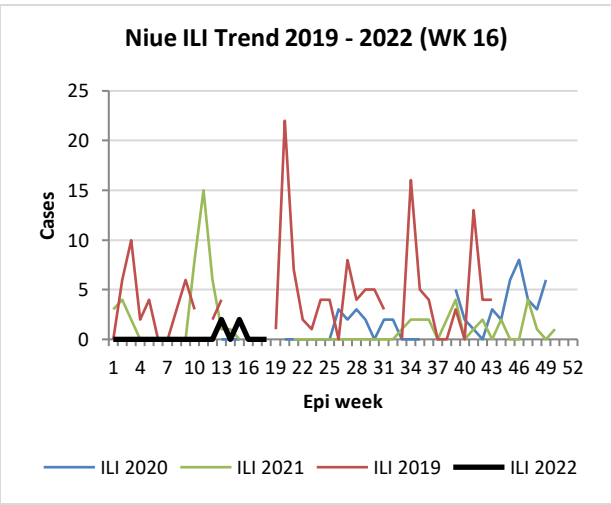







CNMI ILI Trend 2019 -2022 (WK 16)
Cases
EPi week
ILI 2022
ILI 2020
ILI 2021 ILI 2022
ILI 2019


New Caledonia ILI Trend 2019 -2022 (WK 16)
Cases
Epi week
ILI 2022
ILI 2020


Niue ILI Trend 2019 - 2022 (WK 16)
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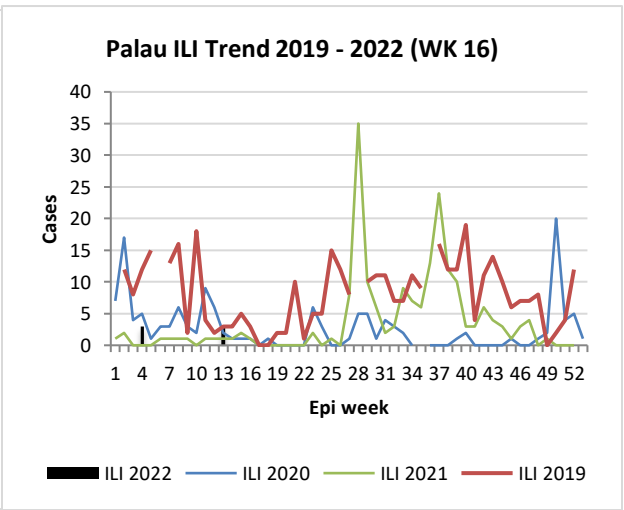
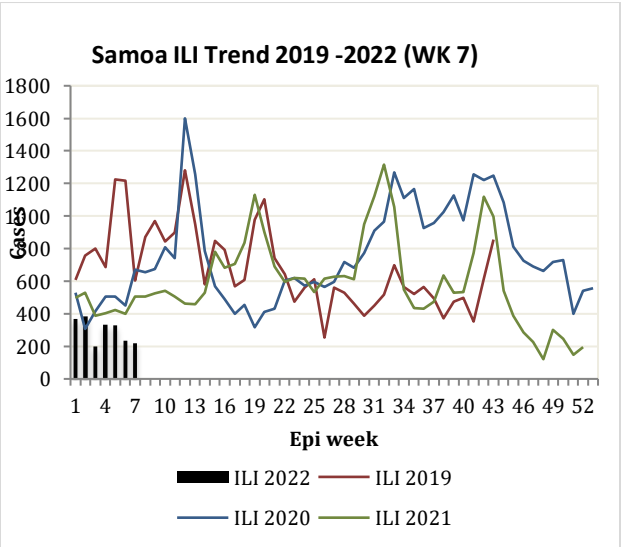
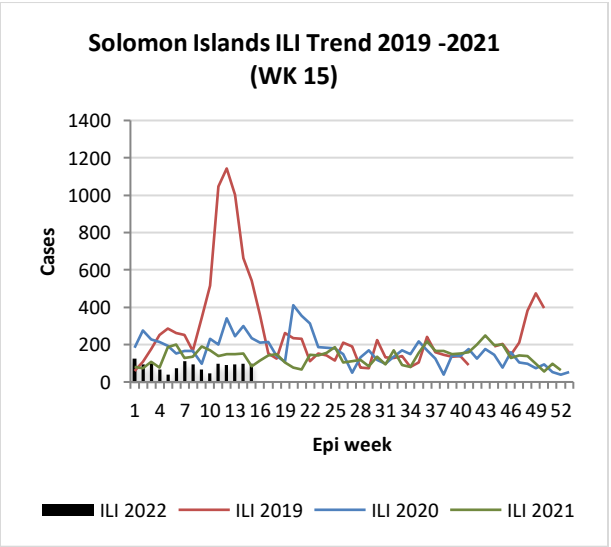
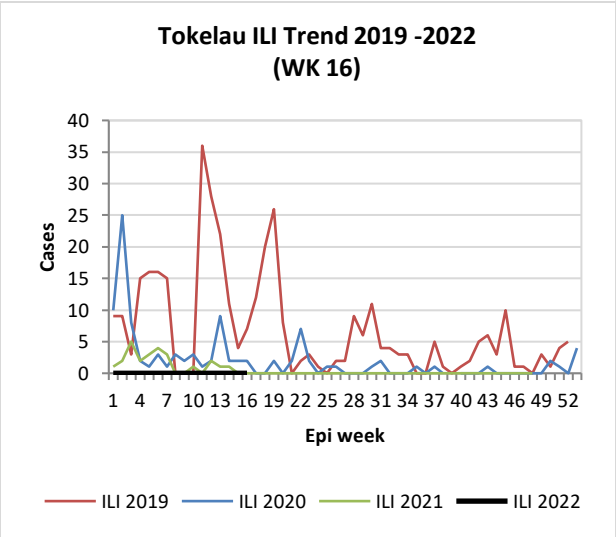
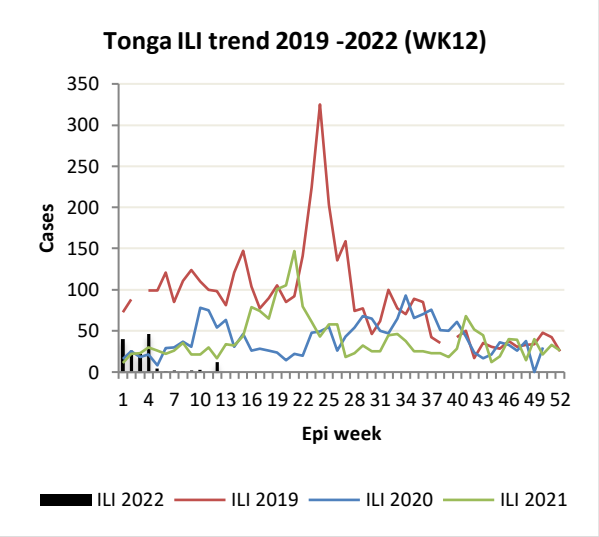
ILI 2019
ILI 2022

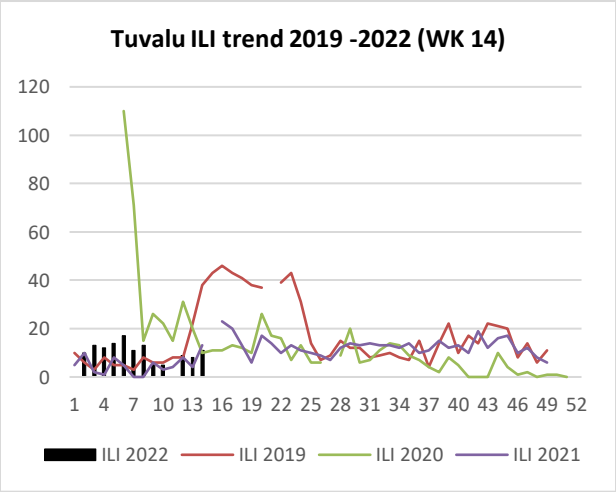

Palau ILI Trend 2019 - 2022 (WK 16)
Cases
Epi week
ILI 2022
ILI 2020
ILI 2021
ILI 2019

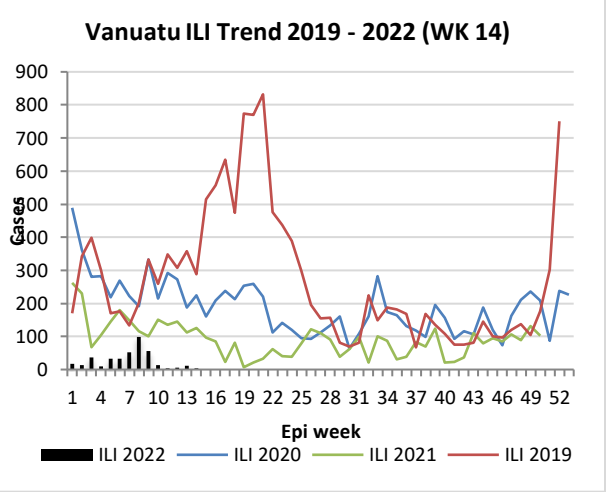

Samoa ILI Trend 2019 -2022 (WK 7)
Cases
Epi week
ILI 2022
ILI 2019
ILI 2020
ILI 2021

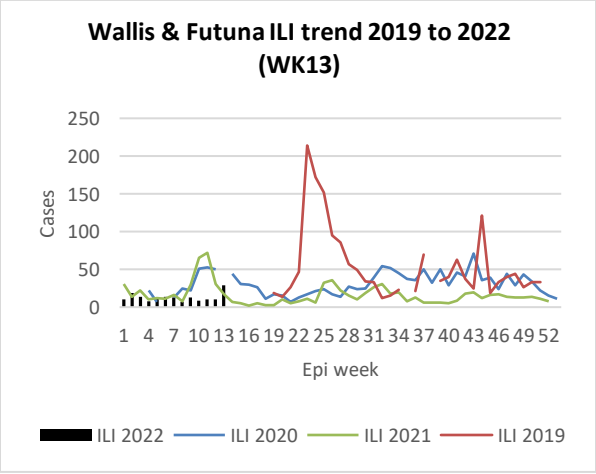

Solomon Islands ILI Trend 2019 -2021 (WK 15)
Cases
Epi week
ILI 2022
ILI 2019
ILI 2020
ILI 2021











* 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.

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

Figure 15: Reported cases of influenza-like illness in Pacific Island Countries, 2019-2022

(Source: Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System Weekly Bulletin)

Global influenza situation updates

Virological update

Global update

Others:

- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2022 southern hemisphere influenza season Link
- Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2022-2023 northern hemisphere influenza season 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