

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

FLUVIEW

Monthly Influenza surveillance report: “May 2009”

(All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received)

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Synopsis

PHL has started monthly ILI surveillance in sentinel sites as preparedness for H1N1 and H5N1 epidemic. However, flu surveillance will be instituted as regular event from henceforth to monitor the seasonal flu situation in the country to avert outbreaks and study the molecular epidemiology. This ILI surveillance report is for the month of May 2009 and is the first report of such kind disseminated by PHL.

- Influenza activity in the month of May cannot be ascertained since there is no national baseline for ILI.
- The proportion of outpatient visited for influenza-like illness (ILI) is similar in most sites
- Total 258 samples were tested by rapid test (QuickVue) from all the sites. 176 samples were sent to AFRIMS for subtyping.

Table No. 1: Selected surveillance components

Sites	Outpatient ILI (%)	% positive for Flu (rapid test)	Influenza subtype (PCR)			
			A (H1)	A(H3)	A un-subtyped	B
Paro hospital	1.688	6.66	*	*	*	*
Punakha hospital	14.219	0	*	*	*	*
Phuentsholing hospital	2.926	50	*	*	*	*
Gelephu R R hospital	2.172	34.86	*	*	*	*
Samtse hospital	1.688	14.08	-	-	-	-
S/Jongkhar hospital	3.785	27.27	-	-	-	-
JDWNRH	Not reported	-	-	-	-	-
Mongar R R hospital	Not reported	-	-	-	-	-
Trashigang hospital	Not reported	-	-	-	-	-

Outpatient ILI surveillance

The percentage of OPD patient visited for ILI in the month of May was 4.4%. Since there is no national baseline established, the ILI trend cannot be reported whether it is normal or elevated. However, all sites had reported similar ILI rate except Punakha which had higher side (Figure 1). The most affected age group by seasonal flu virus in the population is between 5-24 years which is a global trend (Figure 2).

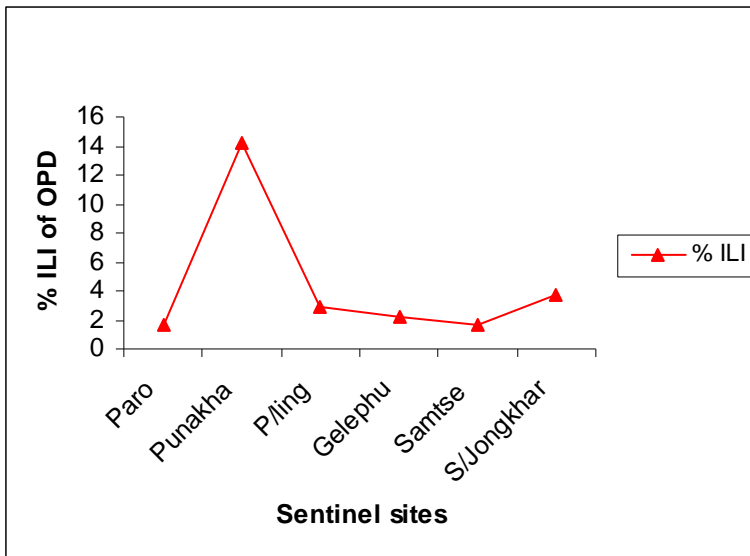


Figure 1: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) reported by each sites

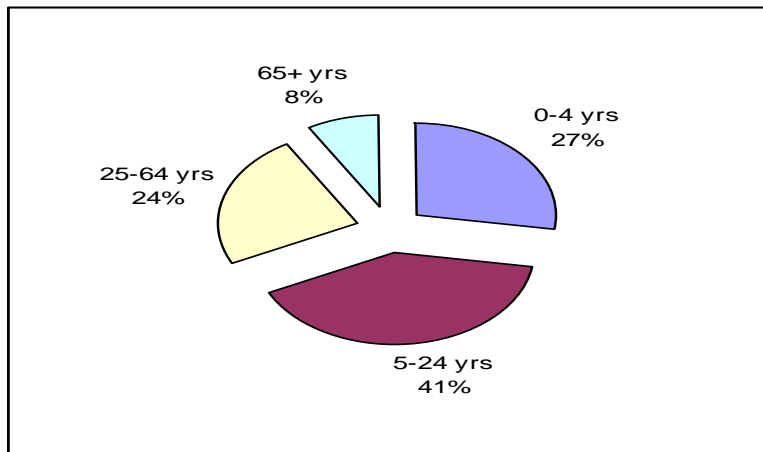


Figure 2: Age distribution among ILI cases

Virology surveillance

Test result by rapid kit shows influenza A virus type as common influenza virus circulating in the population of all sentinel sites. However, Gelephu has also reported significant number of influenza type B. The positive rate from each site is given in Table # 2. The virus subtyping and their distribution of will be analyzed once PHL gets PCR results from AFRIMS.

Table No. 2: Influenza virus type

Hospital	Total sample collected and tested	Rapid Result			
		Flu A	Flu B	Flu A B	% POSITIVE
JDW/NRH, Thimphu	44	0	0	0	0
Paro	15	1	0	0	6.66
Punakha	4	0	0	0	0
Phuntsholing	4	2	0	0	50
Gelephu	109	25	13	0	34.86
Samtse	71	10	0	0	14.08
Samdrup Jongkher	11	3	0	0	27.27

Table No. 3: Influenza virus subtyping by PCR

Hospital	Total sample collected and tested	Influenza Subtype (%)			
		A(H1)	A(H3)	A(unsubtyped)	B
JDW/NRH, Thimphu	44	*	*	*	*
Paro	15	*	*	*	*
Punakha	4	*	*	*	*
Phuntsholing	4	*	*	*	*
Gelephu	109	*	*	*	*
Samtse	Not possible to ship samples to PHL due to transportation problem at the moment				
Samdrup Jongkhar					