

Summary

The present report summarises the results obtained in the context of the virological surveillance activities in Italy, coordinated by the National Influenza Centre (NIC) laboratory at ISS, in collaboration with a network of 23 regional influenza laboratories (InfluNet).

During the twelfth week of virological surveillance (week 05/2023) for the 2022/2023 season, influenza virus circulation is declining in Italy, after registering a peak in the proportion of influenza positive specimens at the beginning of December. In particular, this week, 1,069 clinical specimens were received by the InfluNet network laboratories and, among the 992 analyzed samples, 83 (8.3%) resulted positive for influenza. Among these samples, 47 belonged to influenza type A (17 were H3N2, 20 were H1N1pdm09 and 10 have not been subtyped yet) and 36 to influenza type B.

Among the above analyzed samples, 52 (5.2%) resulted **SARS-CoV-2** and 268 were attributed to other respiratory viruses, in particular 136 (13.7%) **RSV**, 57 Rhinoviruses, 45 Metapneumoviruses, 15 Adenoviruses, 7 Parainfluenza viruses, 6 human Coronaviruses (not SARS-CoV-2) and 2 Bocaviruses.

So far, in the 2022/2023 influenza season (week 46/2022-05/2023), a large prevalence of influenza type A viruses (96%) has been observed, mostly belonging to the H3N2 subtype. In particular, among a total of 17,568 collected samples, 4,727 (27%) resulted positive for influenza, of which 4,544 (96%) were positive for influenza A and 183 (4%) for influenza B.

Among the influenza A viruses, 83.1% (N=3,779) were A(H3N2) and 8.4% (N=383) were A(H1N1)pdm09; the remaining 382 A strains have not been subtyped yet.

Additional information and data for this report may be found in the full Italian version.

WHO NATIONAL INFLUENZA CENTRE/NIC-DMI Laboratory team:

S. Puzelli, M. Facchini, G. Di Mario, A. Di Martino, L. Calzoletti, C. Fabiani *Department of Infectious Diseases, ISS Viale Regina Elena, 299 - Rome*