

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 eighteenth week of virological surveillance (week 11/2023) for the 2022/2023 season, influenza virus circulation is quite stable in Italy, after the peak registered at the end of 2022. The proportion of influenza positive specimens observed this week slightly increased (16.2%), in comparison to the previous one (14.4%). In particular, this week, 866 clinical specimens were received by the InfluNet network laboratories and, among the 819 analyzed samples, 133 (16.2%) resulted positive for influenza. Among these samples, 37 belonged to influenza type A (1 was H3N2, 21 were H1N1pdm09 and 15 have not been subtyped yet) and 96 to influenza type B.

Among the above analyzed samples, 47 (5.7%) resulted **SARS-CoV-2** and 155 were attributed to other respiratory viruses, in particular 54 (6.6%) Rhinoviruses, 35 (4.3%) Adenoviruses, 27 (3.3%) Metapneumoviruses, 19 Parainfluenza viruses, 14 RSV, 5 human Coronaviruses (not SARS-CoV-2) and one Bocavirus.

So far, in the 2022/2023 influenza season (week 46/2022-11/2023), a large prevalence of influenza type A viruses (84.8%) has been observed, mostly belonging to the H3N2 subtype. In particular, among a total of 24,238 collected samples, 5,786 (23.8%) resulted positive for influenza, of which 4,908 (84.8%) were positive for influenza A and 878 (15.2%) for influenza B.

Among the influenza A viruses, 80.4% (N=3,948) were A(H3N2) and 12.6% (N=621) were A(H1N1)pdm09; the remaining 339 A strains have not been subtyped yet.

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

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