

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 twenty-first week of virological surveillance (week 14/2023) for the 2022/2023 season, influenza virus circulation continues to decline in Italy, after the peak registered at the end of 2022. The proportion of influenza positive specimens observed this week (9%) decreased in comparison to the previous one (12.5%). In particular, this week, 542 clinical specimens were received by the InfluNet network laboratories and, among the 511 analyzed samples, 46 (9%) resulted positive for influenza. Among these samples, 15 belonged to influenza type A (12 were H1N1pdm09 and 3 have not been subtyped yet) and 31 to influenza type B.

Among the above analyzed samples, 18 (3.5%) resulted **SARS-CoV-2** and 112 were attributed to other respiratory viruses, in particular 40 (7.8%) Rhinoviruses, 25 (4.9%) Adenoviruses, 24 (4.7%) Parainfluenza viruses, 13 Metapneumoviruses, 6 human Coronaviruses (not SARS-CoV-2), 3 RSV and one Bocavirus.

So far, in the 2022/2023 influenza season (week 46/2022-14/2023), a prevalence of influenza type A viruses (80.7%) has been observed, mostly belonging to the H3N2 subtype. In particular, among a total of 26,756 collected samples, 6,181 (23.1%) resulted positive for influenza, of which 4,992 (80.7%) were positive for influenza A and 1,189 (19.3%) for influenza B.

Among the influenza A viruses, 79.2% (N=3,954) were A(H3N2) and 13.9% (N=696) were A(H1N1)pdm09; the remaining 342 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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