

NOVELTIES IN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE IN POLAND IN THE EPIDEMIC SEASON 2013/2014

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Influenza was and still is one of the basic priorities of the public health. Effective control of threats related to influenza depends on its efficient surveillance, which must include collecting data about incidence – epidemiological surveillance and laboratory confirmed cases – virological surveillance.

In the epidemic season 2013/2014 new, web-based system for collecting, reporting, and analysis of epidemiological and virological data, pertaining to viruses causing influenza and influenza-like infections was established.

The key modification is detailed classification of incidence cases to new, expanded age groups. Age group 5- 14 years was divided into two new groups: 5- 9 years and 10- 14 years, whereas age group 15- 64 years was divided into three groups: 15- 25 years, 26- 44 years and 45- 64 years. This change will allow to collect more precise data, and thus higher transparency of achieved results. Running this kind of system will also substantially facilitate updating of epidemiological, as well as virological data. The system will be covering 16 Voivodship Sanitary Epidemiological Stations, but will be coordinated by Department of Influenza Research, National Influenza Centre in National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene, Warsaw, Poland. New classification into seven age groups presents as follows: 0-4 years, 5- 9 years, 10- 14 years, 15- 25 years, 26- 44 years, 45- 64 years and ≥ 65 years. Data will cover SENTINEL and NON – SENTINEL data.