

**VIROLOGICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION IN THE 2016/2017 AND 2017/2018 INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC SEASONS IN POLAND.**

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The World Health Organization estimates that every year in the world the influenza virus causes infection in 3-5 million people, of which 290 000 to 650 000 people die. In Poland in the 2016/2017 epidemic season, the incidence per 100 000 population was 1692.16. However, in the 2017/2018 epidemic season, this value already exceeds 1782.61 per 100 000 population by August. In the 2017/2018 epidemic season, the dominant virus in Poland was the type B influenza virus, while the A/H1N1/pdm09 strain was dominant among the subtypes of influenza A virus. For comparison, in the previous season the dominant strain was A/H3N2/. The peak of illness, taking into account the number of positive clinical materials, in the 2017/2018 epidemic season was recorded in the 8th week of 2018, in the previous season in the 3rd week of 2017. From the 2017/2018 epidemic season in Poland is available a quadrivalent vaccine, consisting of two types influenza A antigens and two types influenza B antigens. The percentage of the vaccinated polish population is one of the lowest in Europe, fluctuating between 3-4%.