

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE VIRUSES IN CHILDREN AGED UNDER 14 YEARS IN THE EPIDEMIC SEASON 2015/2016 IN POLAND

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Influenza is an infectious disease caused by influenza A and B viruses. Children are the group which is the most exposed to influenza and influenza-like infections. They are considered as carriers of influenza infections in the population. In the epidemic season 2015/2016 more than 8,000 samples were tested, of which over 30% were specimens collected from patients aged 0-14 years. In 42.3% cases the influenza or influenza-like viruses were confirmed. The most common subtype was A/H1N1/pdm09. Analysis of positive specimens was categorized into 3 smaller groups 0-4, 5-9, 10-14. Differences in the frequency of virus detections in younger age groups appeared. This study has shown that children are a very important group in the spread of the influenza virus in the population. A higher percentage of vaccinated children would decrease the number of infected patients in the whole population.

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