

**GVP Express**



Dr. Herman Lau, Cluster Service Coordinator (Allied Health), as a GVP ambassador coordinating and promoting the VOW for physiotherapists.

Ms. Gloria Chiu and the infection control nurses are actively promoting the importance of seasonal influenza vaccination at PWH.

Starting from 10 Oct, HA has been encouraging the colleagues to receive seasonal influenza vaccination as early as possible. To promote vaccination, hospitals organize various activities and offer modest incentives. In addition, the vaccination logistics are made easier to staff.

department to drive influenza vaccination. The ambassadors join the Vaccination on Wheel (VOW) for promoting staff vaccination in his or her department.

In NTEC, at least one ambassador is appointed in each

As of 15 Nov, the coverage of seasonal influenza in NTEC (48.35%) was the highest among the seven clusters.

**Sharing of “Regional Symposium on AMR: Fighting AMR – Partnerships in Action”**

A two-day Regional Symposium on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) organized by HKSAR Government took place on 13 Nov 2018, in conjunction with World Health Organization’s World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2018. AMR has already been detected in all parts of the world and is a significant and increasing threat to global public health. **One Health** approach for humans, animals, food and environment to combat AMR has been promoted.

It is estimated that in the US and Europe alone, AMR infections currently cause at least 50,000 deaths per year and 10 million people a year could be dying by 2050 if it cannot be brought under control. Apart from human suffering, AMR increase economic burden on health care systems and societies. To lessen the acceleration of AMR, a number of recommendations were made to tackle AMR globally:

- Regular global public awareness campaign on AMR;
- Improve hygiene and sanitation both in the community and hospitals;
- Reduce unnecessary use of antimicrobials in agriculture and the environment;
- Improve global integrated surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial use in humans and animals;
- Promote vaccines and alternatives more widely in humans and animals to prevent infections;
- Invest in research and development (R&D) of rapid diagnostic tools and new antimicrobials including setting up a global innovation fund and providing commercial incentives for R&D.
- Establish international coalition for actions on AMR.



Reference: The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, [Tackling drug-resistant infections globally: Final report and recommendations](#). May, 2016

**Norovirus activity on increasing trend**

Positive rate of RT-PCR test for norovirus (raw data from CDARS) has been progressively increasing from around 3-4% (week 28-37) to around 10-13% in the recent 5 weeks (week 41-45). The weekly positive rate in figure 1 indicates that the positive rate during winter peak season is usually ranged within 10-15% and very likely the winter season has started. Historical data indicated that around 60% of positive specimens were from children within 0-7 years old and around 20% were from elderly aged 65 years old or above.

According to the HA inpatient (IP) ICD9 diagnosis data from CDARS, while the majority of enterovirus infection cases (over 70%) are still children within 0-4 years old, the seasonal pattern have changed from single peak within 2010-2013 (usually the three months with the highest case number were May to July) to bimodal (with a drop in Aug) in the recent years. (Figure 2) The extended peak seasons increased the annual number of IP episodes with enterovirus infection from around 2,000 or below within 2010-2013 to more than 3,000 episodes since 2015 (over 3,800 in 2017).

Activities of various respiratory viruses tested by PHLSB are generally stable in recent weeks with rhinovirus/enterovirus as the most active viruses and followed by parainfluenza (with increasing trend). While influenza activity remains low, the positive rate slightly increased in the last three weeks.

Figure 1: Norovirus – Weekly number of patients tested and positive rate

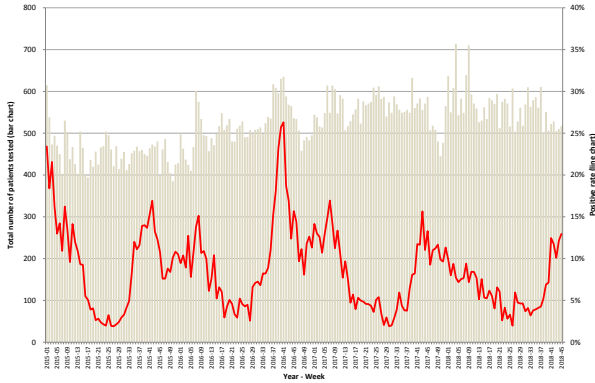
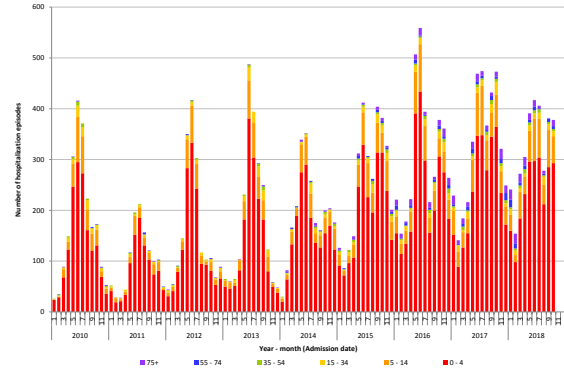


Figure 2: Hospitalization episodes with enterovirus infection by admission age (monthly by admission date)



**KCC Infection Control Day**



KCC Infection Control Day was successfully held on 16 November. This year, Professor Joseph Kwan and Professor K L Yeung from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology were invited to share innovative technology in water disinfection, and the use of novel nano-coating to reduce bioburden in hospital environment, including privacy curtains.

During the event, the departments/ units with good performance in hand hygiene were recognized with awards. The overall hand hygiene compliance was satisfactory and the rate was over 85% throughout the year of 2017.

One of the game booths, “Get to Know MDROs” allowed staff to see the arsenal of tests used in identifying multi-drug resistant organisms, and how these bugs looked like in the laboratory. Besides, participants could visualize their hand hygiene effectiveness using the Hand-in-Scan machine. A self-cleaning keyboard and an UV-C equipment for probe disinfection were displayed in the “New Technology and Infection Control” booth. More importantly, influenza vaccination depot was set up to facilitate staff to get the flu shots.



(From left to right) Dr. Dominic Tsang (Cluster ICO of KCC), Dr. Christopher Lai (ICO of KH) and Dr. Albert Lo (CCE of KCC) demonstrated the seven steps of hand hygiene.

Everyone had a great time having fun and gained infection control knowledge in the event.