

Respiratory infections

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Influenza and influenza-like viruses as a frequent cause of infections among children under 14 years of age during the 2016/2017 epidemic season

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Influenza is an infectious disease that is a common cause of infection among children. The main reason for it is the extremely low percentage of vaccinated people in Poland. In the epidemic season 2016/2017 more than 3,000 tests from children up to age 14 were examined. The dominance of subtype A/H3N2/ was confirmed. The analysis was categorized into 3 smaller age groups (0-4, 5-9, 10-14 years), which revealed significant differences. The highest number of samples was in the 0-4 age group. The highest percentage of positive samples in the 10-14 age group was obtained. Influenza-like influenza viruses, among them the RS virus, were also observed. Studies have shown that children because of poorly developed immune systems are a group at risk for influenza. Due to the lack of vaccination, serious complications may occur.