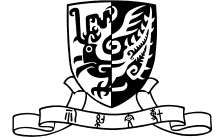


# 新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE



To News Editor  
For Immediate Release

18 June 2009

## **CUHK and the Hong Kong Observatory Release Results of Study on Relationship between Weather and Influenza Activity in Hong Kong**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the Hong Kong Observatory announced today (18 June) the results of the recent joint study on the relationship between weather and influenza activity in Hong Kong. The study analysed the information of the laboratory-confirmed influenza A and B cases admitted to the Prince of Wales Hospital and the Observatory's weather data recorded at Shatin from 1997 to 2006.

The study found that, in general, there were more influenza A- than influenza B-associated admissions in Hong Kong. The two types of influenza showed a different relationship with weather conditions. Influenza A had two seasonal peaks in Hong Kong which occurred respectively in winter/spring months (February to March) and summer months (June to July). This observation is in contrast with the situation in temperate regions where only a single winter peak is observed annually. Influenza B also had a clear winter/spring peak, but its activity during the summer months was more variable.

It was also found that cold and humid conditions were associated with a higher level of activity of both influenza A and B in winter/spring months. In contrast, hot and humid conditions in summer months were associated with a higher level of activity of influenza A, but the association was not obvious for influenza B.

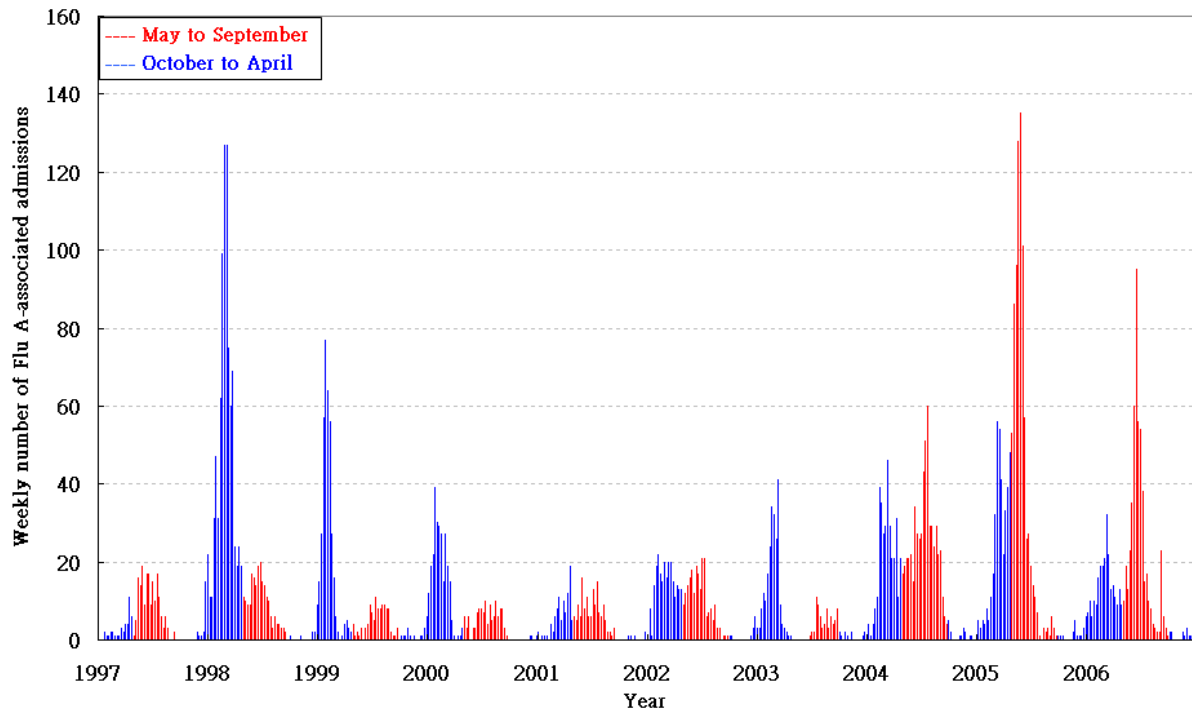
Furthermore, for influenza A, a shift in the relative magnitude of the two seasonal peaks was observed. In the early part of the study period (1998-2000), the magnitude of the winter/spring peak of Influenza A was higher than the summer peak. Towards the latter part of the study period (2004-2006), the magnitude of the summer peak had become larger than the winter/spring peak.

In view of the above results, Professor Paul Chan Kay-sheung of the Department of Microbiology of CUHK remarked that the emergence of a second seasonal peak of influenza A activity in summer in Hong Kong, particularly its recent trend of increase in magnitude, calls for special attention on the timing of vaccination as well as its duration of protection. November to December is the best period for vaccination since its effectiveness will be decreased if it is administered too early or too late.

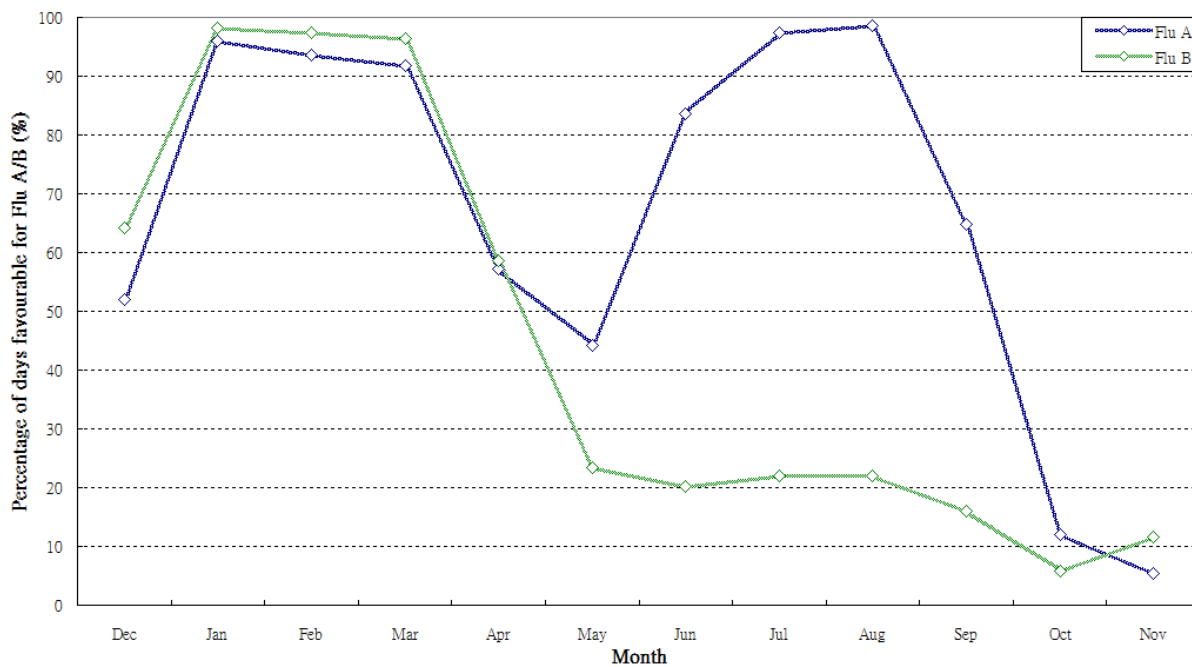
Mr Mok Hing-yim, Senior Scientific Officer of the Hong Kong Observatory expected that the weather conditions in Hong Kong in this summer would be near normal. The public is advised to pay attention to personal and public hygiene in the coming months.

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For media enquiries, please contact Professor Paul Chan Kay-sheung (CUHK) at 2632 2887 or Mr. Mok Hing-yim (Senior Scientific Officer, Hong Kong Observatory) at 2926 8451.



**Figure 1. Number of weekly influenza A – associated admissions recorded at the Prince of Wales Hospital from 1997 to 2006**



**Figure 2. Average monthly percentage of days favourable for peak activity of influenza A and B in 1997 to 2006**

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致新聞編輯  
請即發放

中大與天文台發佈  
「香港天氣與流感活躍度之關係」研究結果

香港中文大學（中大）醫學院微生物學系及香港天文台今天（六月十八日）聯合公佈「香港天氣與流感活躍度之關係」的研究結果。研究分析了 1997 年至 2006 年經沙田威爾斯親王醫院實驗室確診的甲型及乙型流感入院個案，以及香港天文台在沙田區錄得的天氣數據。

研究發現，香港因患上甲型流感而入院的人數一般比乙型流感的為多，而兩類流感的活躍度與天氣的關係則各有差異。在香港，甲型流感有兩個季節性高峰，分別為冬季/春季（二月至三月）及夏季（六月至七月）。這個現象有別於甲型流感在溫帶地區每年只出現一個冬季高峰的情況。乙型流感方面，於冬季/春季亦有一個明顯的高峰，但每年夏季的活躍度則有較大的差異（見圖一及圖二）。

研究又發現，甲型及乙型流感在冬季/春季期間高度活躍，這與寒冷及潮濕的天氣有關。而在夏天，炎熱及潮濕的天氣與甲型流感的高活躍度有關，但與乙型流感的關係則不明顯。

另外，甲型流感在兩個季節高峰的相對強度亦出現變化。早期（1998 年至 2000 年），冬季/春季流感高峰強度明顯高於夏季，但到了後期（2004 年至 2006 年），夏季流感高峰強度卻高於冬季/春季（見圖一）。

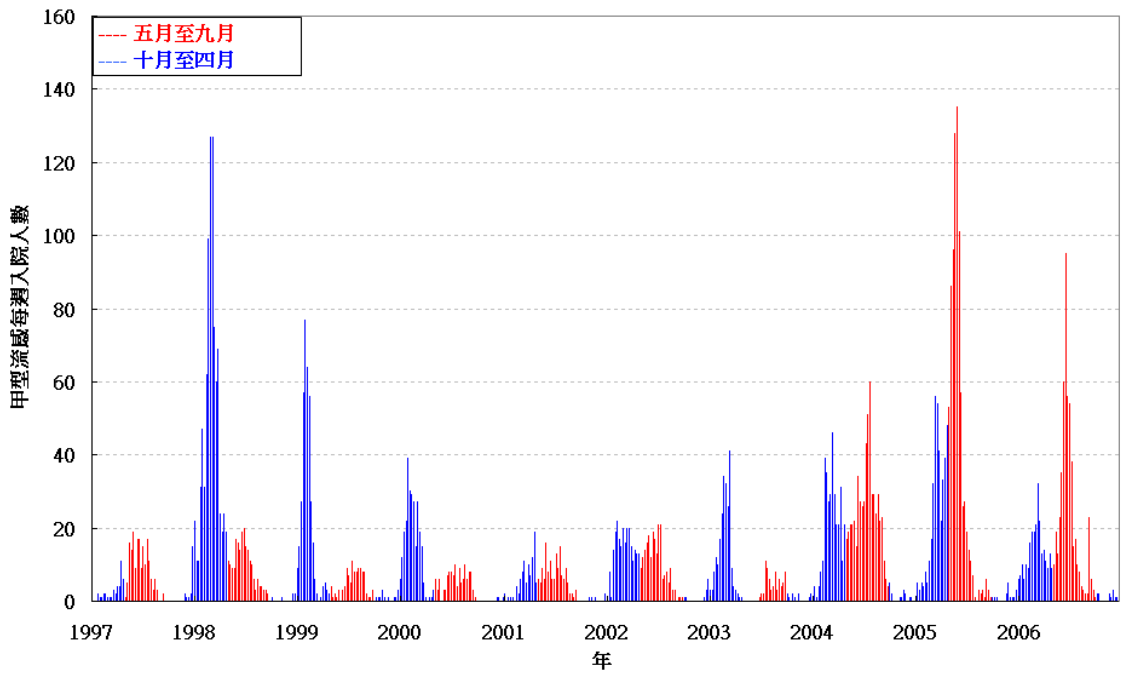
綜合以上的研究結果，中大醫學院微生物學系陳基湘教授指出，鑑於甲型流感的第二個季節性高峰為夏季，而該高峰的強度近年有上升趨勢，市民必須特別留意注射疫苗的時間及疫苗的有效抗疫期。十一月至十二月是注射疫苗的最佳時間，提早或延遲注射都會減弱疫苗的抗疫能力。

香港天文台高級科學主任莫慶炎先生預計今年夏天的天氣將會接近正常，市民在未來數個月需特別注意個人及公眾衛生。

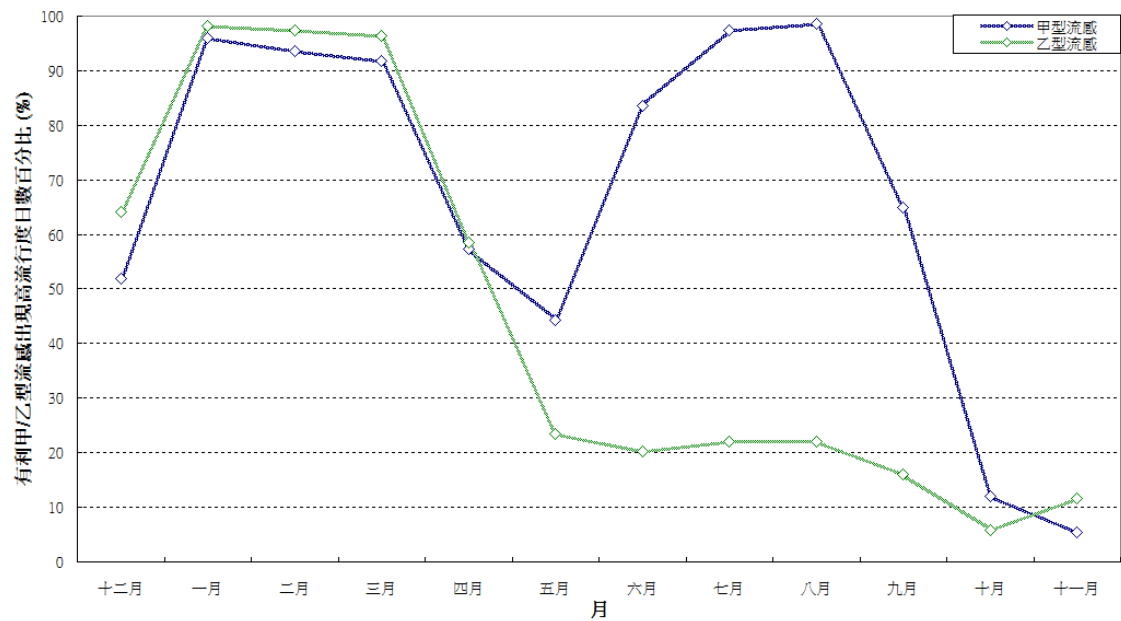
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傳媒查詢：中大醫學院微生物學系陳基湘教授（電話：2632 2887）或香港天文台高級科學主任莫慶炎先生（電話：2926 8451）

二零零九年六月十八日



圖一. 1997 年至 2006 年威爾斯親王醫院每週甲型流感入院人數



圖二. 1997 年至 2006 年每月有利於甲型及乙型流感高活躍度日數百分比的平均值

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