

## **Influenza season 2016-2017**

In Lithuania during 2016-2017 flu season registered fewer cases of flu, hospitalizations and deaths. During influenza season 2016-2017, of all influenza viruses which were circulating in the environment Influenza A (H3N2) virus dominated whole 2016-2017 season (79,8 %) like in Europe (75,9 %)<sup>1</sup>.

During influenza season 2016-2017, 8,4 % of the population of Lithuania were vaccinated, compared to 7.3 % in 2015-2016. Compared to vaccination coverage in other EU countries, (in the risk group of 65 years old and above) influenza vaccination coverage in Lithuania is among the lowest, followed only by Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Latvia and Estonia<sup>2</sup>.

During 2016-2017 season were hospitalized 1234 persons (2015-2016 season – 1843). In 2016-2017 influenza season were registered 3 deaths from influenza and all persons were older than 80 years and weren't vaccinated although they belonged to 65 years and older risk group and had the opportunity to receive a seasonal flu vaccine for free. Flu epidemic has been in 24 municipalities of 60.

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<sup>1</sup> Risk assessment of seasonal influenza 2016-2017, EU/EEA countries.

<https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/media/en/publications/Publications/Risk-assessment-seasonal-influenza-2016-2017-update.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Seasonal influenza vaccination and antiviral use in Europe. Overview of vaccination recommendations and coverage rates in the EU Member States for the 2013–14 and 2014–15 influenza seasons <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/Seasonal-influenza-vaccination-antiviral-use-europe.pdf>