

## Influenza season 2014-2015

Influenza season 2014-2015 in Lithuania was characterized by different features than the previous one – the incidence rates for influenza and ARI as well as the number of hospitalizations during the influenza season were higher. During influenza season 2014-2015, of all influenza viruses which were circulating in the environment A (H3N2) influenza virus accounted for most of the influenza cases in the country (49.6 %). In Europe A (H3N2) influenza virus accounted for 73 % of all influenza viruses<sup>5</sup>.

During influenza season 2014-2015, 7,5 % of the population of Lithuania were vaccinated, compared to 7.4% in 2013-2014, hence vaccination coverage increased by 0.1 %. 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, Poland, Latvia<sup>6</sup>.

A number of 903 individuals were hospitalized in 2014-2015 compared to 612 in influenza season 2013 – 2014. Children (0-17 years of age) accounted for the major part of the hospitalized (603 cases compared to 535 over 2013-2014). 46 persons were hospitalized in intensive care units due to influenza compared to 10 persons over 2013-2014). 10 pregnant women were hospitalized compared to zero such cases in 2013-2014. No influenza related deaths were reported.