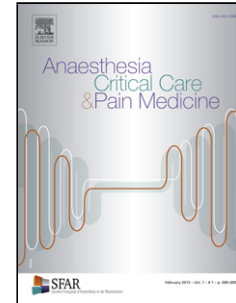


## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Austral Influenza Outbreak and its impact on an Intensive Care Unit

Author: David Vandroux Jérôme Allyn Bernard-Alex Gaüzère Olivier Martinet Julien Jabot



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**Title.** Austral Influenza Outbreak and its impact on an Intensive Care Unit.

**Classification.** Letter.

**Authors.** David Vandroux<sup>ab</sup>, Jérôme Allyn<sup>a</sup>, Bernard-Alex Gaüzère<sup>b</sup>, Olivier Martinet<sup>a</sup>, Julien Jabot<sup>a</sup>

**Affiliations.** a. Intensive Care Unit, Félix Guyon Hospital, University Teaching Hospital of La Réunion, CS11021, 97400 Saint Denis, Reunion Island, France. b. René Labusquiere Centre of Tropical Medicine, University of Bordeaux, 146 rue Léo Saignat, Case 58, 33076 Bordeaux Cedex, France.

**Corresponding author.** David Vandroux. Intensive Care Unit, Félix Guyon Hospital, University Teaching Hospital of La Réunion, allée des topazes, CS11021, 97400 Saint Denis, Reunion Island, France.

(33)-262905696.

**Email.** [vandroux.david@gmail.com](mailto:vandroux.david@gmail.com)

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Reunion Island, a French overseas territory (842,767 inhabitants, 2014 estimate), is located in the southern hemisphere in the south-western Indian Ocean. As seasons are inverted with the northern hemisphere, the increase in influenza activity is observed several months earlier than in Europe, during the austral winter (June-September). The influenza surveillance system provides valuable information in terms of previsions as collected information anticipates that observed in Europe [1]. Our aim was to describe the characteristics of patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit Saint-Denis Hospital with influenza infection during the 2017 outbreak. We also evaluated the workload of such an outbreak on hospitalisation capacities in an ICU. Influenza cases were defined as patients admitted in ICU of the University Teaching Hospital Félix Guyon from May 15 to October 29 and as having a positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) in nasopharyngeal or respiratory tract samples, using Xpert flu/VRS<sup>R</sup> (GeneXpert) or the multiplex kit FTD-Respiratory pathogens 21<sup>R</sup> (Fast-Track Diagnostic).

Between May 15<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup>, 476 patients were hospitalised in ICU including 37 with Influenza

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