**Abstract**

The paper aims to investigate herd immunity to influenza viruses among the Russian population in the fall of 2018, analyze severe cases in the epidemic season of 2018-2019 and confirmed influenza cases among the immunized population. In total, 1835 blood sera samples were studied. None of the samples responded to highly pathogenic viruses A(H5N8) and A(H7N9) in the HI test. Depending on the region of sampling from 41 to 58 percent of sera samples showed significant antibody titers (40 and above) against vaccine strain A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1pdm09). From 40 to 63 percent of the same sera were positive to epidemic strain A/Lipetsk/1V/2018 (H1N1pdm09) isolated in the beginning of the epidemic season (26 November 2018). From 26 to 46 percent of samples were seropositive to vaccine strain A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2), and from 10 to 23 percent – to influenza B virus of Yamagata line. In the epidemic season of 2018-2019 severe cases were typically caused by influenza A viruses, especially of A/H1N1pdm09 strain (52.5 percent). Influenza B viruses resulted in 3 percent of morbidity. It was confirmed 217 fatal cases with about a half cases (44.7 percent) among the age group of 60 years and older, and 29 percent – among the 46-59-years age group. Eight fatal cases (3.7 percent) were registered among people having been immunized with influenza vaccine shortly before the epidemic season. More than 75 percent of people who died from influenza had suffered from co-existing diseases, especially cardiovascular, obesity, diabetes, urinary track system diseases, and infectious diseases (HIV and hepatitis). Thus, vaccination remains the most efficient approach in influenza prevention particularly for people in risk groups. This work was supported by State Assignment no. 1/16 and 2/18 (SRC VB “Vector”).