

# Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summer Report

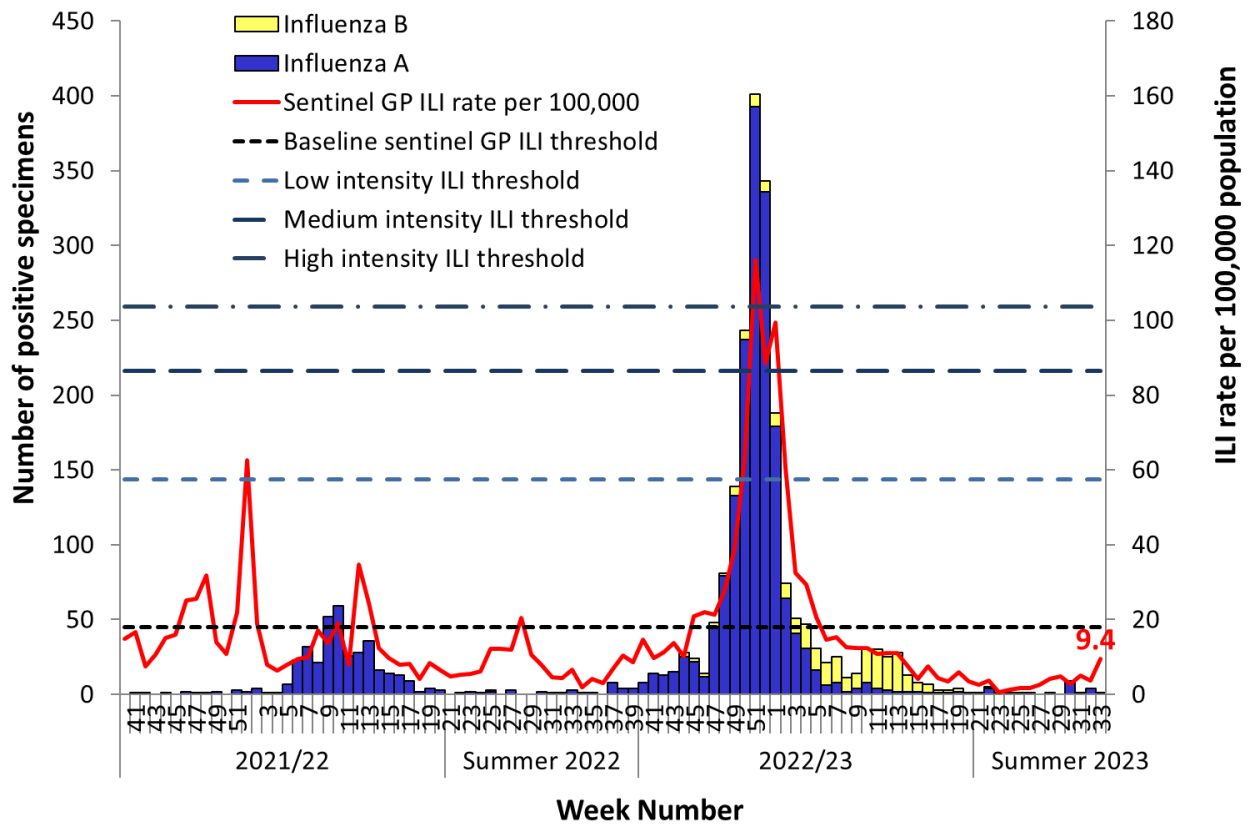
Weeks 30 -33 2023 (24<sup>th</sup> July – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023)



## Summary

All indicators of influenza activity were at low levels in Ireland during weeks 30-33 2023. Sporadic influenza cases have been detected during this period. RSV notifications remain low. HPSC will continue to actively monitor influenza and other respiratory virus activity during the summer period and publish reports on a monthly basis.

- **Influenza-like illness (ILI):** The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate remained low and below baseline levels during week 33 at a rate of 9.4/100,000 and ranged from 2.8/100,000 to 9.4/100,000 population during weeks 30-33 2023. The sentinel GP ILI consultation rate has been below the Irish baseline threshold level (18.1/100,000 population) since week 6 2023. Sentinel GP ILI consultation rates were below age specific thresholds for all age groups during weeks 30-33 2023 except in those aged 65 years and older for whom the rate was 22.5/100,000 during week 33
- **GP Out of Hours:** The proportion of self-reported 'flu' calls to GP Out-of-Hours services remained low and below baseline levels during weeks 30-33 2023, ranging from 0.4% to 0.5%. The proportion of cough calls was below baseline levels for weeks 30-33, ranging from 6.7% to 7.5%.
- **National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL):** There were four (3%) influenza detections; three A(H1)pdm09 and one influenza A not subtyped from the 135 sentinel GP ARI specimens tested during weeks 30-33 2023. Of 432 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested during the reporting period, 11 (2.5%) were positive for influenza including five A(H3) and five A(H1)pdm09 and one influenza A unsubtype. The weekly influenza positivity rate from non-sentinel respiratory specimens ranged from 0.9 to 5.1% during the reporting period.
- During weeks 30-33, the NVRL reported the following positive respiratory virus detections: rhinovirus/enterovirus (n=86), human metapneumovirus (n=4), parainfluenza 3 (PIV-3) virus (n=15) and other respiratory viruses (ORV) (n=44).
- **Influenza and RSV notifications:** 61 laboratory confirmed influenza cases – 13 A(H1)pdm09, 3 A(H3), 36 A (not subtyped) and 9 influenza B were notified during weeks 30-33 2023. Twenty-nine RSV cases were notified during weeks 30-33 2023. Weekly notifications are reported in <https://www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases/weeklyidreports/>
- **Hospitalisations:** 12 laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified during weeks 30-33 2023: four A(H1)pdm09, four influenza A (not subtyped), one A (H3) and three influenza B cases.
- **Intensive care admissions:** No laboratory confirmed influenza cases were admitted to an intensive care unit and reported to HPSC during weeks 30-33 2023.
- **Mortality:** There were no deaths in influenza cases notified to HPSC during weeks 30-33 2023. No excess all-cause mortality was reported during weeks 30-33 2023; data reported with one-week time lag.
- **Outbreaks:** One influenza B outbreak and two acute respiratory infection (ARI) outbreaks were reported during weeks 30-33 2023. No RSV outbreaks were notified to HPSC during weeks 30-33 2023.
- **International:** Overall influenza activity was reported below seasonal levels in the European region. In the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity was reported at low levels or below seasonal threshold in most reporting countries. Detections were predominantly influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 followed by influenza B and influenza A(H3N2) viruses. In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, overall influenza activity is decreasing after a peak in the recent weeks.



**Figure 1:** Sentinel GP Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold, medium and high intensity ILI thresholds and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. The current week sentinel GP ILI consultation rate per 100,000 population is highlighted in red text. *Source: ICGP and NVRL*

## Further surveillance information is available on the following websites:

- HPSC <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/seasonalinfluenza/surveillance/influenzasurveillancereports/>
- Influenza case definition in Ireland <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/casedefinitions/>
- COVID-19 case definition in Ireland <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casedefinitions/>
- COVID-19 surveillance reports/dashboard on HPSC website <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/surveillance/>
- Public Health Agency Northern Ireland influenza surveillance <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/directorate-public-health/health-protection/seasonal-influenza>
- Europe – ECDC influenza surveillance reports <https://flunewseurope.org/>
- ECDC Avian influenza <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/avian-influenza>
- ECDC COVID-19 <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19>
- WHO influenza surveillance updates <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-updates/current-influenza-update>
- UK Health Security Agency influenza reports <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/weekly-national-flu-reports>
- United States CDC influenza reports <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>
- Public Health Agency of Canada influenza reports <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
- Australian influenza report <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-ozflu-2022.htm>
- WHO COVID-19 <https://covid19.who.int/>

## Further information on influenza in Ireland is available at [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

This report was prepared by the HPSC influenza epidemiology team: Nancy Somi, Eva Kelly, Adele McKenna, Amy Griffin, Pamela Lima, Maureen O'Leary, Lisa Domegan, Joan O'Donnell.

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