

# Influenza, RSV and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Report

## Week 44 2023 (30<sup>th</sup> October- 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023)



*This report presents data on the epidemiology of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and other respiratory viruses (ORVs). For further information on the epidemiology of COVID-19, please refer to COVID-19 surveillance [reports](#).*

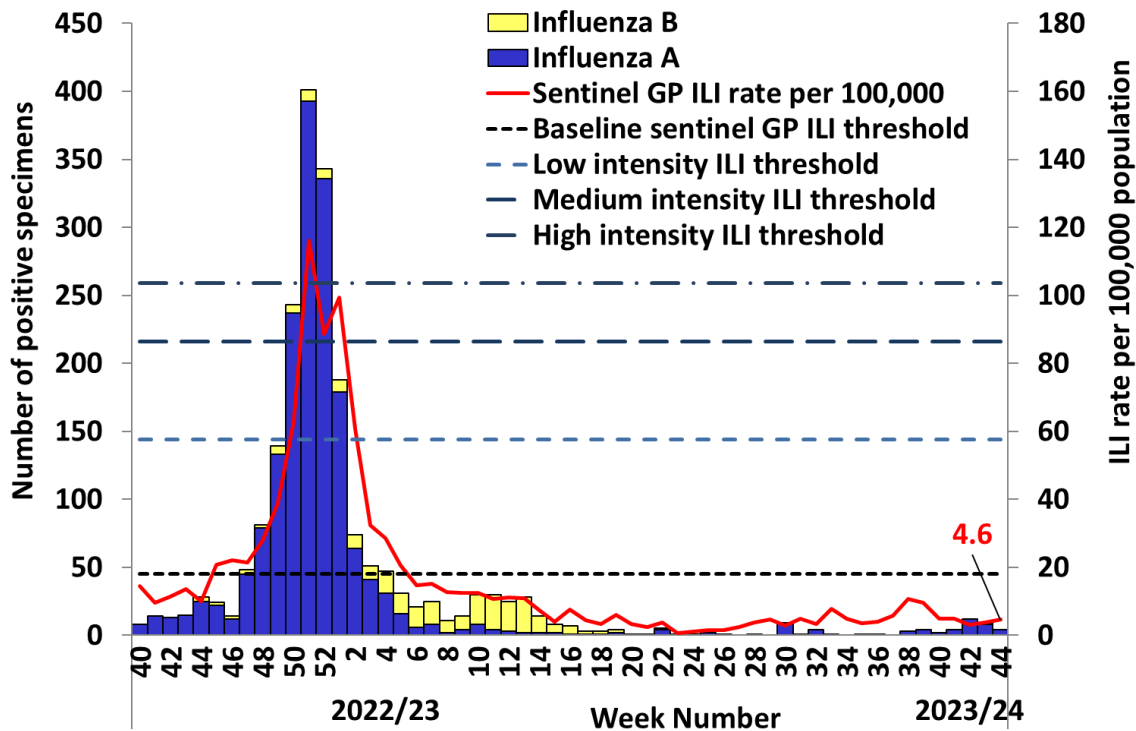
### Summary

All data in this report should be interpreted with caution as the occurrence of a bank holiday in week 44 may have led to a reduction or a delay in the reporting of data. Influenza activity remains at low levels in Ireland during week 44 2023. Sporadic detections of influenza A (H1)pdm09, A(H3) and influenza B have been reported this season to date. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) circulation is now at high levels and RSV hospitalised cases continue to increase with the highest rates in those aged less than one year old, followed by the 1-4 year age group. Rhino/enteroviruses have been circulating at high levels in recent weeks.

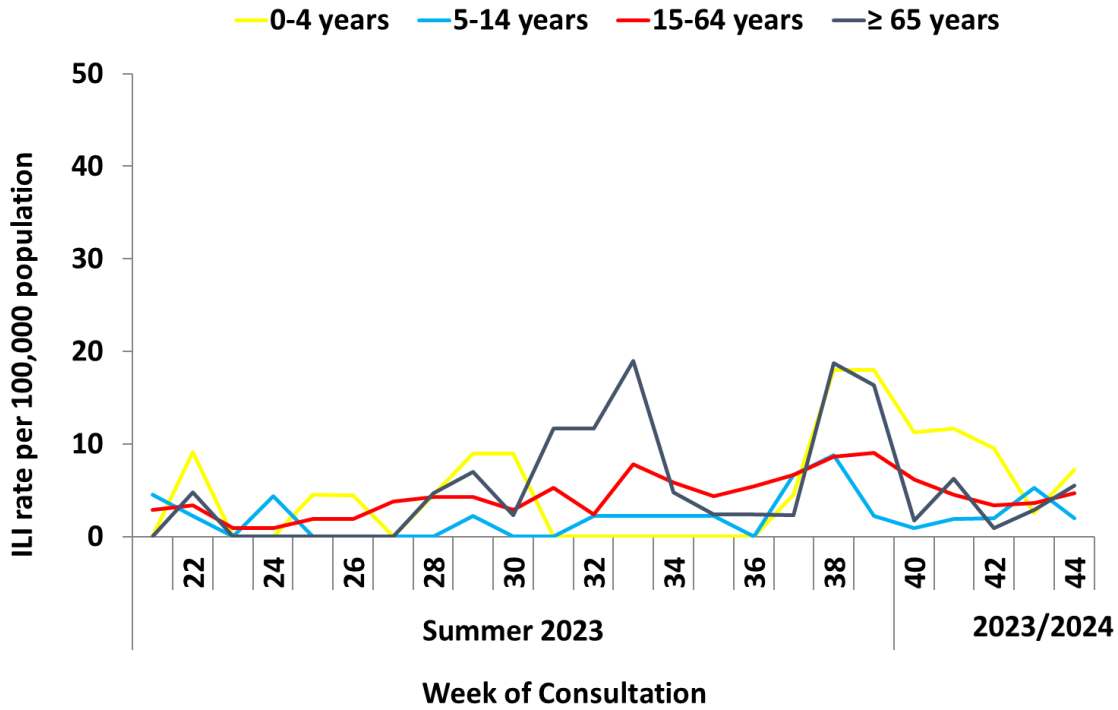
- **Influenza-like illness (ILI):** The sentinel GP ILI consultation rate was 4.6 per 100,000 population during week 44 2023, stable compared to the updated rate of 3.7/100,000 in week 43. ILI consultation rates have been below the Irish baseline threshold (18.1/100,000 population) for the season to date (weeks 40-44 2023). Sentinel GP ILI age specific rates were below age specific baseline thresholds in all age groups during week 44.
- **National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL):** During week 44 2023, of 72 sentinel GP ARI specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, four (5.6%) were positive for influenza (two influenza A(H3), one influenza A(H1)pdm09 and one influenza A (not subtyped)), three (4.2%) for SARS-CoV-2, nine (12.5%) for RSV and 14 (19.4%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- Of 119 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested and reported by the NVRL during week 44 2023, none were positive for influenza and six (5%) were positive for RSV. Rhino/enterovirus positivity remained high at 20.2% (24/119) during week 44 compared to 19.6% (28/143) during week 43.
- Of the 29 respiratory specimens (including both sentinel GP ARI specimens and non-sentinel specimens) testing positive for influenza and reported by the NVRL to date during the 2023/2024 season, five (17%) were coinfecting with other viruses.
- **GP Out of hours (OOHs):** Cough calls comprised 21.6% (2,069/13,401) of all reported GP OOHs calls during week 44 2023, which is above the baseline threshold of 10.8%. 50.8% (1,478/2,905) of cough calls was in those aged 0-4 years.
- **Influenza notifications:** 38 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were notified during week 44 2023: one influenza A (H3), two A(H1)pdm09, 25 influenza A (not subtyped) and 10 influenza B. This is stable compared to 46 cases notified during week 43 2023. Notifications in those aged 0-4 years accounted for 29% (11/38) of all influenza notifications in week 44.
- **RSV notifications:** 433 RSV cases were notified during week 44 2023, compared to 198 cases notified during week 43 2023. This represents a substantial increase of over twice the number of cases seen in week 43.
- **Hospitalisations:** Notified laboratory confirmed influenza hospital inpatients remained stable with 15 cases notified compared to 20 in week 43. 11 of the hospitalised cases were influenza A (not subtyped), and four were influenza B. There were 172 laboratory confirmed RSV hospital inpatients notified compared to the 93 notified in week 43, representing an increase of 85%. Half of all (50% (85/172)) RSV hospitalisations were in those aged under 1 year of age.
- **Intensive care admissions:** One laboratory confirmed influenza case (influenza A (not subtyped)) was admitted to intensive care units and notified to HPSC during week 44 2023. This is the only influenza ICU case notified for the season to date.
- **Mortality:** No deaths in notified influenza cases were reported to HPSC during week 44 2023 or for the season to date. No excess all-cause mortality has been reported since week 2 2023.
- **Outbreaks:** During week 44 2023, one RSV outbreak in a nursing home was reported to HPSC.
- **International:** In the European region during week 43 2023, influenza activity remained at low levels, RSV activity continued to increase and SARS-CoV-2 activity remained elevated. Rates of ILI and/or ARI were elevated above baseline levels in 7 of 50 countries or areas of the WHO European Region reporting data.

## 1. GP sentinel surveillance system - Clinical Data

- During week 44 2023, 33 sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultations were reported from the Irish sentinel GP network, corresponding to an ILI consultation rate of 4.6 per 100,000 population, compared to an updated rate of 3.7 per 100,000 population during week 43 2023 (Figure 1).
- The sentinel GP ILI consultation rates have been below the Irish sentinel GP ILI baseline threshold (18.1/100,000 population) for 38 consecutive weeks since week 6 2023.
- Age specific ILI consultation rates were below age specific baseline thresholds in all age groups during week 44 and the 2023/2024 season to date (weeks 40-44 2023) (Figure 2, Table 1).
- The Irish sentinel baseline ILI threshold for the 2023/2024 influenza season is 18.1 per 100,000 population. ILI rates above this baseline threshold combined with sentinel GP influenza positivity >10% indicate the likelihood that influenza is circulating in the community. The Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) is used to calculate thresholds for GP ILI consultations in a standardised approach across Europe. The baseline ILI threshold (18.1/100,000 population), low (57.5/100,000 population), medium (86.5/100,000 population) and high (103.6/100,000 population) intensity ILI thresholds are shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** Sentinel GP Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline, low, medium and high intensity ILI thresholds and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. Source: ICGP and NVRL



**Figure 2:** Age specific sentinel GP ILI consultation rate per 100,000 population by week (weeks 21-44 2023). *Source: ICGP.*

**Table 1:** Age specific sentinel GP ILI consultation rate per 100,000 population by week (weeks 40-44 2023), colour coded by sentinel GP ILI age specific Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) threshold levels. *Source: ICGP.*

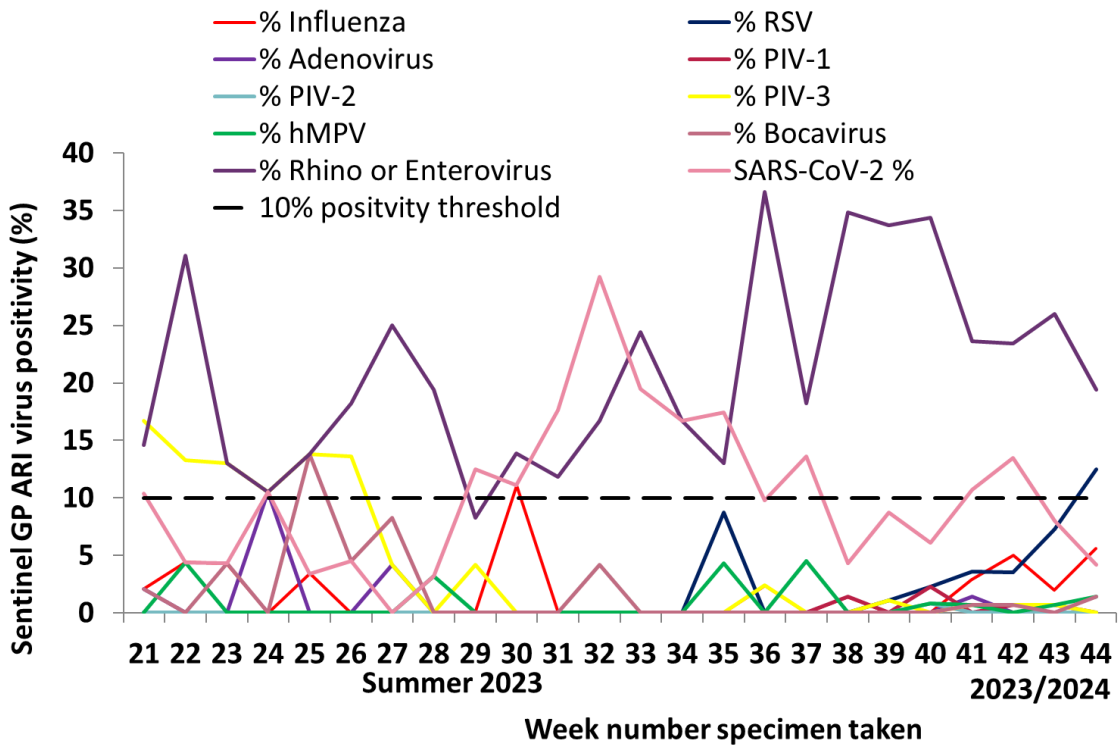
| MEM Threshold Levels | Below Baseline | Low | Moderate | High | Extraordinary |
|----------------------|----------------|-----|----------|------|---------------|
|----------------------|----------------|-----|----------|------|---------------|

|                            | 2023/2024 |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Age group (years)          | 40        | 41  | 42  | 43  | 44  |
| All Ages                   | 5.0       | 4.8 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 4.6 |
| <15 yrs                    | 3.7       | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 3.3 |
| 15-64 yrs                  | 6.1       | 4.5 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 4.7 |
| ≥65 yrs                    | 1.7       | 6.2 | 0.9 | 2.9 | 5.5 |
| Reporting practices (N=99) | 88        | 85  | 83  | 76  | 82  |

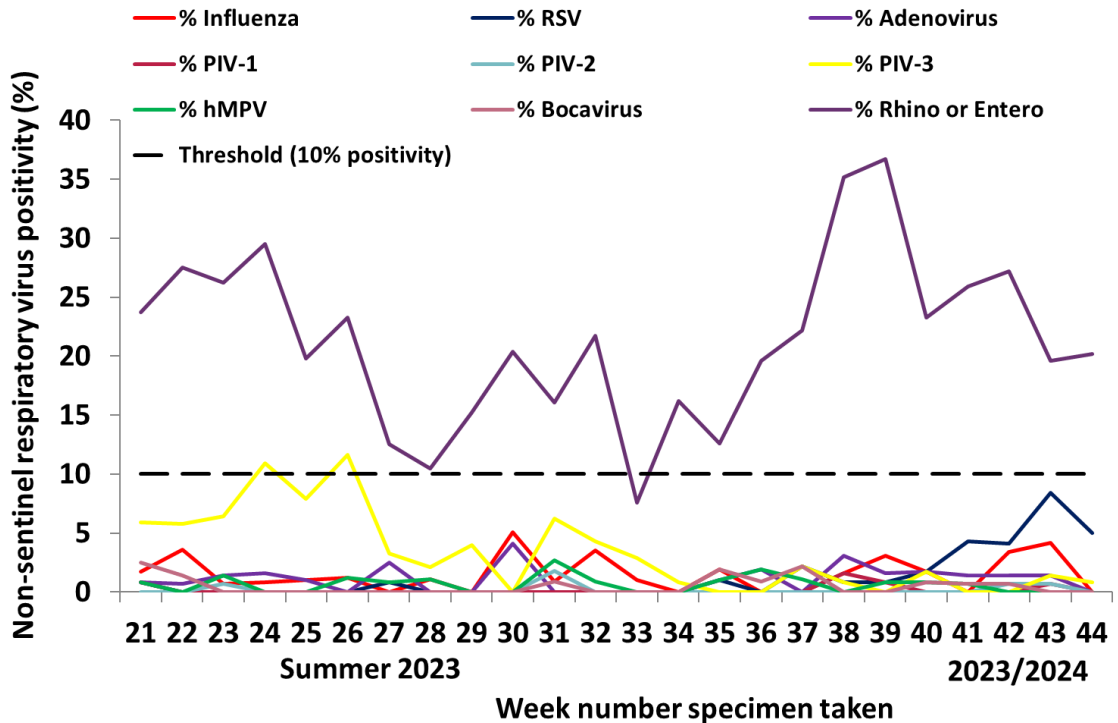
## 2. Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Detections - NVRL

The data reported in this section for the 2023/2024 influenza season refers to sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens routinely tested for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), adenovirus, parainfluenza virus types 1-4 (PIV-1-4), human metapneumovirus (hMPV) and rhino/enteroviruses by the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) (Tables 2 & 3, Figure 3a, 3b, 4).

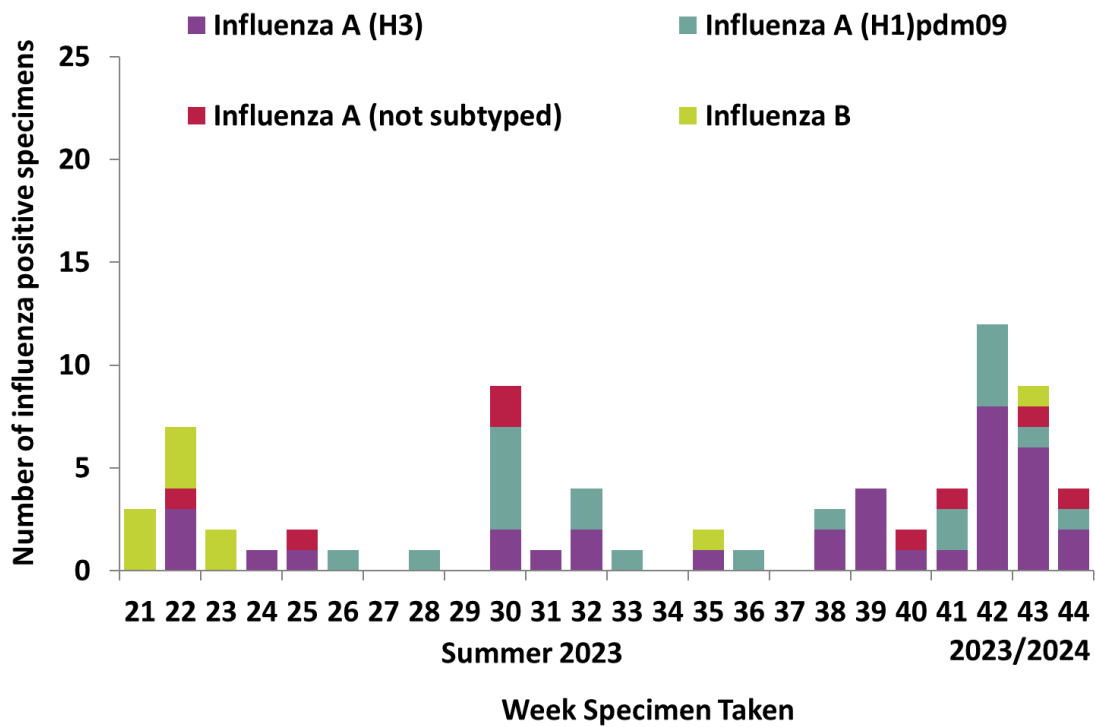
- A lag time with testing and reporting is noted for the most recent surveillance week.
- During week 44 2023, of 72 sentinel GP ARI specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, four (5.6%) were positive for influenza (two influenza A(H3), one influenza A(H1)pdm09 and one influenza A (not subtyped), three (4.2%) for SARS-CoV-2, nine (12.5%) for RSV and 14 (19.4%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- In comparison during week 43 2023, of 150 sentinel GP ARI specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, three (2%) were positive for influenza (two influenza A(H3) and one influenza A (not subtyped)), 12 (8%) for SARS-CoV-2, 11 (7.3%) for RSV and 39 (26%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- During week 44 2023, of 119 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, none were positive for influenza, six (5%) for RSV and 24 (20.2%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- During week 43 2023, of 143 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested, six (4.2%) were positive for influenza (four influenza A(H3), one influenza A (not subtyped) and one influenza B), 12 (8.4%) for RSV, and 28 (19.6%) for rhino/enterovirus (Figure 3b).
- Other respiratory viruses (ORVs) are being detected at lower levels (Figure 3a and 3b).
- Of 29 sentinel GP ARI specimens and non-sentinel respiratory specimens positive for influenza and reported by the NVRL during the 2023/2024 season, five (17%) were coinfecting with other viruses. One (3%) with rhino/enteroviruses, one (3%) with RSV and three (10%) with SARS-CoV-2.



**Figure 3a:** Percentage positive results for **sentinel GP ARI** specimens tested by the NVRL for influenza, SARS-CoV-2, RSV and other respiratory viruses by week specimen was taken, weeks 21-44 2023. *Source: NVRL*



**Figure 3b:** Percentage positive results for **non-sentinel respiratory** specimens tested by the NVRL for influenza, RSV and other respiratory viruses by week specimen was taken, weeks 21-44 2023. *Source: NVRL*



**Figure 4:** Number of positive **influenza** specimens (from sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory sources) tested by the NVRL by influenza type/subtype and by week specimen was taken, weeks 21-44 2023. *Source: NVRL*

**Table 2:** Number of sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL and positive **influenza** results, overall and by influenza type and subtype, for weeks 43 and 44 2023 and the 2023/2024 Season. *Source: NVRL*

| Surveillance period | Specimen type            | Total tested | Number influenza | % Influenza positive | Influenza A |           |                  |           | Influenza B |            |            |          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|
|                     |                          |              |                  |                      | A(H1)pdm09  | A(H3)     | A (not subtyped) | Total     | B           | B Victoria | B Yamagata | Total    |
| <b>Week 44 2023</b> | Sentinel GP ARI          | 72           | 4                | 5.6                  | 1           | 2         | 1                | 4         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0        |
|                     | Non-sentinel respiratory | 119          | 0                | 0.0                  | 0           | 0         | 0                | 0         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0        |
|                     | <b>Total</b>             | <b>191</b>   | <b>4</b>         | <b>2.1</b>           | <b>1</b>    | <b>2</b>  | <b>1</b>         | <b>4</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Week 43 2023</b> | Sentinel GP ARI          | 150          | 3                | 2.0                  | 0           | 2         | 1                | 3         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0        |
|                     | Non-sentinel respiratory | 143          | 6                | 4.2                  | 1           | 4         | 0                | 5         | 1           | 0          | 0          | 1        |
|                     | <b>Total</b>             | <b>293</b>   | <b>9</b>         | <b>3.1</b>           | <b>1</b>    | <b>6</b>  | <b>1</b>         | <b>8</b>  | <b>1</b>    | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>2023/2024</b>    | Sentinel GP ARI          | 634          | 18               | 2.8                  | 7           | 8         | 3                | 18        | 0           | 0          | 0          | 0        |
|                     | Non-sentinel respiratory | 668          | 13               | 1.9                  | 1           | 10        | 1                | 12        | 1           | 0          | 0          | 1        |
|                     | <b>Total</b>             | <b>1302</b>  | <b>31</b>        | <b>2.4</b>           | <b>8</b>    | <b>18</b> | <b>4</b>         | <b>30</b> | <b>1</b>    | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>1</b> |

**Table 3:** Number of sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL and positive **RSV** results, overall and by RSV type, for weeks 43 and 44 2023 and the 2023/2024 Season. *Source: NVRL*

| Surveillance period | Specimen type       | Total tested | Number RSV positive | % RSV positive | RSV A     | RSV B     | RSV (unspecified) |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| <b>Week 44 2023</b> | Sentinel GP ARI     | 72           | 9                   | 12.5           | 5         | 4         | 0                 |
|                     | Non-sentinel        | 119          | 6                   | 5.0            | 4         | 2         | 0                 |
|                     | <b>Total</b>        | <b>191</b>   | <b>15</b>           | <b>7.9</b>     | <b>9</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>0</b>          |
| <b>Week 43 2023</b> | Sentinel GP ARI     | 150          | 11                  | 7.3            | 7         | 4         | 0                 |
|                     | Non-sentinel        | 143          | 12                  | 8.4            | 9         | 3         | 0                 |
|                     | <b>Total</b>        | <b>293</b>   | <b>23</b>           | <b>7.8</b>     | <b>16</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>0</b>          |
| <b>2023/2024</b>    | Sentinel GP ILI/ARI | 634          | 33                  | 5.2            | 21        | 12        | 0                 |
|                     | Non-sentinel        | 668          | 32                  | 4.8            | 24        | 8         | 0                 |
|                     | <b>Total</b>        | <b>1302</b>  | <b>65</b>           | <b>5.0</b>     | <b>45</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>0</b>          |

**Table 4:** Number and percentage positive sentinel GP ARI specimens tested by the NVRL by **respiratory virus**, weeks 43 and 44 2023, and the 2023/2024 season. *Source: NVRL*

| Virus                              | Week 44 2023 (N=72) |            | Week 43 2023 (N=150) |            | 2023/2024 (N=634) |            |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|                                    | Total               | % positive | Total positive       | % positive | Total positive    | % positive |
| SARS-CoV-2                         | 3                   | 4.2        | 12                   | 8.0        | 57                | 10.1       |
| Influenza virus                    | 4                   | 5.6        | 3                    | 2.0        | 18                | 1.6        |
| Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)  | 9                   | 12.5       | 11                   | 7.3        | 3                 | 0.4        |
| Rhino/enterovirus                  | 14                  | 19.4       | 39                   | 26.0       | 156               | 22.5       |
| Adenovirus                         | 0                   | 0.0        | 0                    | 0.0        | 4                 | 0.6        |
| Bocavirus                          | 1                   | 1.4        | 0                    | 0.0        | 10                | 1.4        |
| Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)       | 1                   | 1.4        | 1                    | 0.7        | 6                 | 0.9        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 1 (PIV-1) | 0                   | 0.0        | 1                    | 0.7        | 1                 | 0.1        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 2 (PIV-2) | 0                   | 0.0        | 0                    | 0.0        | 0                 | 0.0        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV-3) | 0                   | 0.0        | 1                    | 0.7        | 30                | 4.3        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 4 (PIV-4) | 2                   | 2.8        | 2                    | 1.3        | 35                | 5.1        |

**Table 5:** Number and percentage positive non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL, by **respiratory virus**, weeks 43 and 44 2023, and the 2023/2024 season. *Source: NVRL*

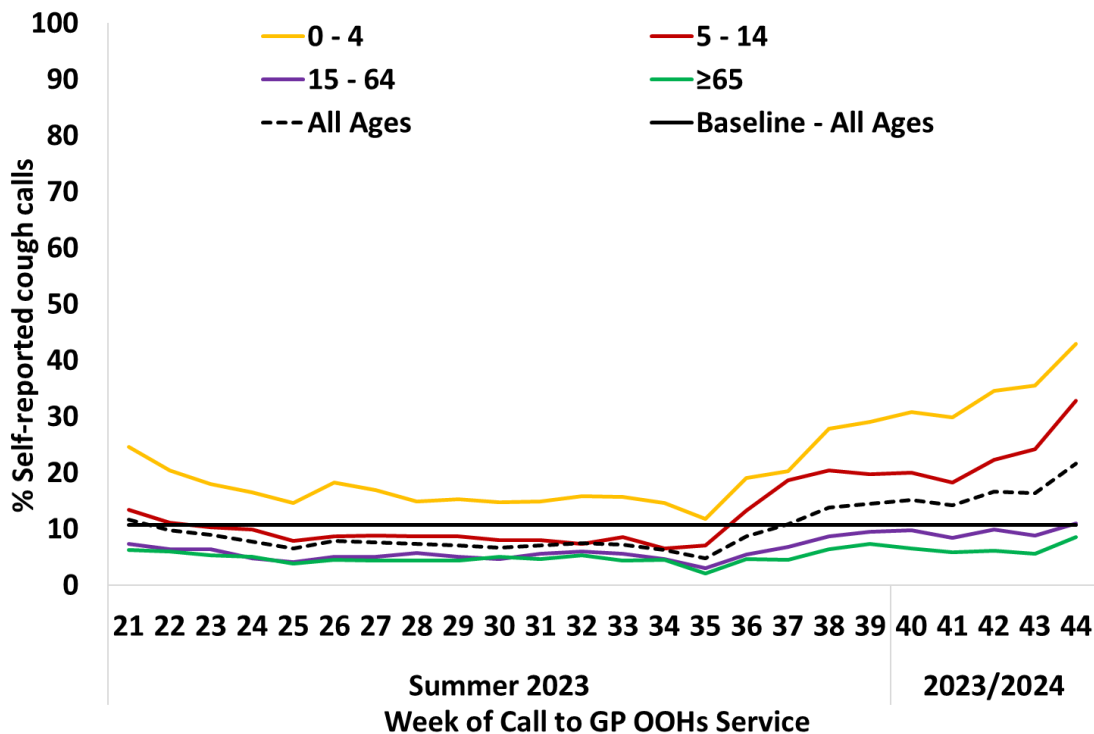
| Virus                              | Week 44 2023 (N=119) |            | Week 43 2023 (N=143) |            | 2023/2024 (N=668) |            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|                                    | Total positive       | % positive | Total positive       | % positive | Total positive    | % positive |
| Influenza virus                    | 0                    | 0.0        | 6                    | 4.2        | 13                | 1.9        |
| Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)  | 6                    | 5.0        | 12                   | 8.4        | 32                | 4.8        |
| Rhino/enterovirus                  | 24                   | 20.2       | 28                   | 19.6       | 156               | 23.4       |
| Adenovirus                         | 0                    | 0.0        | 2                    | 1.4        | 8                 | 1.2        |
| Bocavirus                          | 0                    | 0.0        | 0                    | 0.0        | 3                 | 0.4        |
| Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)       | 0                    | 0.0        | 0                    | 0.0        | 2                 | 0.3        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 1 (PIV-1) | 0                    | 0.0        | 1                    | 0.7        | 1                 | 0.3        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 2 (PIV-2) | 0                    | 0.0        | 1                    | 0.7        | 2                 | 0.3        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV-3) | 1                    | 0.8        | 2                    | 1.4        | 5                 | 0.7        |
| Parainfluenza virus type 4 (PIV-4) | 1                    | 0.8        | 3                    | 2.1        | 14                | 2.1        |



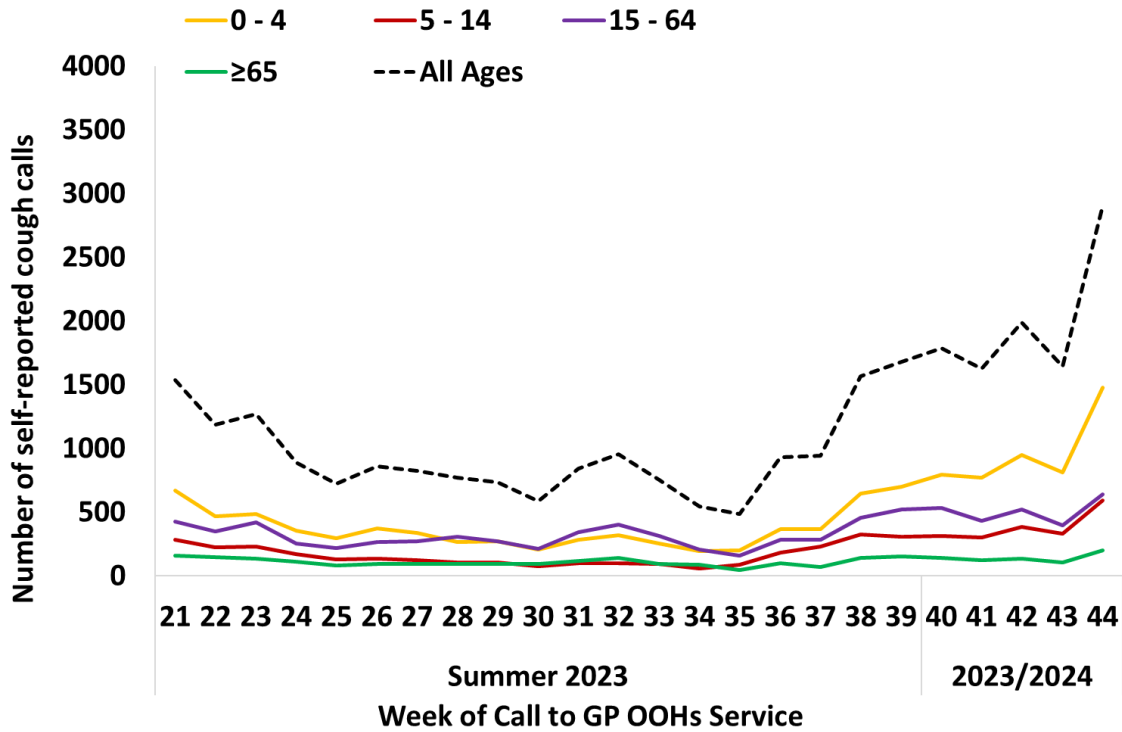
### 3. GP Out-Of-Hours services surveillance

National data on calls to GP Out-of-Hours services in Ireland are collated by HPSC. Five out of 14 Out-of-Hours GP services currently participate in this programme. Records of calls with clinical symptoms self-reported as 'flu' or 'cough' are included in the analysis. This information may act as an early indicator of circulation of influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2, or other respiratory viruses.

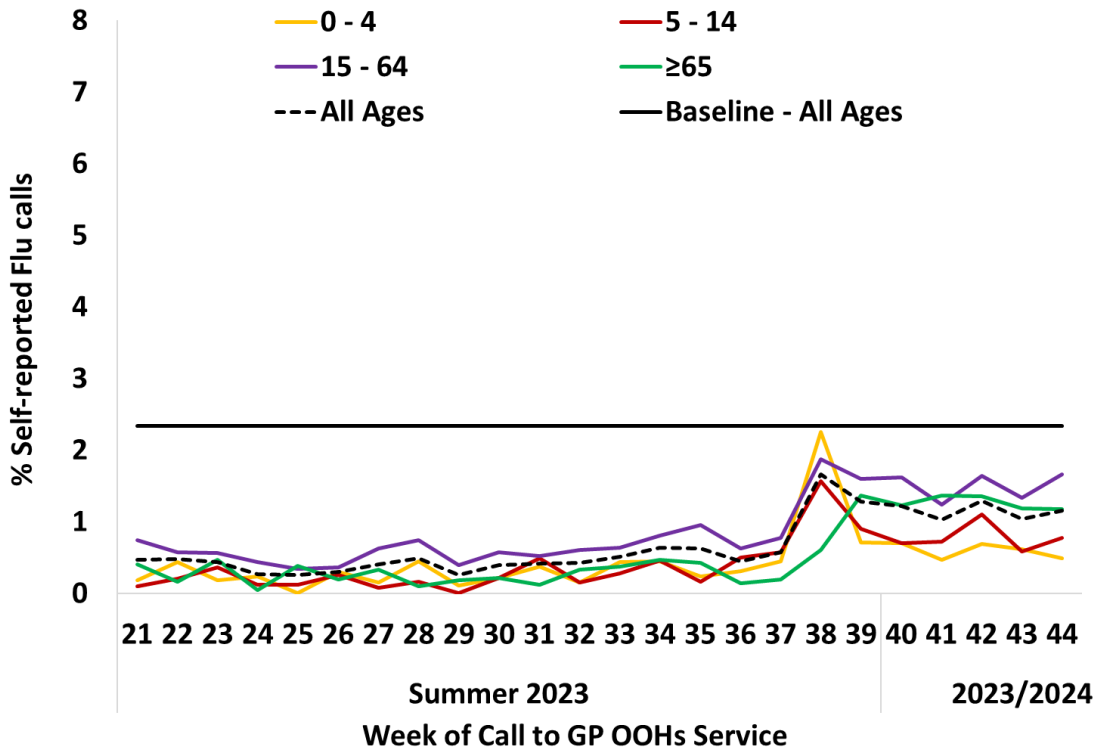
- Five GP OOH services provided data for week 44 2023.
- Out of a total of 13,401 calls made to the participating GP OOHs in week 44:
  - 2,905 (21.7%) were for self-reported 'cough', which is above the baseline threshold of 10.8% for cough calls (Figure 5 and 6).
  - 155 (1.2%) were for self-reported 'flu', which is below the baseline threshold for 'flu' calls of 2.3% (Figure 7 and 8).
- Cough calls have been increasing in those aged under 15 years of age in recent weeks and have been above the baseline since week 36 2023.
- 50.8% (1,478/2,905) of cough calls were in those aged 0-4 years in week 44 2023.



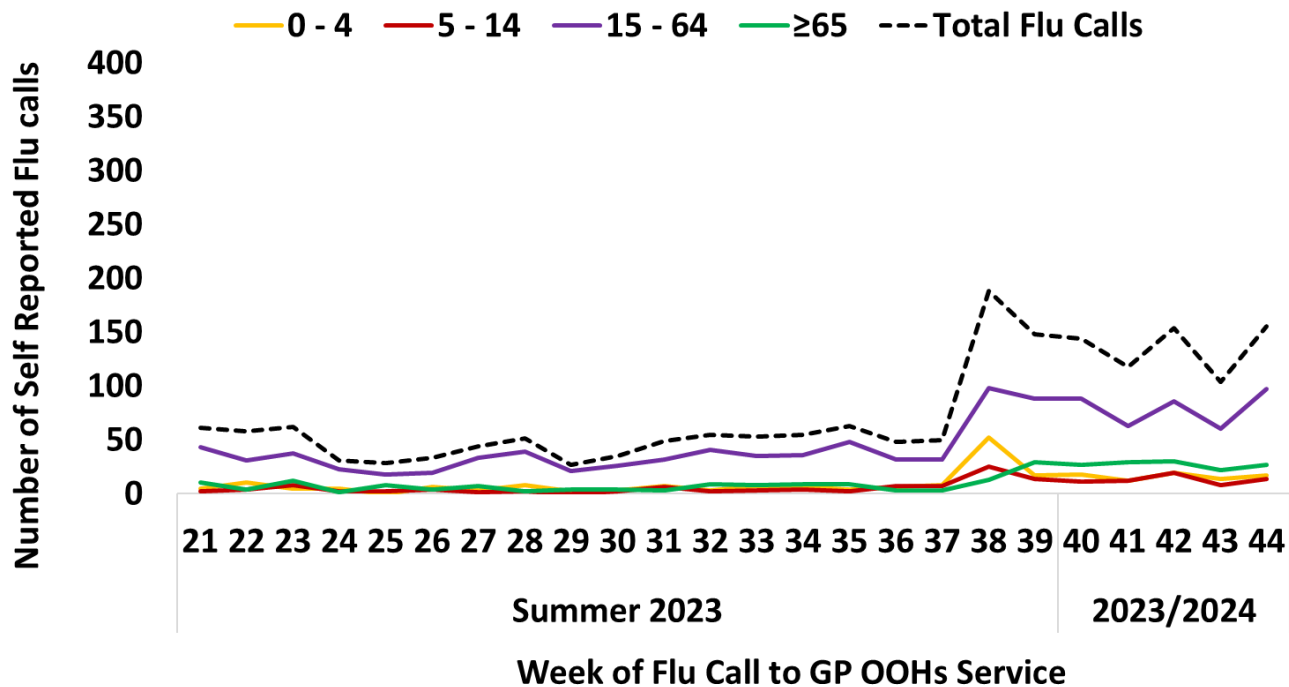
**Figure 5:** Percentage of self-reported **COUGH** calls for all ages and by age group as a proportion of total calls to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, summer 2023 and the 2023/2024 season. The baseline % cough calls for all ages calculated using the MEM method on historic data is shown. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP).*



**Figure 6:** Number of self-reported **COUGH** calls for all ages and by age group to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP).*



**Figure 7:** Percentage of self-reported **FLU** calls for all ages and by age group as a proportion of total calls to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. The baseline % flu calls for all ages calculated using the MEM method on historic data is shown. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP)*



**Figure 8:** Number of self-reported **FLU** calls for all ages and by age group to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP).*

#### 4. Influenza & RSV notifications

Influenza and RSV case notifications are reported on Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR), including all laboratory-confirmed influenza/RSV specimens reported from all laboratories testing for influenza/RSV.

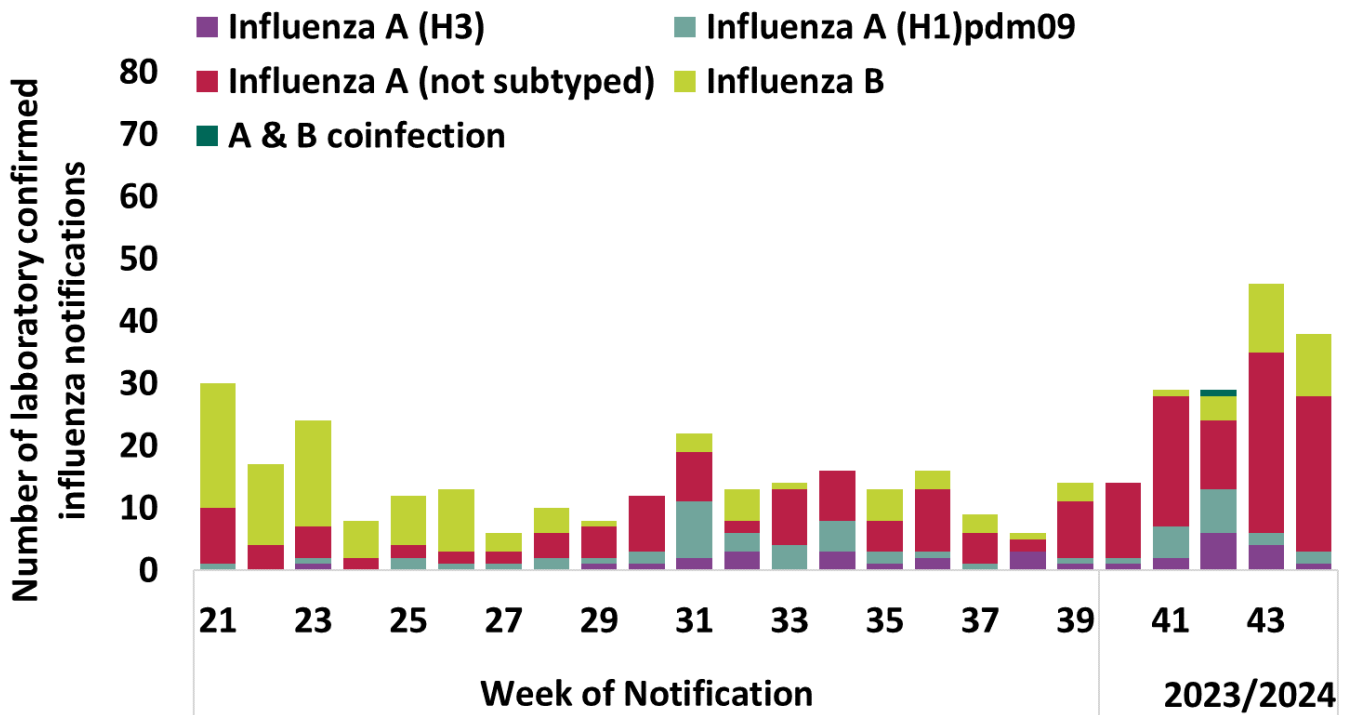
Influenza and RSV notifications are reported in the [Weekly Infectious Disease Report for Ireland](#).

Numbers should be interpreted with caution due to the bank holiday in week 44.

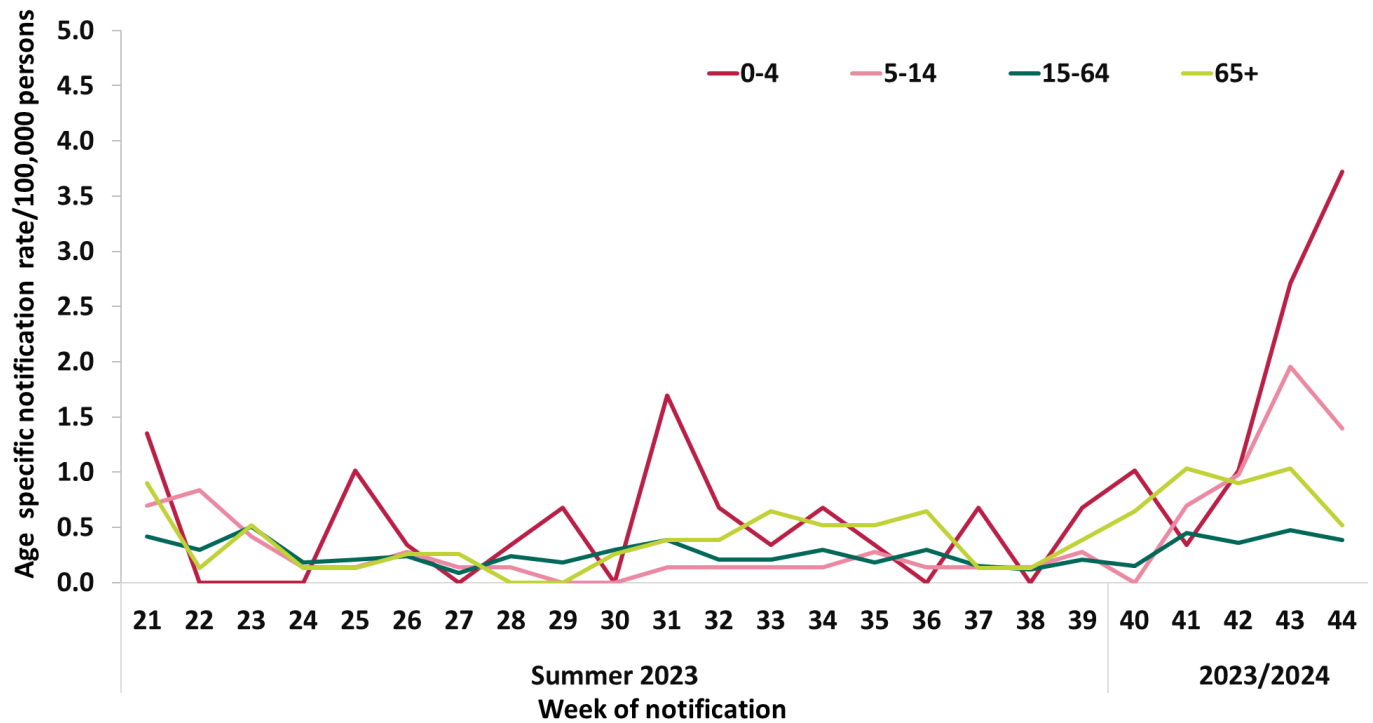
- 38 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were notified during week 44 2023 (Table 6): one influenza A (H3), two A(H1)pdm09, 25 influenza A (not subtyped) and 10 influenza B. This is stable compared to 46 cases notified during week 43 2023 (Figure 9).
- Age specific rates in notified laboratory confirmed influenza cases were low in all age groups during week 44 2023.
- Laboratory confirmed influenza notified cases by HSE Health Region, are reported in Table 6.
- 433 RSV cases were notified during week 44 2023, compared to 198 cases notified during week 43 2023 (Figure 11). This represents a substantial increase of over twice the number of cases seen in week 43.
- Age specific notification rates for RSV were highest in those aged less than one year old (Figure 12), at 306.8 /100 000 population, followed by the 1–4-year age group at 70.6/100,000. Notifications in those aged less than one year old accounted for 44% (191/433) of all RSV notifications in week 44.

**Table 6:** Number of laboratory confirmed **influenza** notifications by HSE Health Region for week 44 2023 and the 2023/2024 season to date. *Source: CIDR*

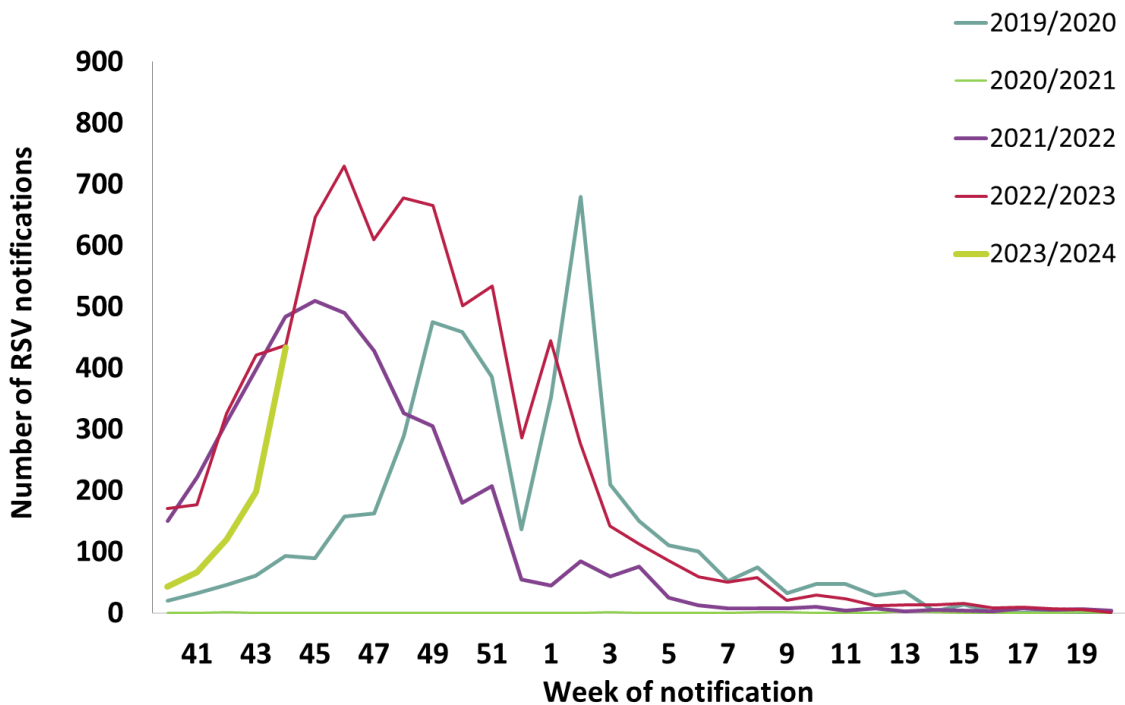
| HSE Health Region     | Week 44 2023 | 2023/2024 season<br>(Week 40- 44 2023) |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Dublin and North East | 8            | 38                                     |
| Dublin and Midlands   | 10           | 28                                     |
| Dublin and South East | 7            | 22                                     |
| South West            | 5            | 31                                     |
| Mid West              | 0            | 7                                      |
| North and North West  | 8            | 30                                     |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>38</b>    | <b>156</b>                             |



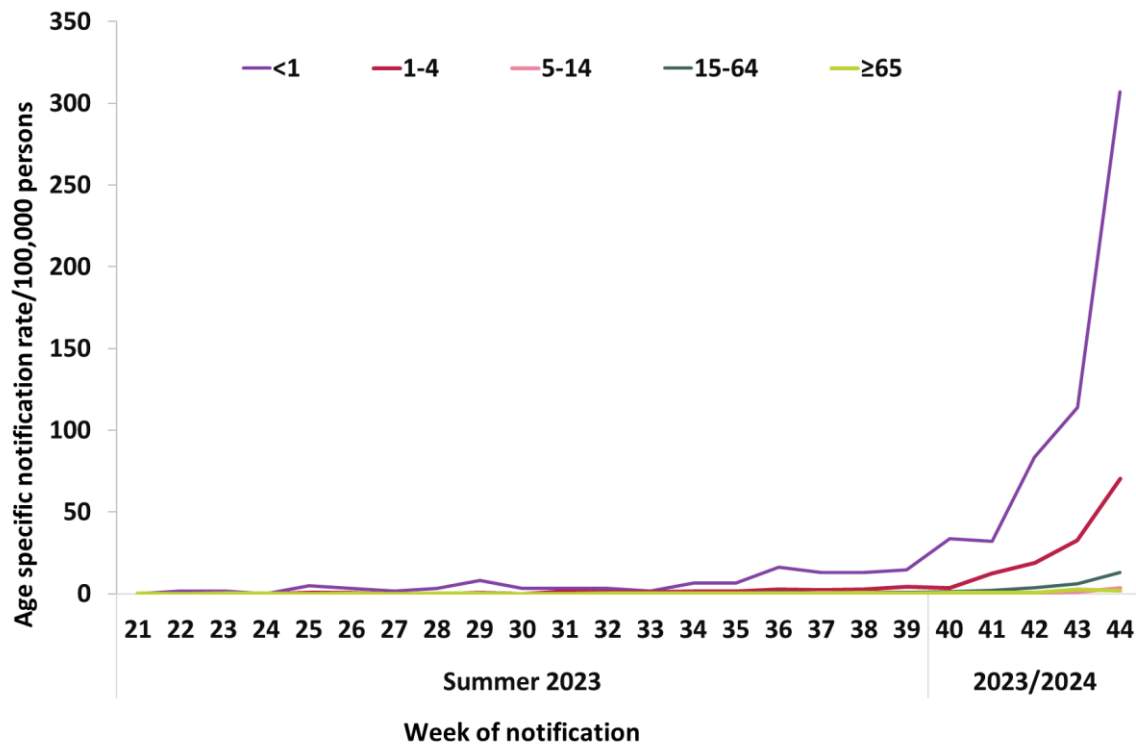
**Figure 9:** Number of laboratory confirmed **influenza** notifications by influenza type/subtype and week, summer 2023 and 2023/2024 season. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System*



**Figure 10:** Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed **influenza** notifications to HPSC by week of notification and season, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*



**Figure 11:** Number of laboratory confirmed **RSV** notifications to HPSC by week of notification, 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 seasons. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

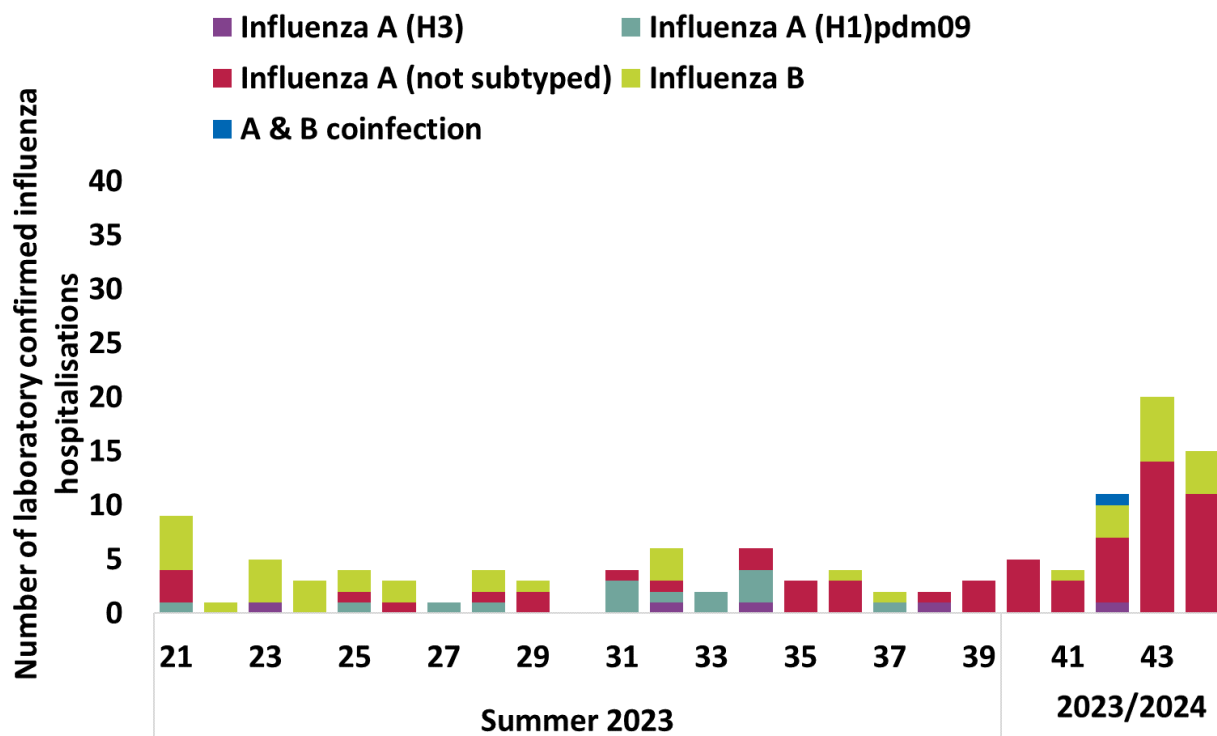


**Figure 12:** Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed RSV notifications to HPSC by week of notification-weeks 21-44, 2023. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

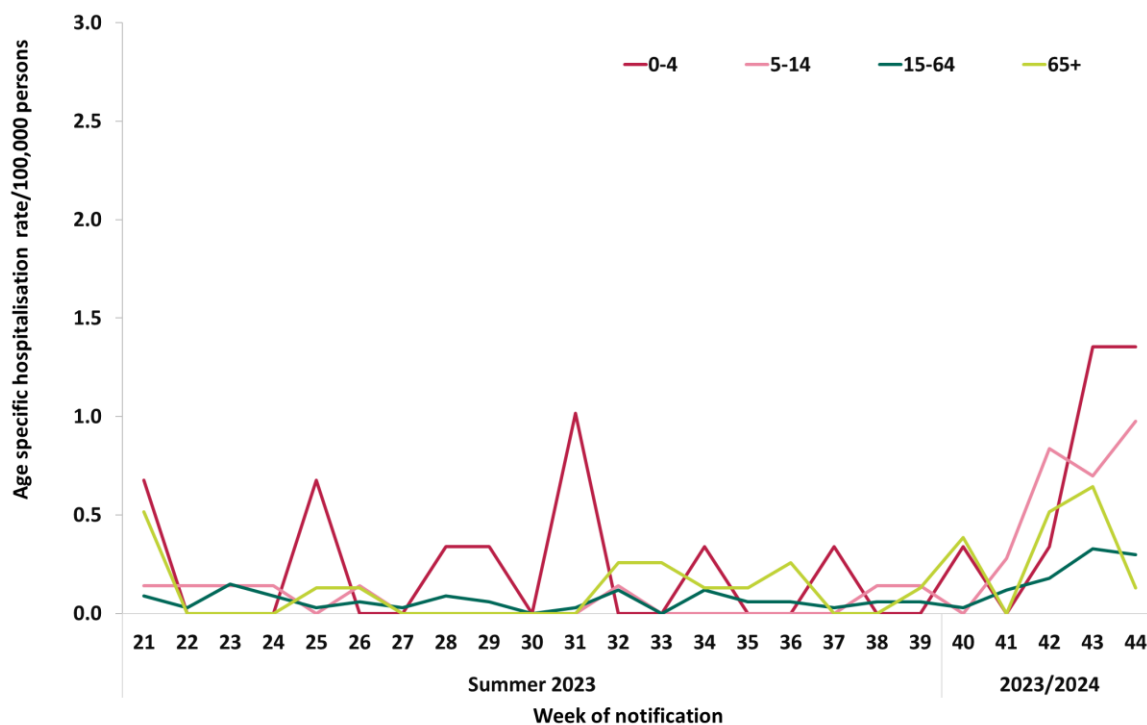
## 5. Hospitalisations

Numbers should be interpreted with caution due to the bank holiday in week 44.

- During week 44 2023, the number of notified laboratory confirmed influenza hospital inpatients remained stable with 15 cases notified compared to 20 in week 43. 11 of the hospitalised cases were influenza A (not subtyped), and four were influenza B (Figure 13).
- During week 44 2023, 172 laboratory confirmed RSV hospital inpatients were notified, an 85% increase from 93 cases in week 43 2023 (Figure 15).
- The age specific rate for RSV hospitalisation was highest for those aged less than one year old (147.1/100000 population) and those aged 1-4 years (28.6/100,000 population).
- In those aged under 1 year of age 45% (85/191) of cases were in hospital in-patients and 49% (95/191) were in ED patients for week 44.
- The number of laboratory confirmed influenza and RSV notifications by patient type and week for the 2023/2024 season are reported in Tables 7 and 8.



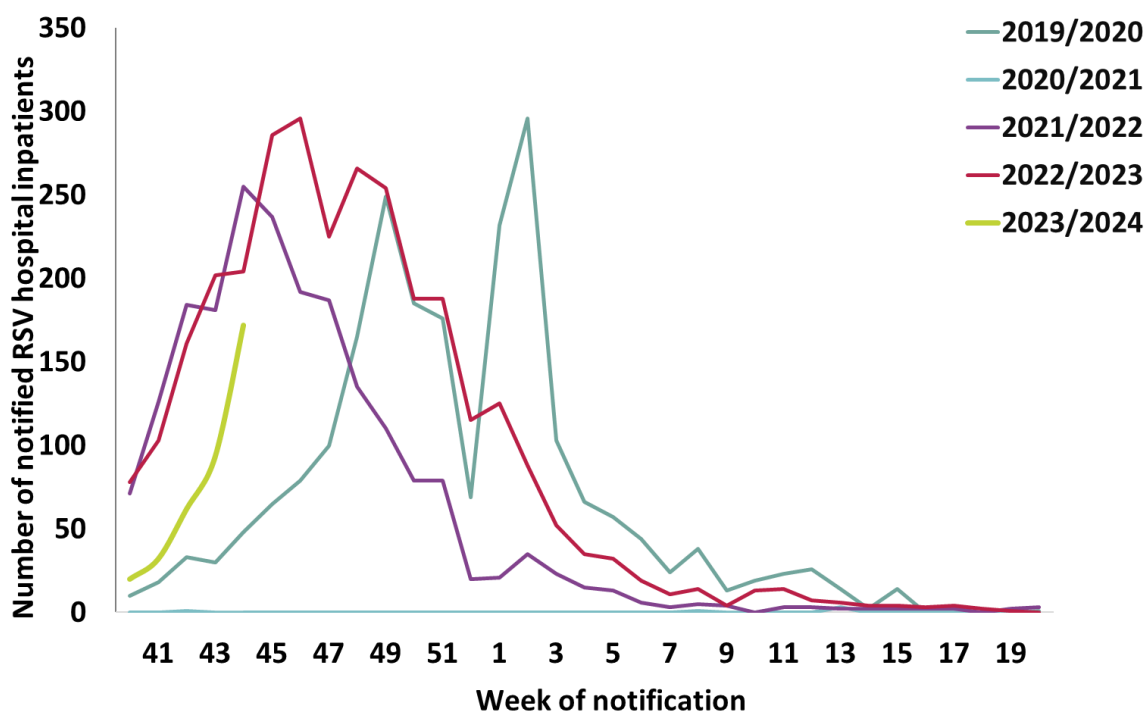
**Figure 13:** Number of notified laboratory-confirmed influenza hospital inpatients by influenza type/subtype by week, summer 2023 and 2023/2024 season. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*



**Figure 14:** Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported as hospital inpatients by week of notification and season, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

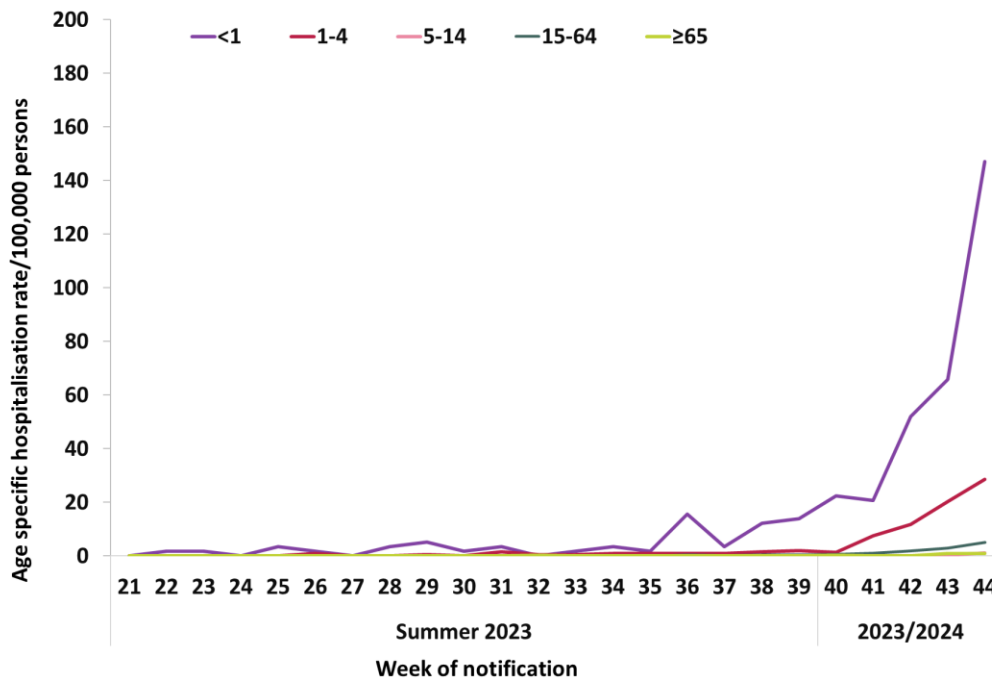
**Table 7:** Number of notified laboratory-confirmed **influenza** cases by patient type and week of notification 2023/2024 season (week 40 2023 onwards). *Source: Ireland's Computerised infectious Disease Reporting System*

|              | Patient Type |            |                    |                      |                     |          |           | Total      |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
|              | GP Patient   | ED patient | Hospital Inpatient | Hospital Day Patient | Hospital Outpatient | Other    | Unknown   |            |
| Week 44      | 0            | 16         | 15                 | 1                    | 1                   | 1        | 4         | <b>38</b>  |
| Week 43      | 7            | 17         | 20                 | 0                    | 0                   | 0        | 2         | <b>46</b>  |
| Week 42      | 6            | 8          | 11                 | 0                    | 1                   | 0        | 3         | <b>29</b>  |
| Week 41      | 3            | 14         | 4                  | 0                    | 3                   | 0        | 5         | <b>29</b>  |
| Week 40      | 0            | 6          | 5                  | 0                    | 3                   | 0        | 0         | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>16</b>    | <b>61</b>  | <b>55</b>          | <b>1</b>             | <b>8</b>            | <b>1</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>156</b> |



**Figure 15:** Number of notified RSV hospital inpatients, by week of notification and season, for the 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 seasons. *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*





**Figure 16:** Age specific notification rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed RSV hospital inpatients by week of notification and season, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System*

**Table 8:** Number of notified laboratory confirmed RSV cases by patient type and week of notification, 2023/2024 season (week 40 2023 onwards). *Source: Ireland’s Computerised infectious Disease Reporting System*

|              | Patient Type |            |                    |                      |                     |           |           | Total      |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|              | GP Patient   | ED patient | Hospital Inpatient | Hospital Day Patient | Hospital Outpatient | Other     | Unknown   |            |
| Week 44      | 7            | 208        | 172                | 2                    | 31                  | 4         | 9         | <b>433</b> |
| Week 43      | 1            | 72         | 93                 | 0                    | 8                   | 2         | 22        | <b>198</b> |
| Week 42      | 2            | 31         | 64                 | 0                    | 9                   | 6         | 8         | <b>120</b> |
| Week 41      | 1            | 23         | 33                 | 1                    | 1                   | 1         | 7         | <b>67</b>  |
| Week 40      | 0            | 16         | 20                 | 1                    | 2                   | 3         | 1         | <b>43</b>  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>11</b>    | <b>350</b> | <b>382</b>         | <b>4</b>             | <b>51</b>           | <b>16</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>861</b> |

## 6. Intensive Care Surveillance

The Intensive Care Society of Ireland (ICSI) and the HSE Critical Care Programme conducts enhanced surveillance (established during the 2009 pandemic), on all intensive care patients with laboratory confirmed influenza. HPSC processes and reports on this information on behalf of the regional Directors of Public Health/Medical Officers of Health.

- One laboratory confirmed influenza case (influenza A (not subtyped)) was admitted to intensive care and notified to HPSC during week 44 2023, this is the only case notified for the season to date.

## 7. Mortality Surveillance

Influenza deaths include all deaths in notified influenza cases. HPSC receives daily mortality data from the General Register Office (GRO) on all deaths from all causes registered in Ireland. These data have been used to monitor excess all-cause and influenza and pneumonia mortality as part of the influenza surveillance system and the European Mortality Monitoring Project. Excess mortality analyses are corrected for reporting delays with the standardised EuroMOMO algorithm. Due to delays in death registrations in Ireland, excess mortality data included in this report are reported with a one-week lag time. These data are provisional due to the time delay in deaths' registration in Ireland. <http://www.euromomo.eu/>

- There were no deaths in notified influenza cases reported to HPSC during week 44 2023 or for the season to date.
- There was no excess mortality reported for week 43 2023.

## 8. Outbreak Surveillance

In this surveillance report, ARI outbreaks refer to outbreaks of acute respiratory infection caused by pathogens other than influenza, SARS-CoV-2 or RSV. COVID-19 outbreaks are not included in this report; surveillance data on COVID-19 outbreaks are detailed on the HPSC website. <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casesinireland/>

- During week 44 2023, one RSV outbreak in a nursing home was reported to HPSC (Tables 9 & 10).
- There have been nine outbreaks reported to date this season, including one influenza outbreak, three RSV outbreaks and five acute respiratory infection (ARI) outbreaks.

**Table 9:** Summary of influenza, RSV and ARI (influenza/RSV/SARS-CoV-2 negative) outbreaks by HSE Area during week 44 2023 and the 2023/2024 season (weeks 40-44 2023) *Source: CIDR*

| HSE Health Region     | Influenza |           | RSV      |           | ARI      |           | Total    |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                       | Week 44   | 2023/2024 | Week 44  | 2023/2024 | Week 44  | 2023/2024 | Week 44  | 2023/2024 |
| Dublin and North East | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Dublin and Midlands   | 0         | 0         | 0        | 2         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 2         |
| Dublin and South East | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 3         | 0        | 3         |
| South West            | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| Mid West              | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| North and North West  | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         | 0        | 1         | 1        | 2         |
| Unknown               | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>0</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>9</b>  |

**Table 10:** Summary of influenza, RSV and ARI (influenza/RSV/SARS-CoV-2 negative) outbreaks by outbreak setting during week 44 2023 and the 2023/2024 season (weeks 40-44 2023). *Source: CIDR*

| Setting                           | Influenza |           | RSV      |           | ARI      |           | Total    |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                                   | Week 44   | 2023/2024 | Week 44  | 2023/2024 | Week 44  | 2023/2024 | Week 44  | 2023/2024 |
| Community hospital/Long-stay unit | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1         |
| Nursing Home                      | 0         | 0         | 1        | 1         | 0        | 2         | 1        | 3         |
| Hospital                          | 0         | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| Residential Institution           | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 2         |
| Childcare facility                | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         |
| Family Outbreaks                  | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0         |
| Other settings                    | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 1         | 0        | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>0</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>9</b>  |

## 9. International Summary

According to [European respiratory virus surveillance summary](#), during week 43 2023 (including data up to 29/10/2023), for all sentinel primary care specimens; influenza activity remained below the 10% epidemic threshold, SARS-CoV-2 remained elevated at 20% compared to the previous week and RSV remained low at 2%. Of 35 reporting countries or areas reporting influenza intensity, two reported medium (Israel and Slovakia) intensity, nine reported low intensity and the remainder reported baseline intensity. Five countries reported an increasing trend of RSV positivity including United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) (14%), United Kingdom (Scotland) (14%), Luxembourg (11%), Poland (10%) and Ireland (5%). Although on a decreasing trend, Netherlands observed 7% RSV positivity. There was an increase in RSV hospital admissions over the past week, mainly among those aged 0-4 years, in three (Ireland, Malta and Slovakia) of the five countries reporting data.

Seasonal influenza and RSV detections in non-sentinel data were low compared to the same time last year, although RSV detections have been increasing steadily for the past seven weeks. Early signs of increase in RSV activity have also been reported in parts of the European region and the United States of America.

As of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023, WHO has reported that globally influenza detections remained low. In the temperate zones of the Northern hemisphere influenza activity was reported at low levels.

- Further information on influenza is available on the following websites:
  - European respiratory virus surveillance summary <https://erviss.org/>
  - Europe – ECDC <http://ecdc.europa.eu/>
  - UK Health Security Agency <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/weekly-national-flu-reports>
  - United States CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>
  - Public Health Agency of Canada <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
- 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/>
- Avian influenza overview May – August 2020 <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/avian-influenza-overview-may-august-2020>
- Avian influenza: EU on alert for new outbreaks <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/avian-influenza-eu-alert-new-outbreaks>
- Information on COVID-19 in Ireland is available on the HPSC website <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- The WHO categorised COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. For more information about the situation in the WHO European Region visit:
  - WHO website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
  - ECDC website: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

## 11. WHO recommendations on the composition of influenza virus vaccines

The WHO vaccine strain selection committee recommends that quadrivalent egg-based vaccines for use in the 2023/2024 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:

- an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/24-02-2023-recommendations-announced-for-influenza-vaccine-composition-for-the-2023-2024-northern-hemisphere-influenza-season>

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

### Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the HPSC influenza epidemiology team: Eva Kelly, Nancy Somi, Adele McKenna, Karen O'Reilly, Amy Griffin, Pamela Lima, Maureen O'Leary, Lisa Domegan and Joan O'Donnell. HPSC wishes to thank the sentinel GPs, the ICGP, NVRL, Departments of Public Health, ICSI and HSE-Healthlink for providing data for this report.