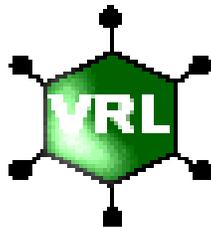


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



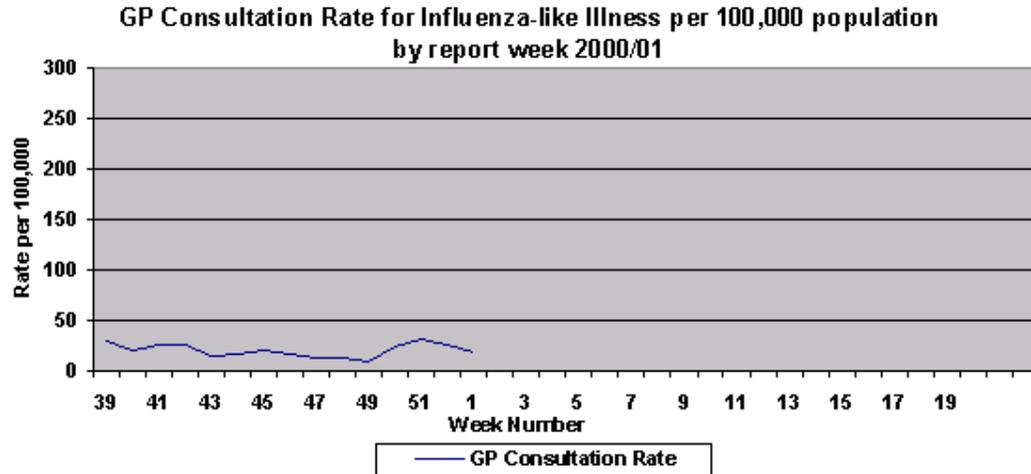
Week 01

Report produced: 11/01/01

Influenza Activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 7th of January, week 1, 8 cases of influenza-like illness were reported by sentinel practices. This corresponds to a rate of 19 cases per 100,000 population. Fifteen practices filed a report for the same period.

Graph 1.



Virological Data

For the week ending the 23rd of December, week 51, influenza A was isolated from 4 cases, 2 of which were subtyped as influenza A (H1N1) and the remaining 2 subtyped as influenza A (H3N2).

For the week ending the 30th of December, week 52, three samples were sent by sentinel practices. Of these, one sample isolated influenza A (H1N1).

For the week ending the 6th of January 2001, week 1, 10 samples were sent by sentinel practices for analysis. One sample was identified as influenza A (H1N1) and the second as influenza B. This is the first isolate of influenza B detected for this season.

Serology results from hospitals are pending for this week. Influenza positive results by serology may be due to:

- Influenza vaccination
- Infection with influenza virus or
- Both

Therefore these results are used as indicators only of the presence of influenza in the community in the same way that consultation rates for respiratory symptoms are used. Most importantly samples received from hospitals are not paired and therefore a rising or falling titre cannot be determined.

Table 1
 Influenza positive results by cell culture and / or polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
 by type and subtype by report week for 2000-01

<i>Week number</i>	<i>Influenza A</i>	<i>Influenza A (H1N1)</i>	<i>Influenza A (H3N2)</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>
40 (w/e 07/10/00)	2	1 (PCR,culture)	1(PCR)	0
41 (w/e 14/10/00)	0	0	0	0
42 (w/e 21/10/00)	0	0	0	0
43 (w/e 28/10/00)	0	0	0	0
44 (w/e 04/11/00)	0	0	0	0
45 (w/e 11/11/00)	0	0	0	0
46 (w/e 18/11/00)	0	0	0	0
47 (w/e 25/11/00)	0	0	0	0
48 (w/e 02/12/00)	2	0	0	0
49 (w/e 09/12/00)	1	1 (PCR)	0	0
50 (w/e 16/12/00)	2	1 (PCR)	1 (PCR)	0
51 (w/e 23/12/00)	4	2 (PCR,culture)	2 (PCR)	0
52 (w/e 30/12/00)	1	1 (PCR,culture)	0	0
1 (w/e 06/01/01)	1	1 (PCR,culture)	0	1 (PCR,culture)

Table 2

Influenza positive results by serology by type and by report week for 2000-01

<i>Week Number</i>	<i>Influenza A</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>
40 (w/e 07/10/00)	0	0
41 (w/e 14/10/00)	0	0
42 (w/e 21/10/00)	5	0
43 (w/e 28/10/00)	2	1
44 (w/e 04/11/00)	3	0
45 (w/e 11/11/00)	3	0
46 (w/e 18/11/00)	0	0
47 (w/e 25/11/00)	1	0
48 (w/e 02/12/00)	4	0
49 (w/e 09/12/00)	4	0
50 (w/e 16/12/00)	2	0
51 (w/e 24/12/00)	3	0
52 (w/e 30/12/00)	Results pending	Results pending
01 (w/e 06/01/01)	Results pending	Results pending

Influenza activity in England, Wales and Scotland.

Clinical activity levels remain below baseline threshold levels for the week ending the 31st of December. Influenza A (H1N1) is the predominant isolate to date.

Influenza activity in Europe

According to the latest EISS bulletin for week 52, week ending the 31/12/00, Denmark, Germany and the South of France reported influenza activity at local levels. The North of France reported regional activity. Influenza A has been isolated in Denmark, France, Germany, Portugal and Switzerland during the same period.

Influenza activity in Canada

During the week ending the 30th of December, week 52, widespread activity was reported in 2 regions, local activity in one region and sporadic activity in 8 regions (n=53). Influenza B continues to be the predominant strain identified.

Influenza activity in United States

Patient visits to sentinel physicians remain within baseline activity levels for the week ending the 30th of December. Nine state and territorial health departments reported regional influenza activity, 36 reported sporadic activity and 4 reported no influenza activity. Influenza virus was isolated from 84 specimens (11% of all samples received) for the same period. The results are further classified into 24 influenza A unsubtype isolates, 28 influenza A (H1N1) isolates and 32 influenza B isolates.

Influenza activity Worldwide

Finland has reported a local outbreak of influenza during the first half of December. The majority of cases occurred in children and were due to influenza A (H1N1). Israel reported an increase in cases during the second week of December. Influenza A (H1N1) isolates have been identified. Activity in Norway, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Italy and Portugal is reported at sporadic levels for the week ending the 7th of January 2001, according to FluNet.