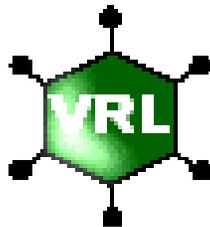


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



Week 46

Report produced: 22/11/2001

This report is produced in collaboration with the Departments of Public Health

Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 46, week ending the 18th of November 2001, 2 influenza-like illness (ILI) cases were reported by sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a GP consultation rate of 5 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 17 sentinel practices, 2 of which reported ILI cases. The consultation rate for week 45 has been updated to 10 per 100,000, with 27 sentinel general practices reporting.

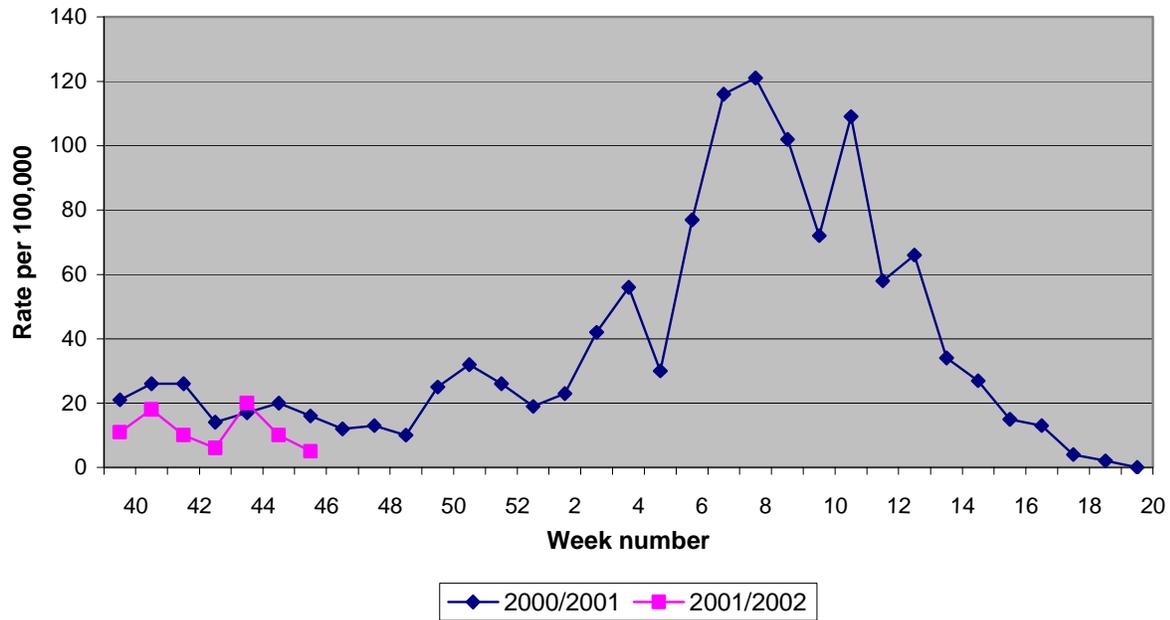


Figure 1: GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness per 100,000 population by report week, during the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 influenza seasons.

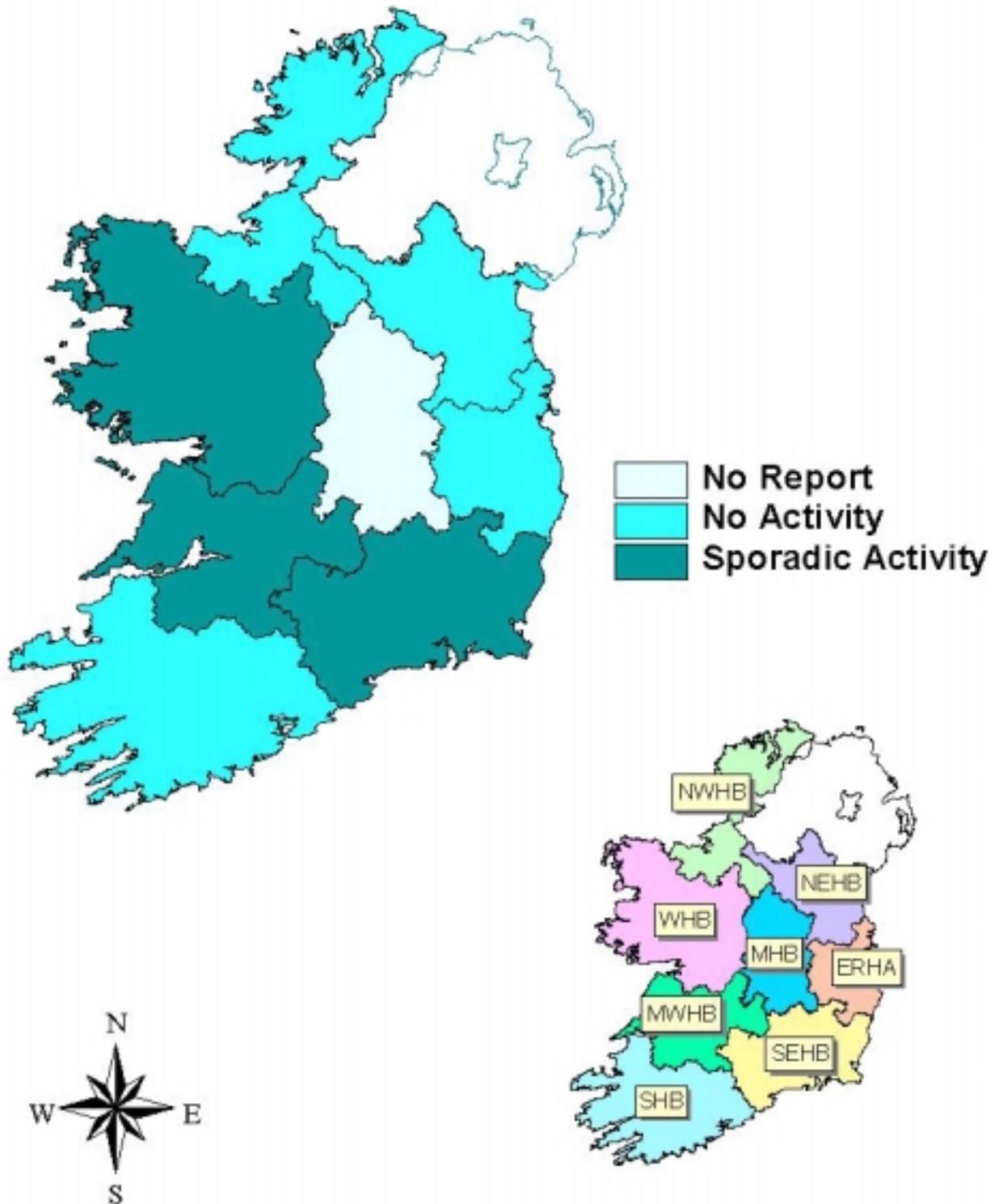
Virological Data from the Virus Reference Laboratory (VRL)

The VRL received 3 swabs from sentinel general practices during week 46. All 3 were negative for influenza A and B. There have been no laboratory confirmed cases of influenza through the sentinel surveillance system during the 2001/2002 influenza season.

Influenza Activity by Health Board/Authority

Influenza activity for week 45 (week ending the 11th of November 2001) was reported from the Departments of Public Health. Influenza activity is based on sentinel GP ILI consultation rates, laboratory confirmed cases of influenza, school absenteeism levels and hospital admissions data.

Influenza Activity - Week 45



Influenza Activity in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales

During week 45, the GP consultation rate for influenza and influenza-like illness increased to 48 per 100,000 in Northern Ireland. In England and Wales, the GP consultation rates for influenza and influenza-like illness also increased to a rate of 16 per 100,000 and 25 per 100,000, respectively. In Scotland the rate remained little changed with a rate of 18 per 100,000. In England, Scotland and Wales the GP consultation rates remain below their respective upper level set for baseline activity. No influenza isolates have been detected in specimens submitted to the ERNVL since week 40/2001.

Influenza Activity in Europe

Influenza activity remained at low levels in Europe during week 45. Seventeen networks reported “no influenza activity” to the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS), and one regional network (France South) reported sporadic activity. Norway confirmed an influenza A virus infection in a one-year old boy. This was the first detection of influenza in Norway this season.

Influenza Activity in Canada

In Canada, during week 45, 44 regions reported no influenza activity and 5 regions reported sporadic activity. During the same week, sentinel physicians reported 18 cases of ILI per 1000 patient visits. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control received 669 reports of laboratory tests for influenza; 4 were positive for influenza A.

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 45, the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 1.2%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. Twenty-two state and territorial health departments reported sporadic influenza activity and 26 reported no influenza activity. The WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 414 specimens tested for influenza viruses. Two influenza A isolates were identified during week 45. Of the 39 positive isolates identified for influenza viruses since September 30, 97% (38) were influenza A viruses and 3% (1) were influenza B viruses. Fourteen of the 38 influenza A viruses have been identified and all were influenza A (H3N2) viruses.

Influenza Activity Worldwide

During week 45, no influenza activity was reported in the Slovak Republic, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden. Argentina, Hong Kong, Belarus, and Chile all reported sporadic activity. In Argentina, 7 untyped influenza A and 2 influenza B isolates have been identified. One influenza A (H1N1) and one influenza B isolates were identified in Hong Kong. Sporadic cases of influenza A were reported in Belarus. Two influenza B positive isolates were reported in Chile.