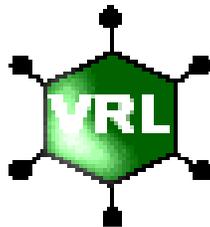


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



Week 42

Report produced:

24th October 2001

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

Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 42 (ending 21 October 2001), sentinel general practices reported 4 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI). This corresponds to a GP consultation rate of 10 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from a total of 19 sentinel general practices, only 3 of these reported ILI cases.

Data for week 41 has been updated, reports were received from 18 sentinel general practices, 13 of which reported no cases. The updated GP consultation rate for week 41 is 18 per 100,000 population.

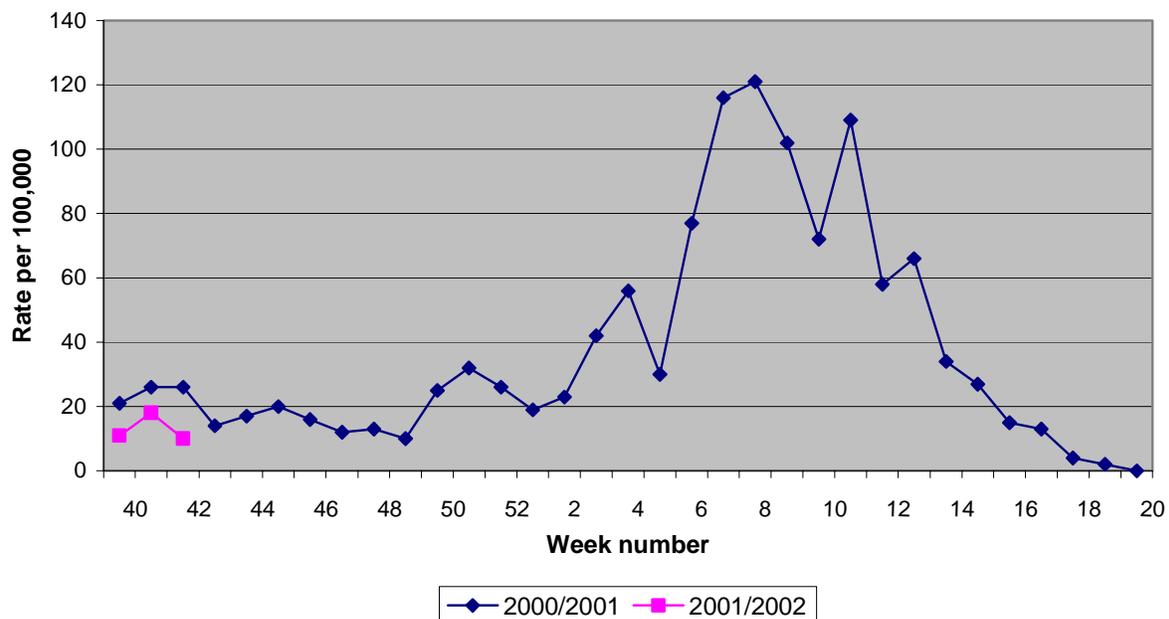


Figure 1: GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness per 100,000 population by report week, during the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 influenza seasons.

Virological Data from the Virus Reference Laboratory

During week 42 the Virus Reference Laboratory received 4 swabs from sentinel general practices, none of which were positive for influenza virus. So far this season influenza virus has not been detected.

Influenza Activity in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales

In Northern Ireland, the consultation rate for influenza and ILI decreased from 22.9 per 100,000 population in week 40 (ending 5 October) to 18.9 per 100,000 population in week 41 (ending 12 October).

In England, GP consultation rates for influenza and ILI were 15 per 100,000 population in week 40 (ending 7 October) and 13 per 100,000 population in week 41 (ending 14 October), which remain well below the upper level set for 'baseline activity' of 50 per 100,000 population.

In Wales, the consultation rate decreased from 1.9 per 100,000 population for week 40 (ending 3 October) to 0.9 per 100,000 population for week 41 (ending 10 October) and remains well below the upper level set for 'baseline activity' of 25 per 100,000 population.

In Scotland, the consultation rate for ILI was 11 per 100,000 population for week 41 (ending 15 October), which remains well below the upper level set for 'baseline activity' of 50 per 100,000 population.

The PHLS Enteric, Respiratory and Neurological Virus Laboratory have reported no isolates of influenza virus for weeks 40 and 41.

Influenza Activity in Europe

The first influenza bulletin for the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) will be available on 26 October 2001.

Influenza Activity in the United States and Canada

In the United States, during week 41 (ending 13 October) 13 state and territorial health departments reported sporadic activity and 34 reported no influenza activity. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 1.3% (national baseline is 1.9%). The percentage of all deaths attributable to influenza and pneumonia was 6%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for week 41. Of the 374 specimens tested by WHO and NREVSS laboratories, 5 (1%) were positive – 2 influenza A (H3N2) and 3 influenza A (not subtyped).

In Canada, during the week ending 6 October, there were no reports of influenza activity or positive laboratory tests. Nineteen cases of ILI per 1000 patient visits from sentinel physicians were reported.

Influenza Activity Worldwide

During weeks 41 (ending 13 October) and 42 (ending 20 October), only sporadic ILI activity was reported in Argentina, Chile and Hong Kong.

During week 41 the following isolates were reported: 2 influenza A (not typed) and 3 influenza B in Argentina; 2 influenza A (not typed) in Chile; and 3 influenza A (not typed), 2 influenza A (H1N1) and 2 influenza A (H3N2) in Hong Kong.

During week 42 the following isolates were reported: 6 influenza A (not typed) and 4 influenza B in Argentina; one influenza B in Chile; and 2 influenza A (not typed) and 3 influenza B in Hong Kong.