

Influenza Week 44 2022 (31st October – 6th November 2022)



 **Intensive Care Society of Ireland**

Summary

Influenza activity remained stable in Ireland during week 44 2022 (week ending 06/11/2022), and at relatively low levels. Sporadic detections of influenza A(H3), A(H1)pdm09 and B have been detected this season to date. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity, including RSV hospitalisations remained at very high levels in Ireland. Please note, the data during week 44 2022 may have been impacted by the bank holiday weekend.

Influenza-like illness (ILI): The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) ILI consultation rate was 11.7/100,000 population during week 44 2022, remaining stable compared to the updated rate of 12/100,000 during week 43 2022.

- Sentinel GP ILI consultation rates have remained below the Irish baseline threshold (18.1/100,000 population) this season (weeks 40-44 2022).
- Sentinel GP ILI age specific consultation rates were all below age specific baselines during week 44 2022.

National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL):

- Of nine sentinel GP ILI specimens tested during weeks 43 and 44 2022, none were positive for influenza or RSV.
- Of 314 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested and reported by the NVRL during weeks 44 and 43 2022, 17 (5.4%) were positive for influenza: 3 A(H3), 11 A(H1)pdm09, 2 influenza B and one influenza A (not subtyped).
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) positivity (non-sentinel respiratory specimens) remained high in recent weeks, at 23% (33/143) during week 44 2022 and 14.6% (25/171) during week 43 2022.
- Influenza notifications: 117 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were notified during week 44 2022 – 3 A(H3), one A(H1)pdm09, 107 influenza A (not subtyped) and six influenza B. The number of influenza notifications remained stable during week 44 at 117, compared to 126 during week 43 2022.
- RSV notifications: 439 RSV cases and 192 RSV hospitalised cases were notified during week 44 2022, remaining at very high levels. During week 44 2022, 66% of notified RSV cases were in the 0-4-year age group.
- Hospitalisations and Critical care admissions: 48 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were reported as hospital inpatients during week 44 2022: one A(H3), one A(H1)pdm09, 42 influenza A (not subtyped) and four influenza B. This is a slight increase compared to 43 laboratory confirmed influenza notifications reported as hospital inpatients during week 43 2022. One laboratory confirmed critical care influenza A (not subtyped) case was notified to HPSC during week 44 2022. During the 2022/2023 season to date (weeks 40-44), six laboratory confirmed influenza cases have been admitted to critical care and notified to HPSC: 1 A(H3) and 5 A (not subtyped)
- Mortality: One death in a notified influenza case was reported to HPSC during week 44 2022. During the 2022/2023 season, three deaths in notified influenza cases were reported to HPSC.
- Outbreaks: Three influenza A (not subtyped) outbreaks - two hospital and one in a residential institution, and eight RSV outbreaks – two hospital, three family outbreaks, one nursing home, one residential institution and one community hospital were notified to HPSC during week 44 2022.
- International: In Europe, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels with signs of slowly increasing activity; Kazakhstan, Malta and Portugal reported widespread activity. WHO is advising countries to remain vigilant for the likelihood of influenza circulating and to be prepared for co-circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza.

1. GP sentinel surveillance system - Clinical Data

- During week 44 2022, 31 sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultations were reported from the Irish sentinel GP network, corresponding to an ILI consultation rate of 11.7 per 100,000 population, remaining stable compared to the updated rate of 12 per 100,000 during week 43 2022 (Figure 1).
- The sentinel GP ILI consultation rate during the 2022/2023 season to date (weeks 40-44 2022) has remained below the Irish sentinel GP ILI baseline threshold (18.1/100,000 population).
- Sentinel GP ILI age specific consultation rates were below age specific baseline thresholds in those aged ≥ 65 years (14.1/100,000), 15-64 (12.7/100,000) and 0-14 (7.1/100,000) year age groups during week 44 2022 (Figure 2, Table 1).
- HPSC has reviewed the Irish sentinel baseline ILI threshold for the 2022/2023 influenza season, which will remain at 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), medium (57.5/100,000 population) and high (86.5/100,000 population) intensity ILI thresholds are shown in Figure 1. Age specific MEM threshold levels are shown in Table 1.

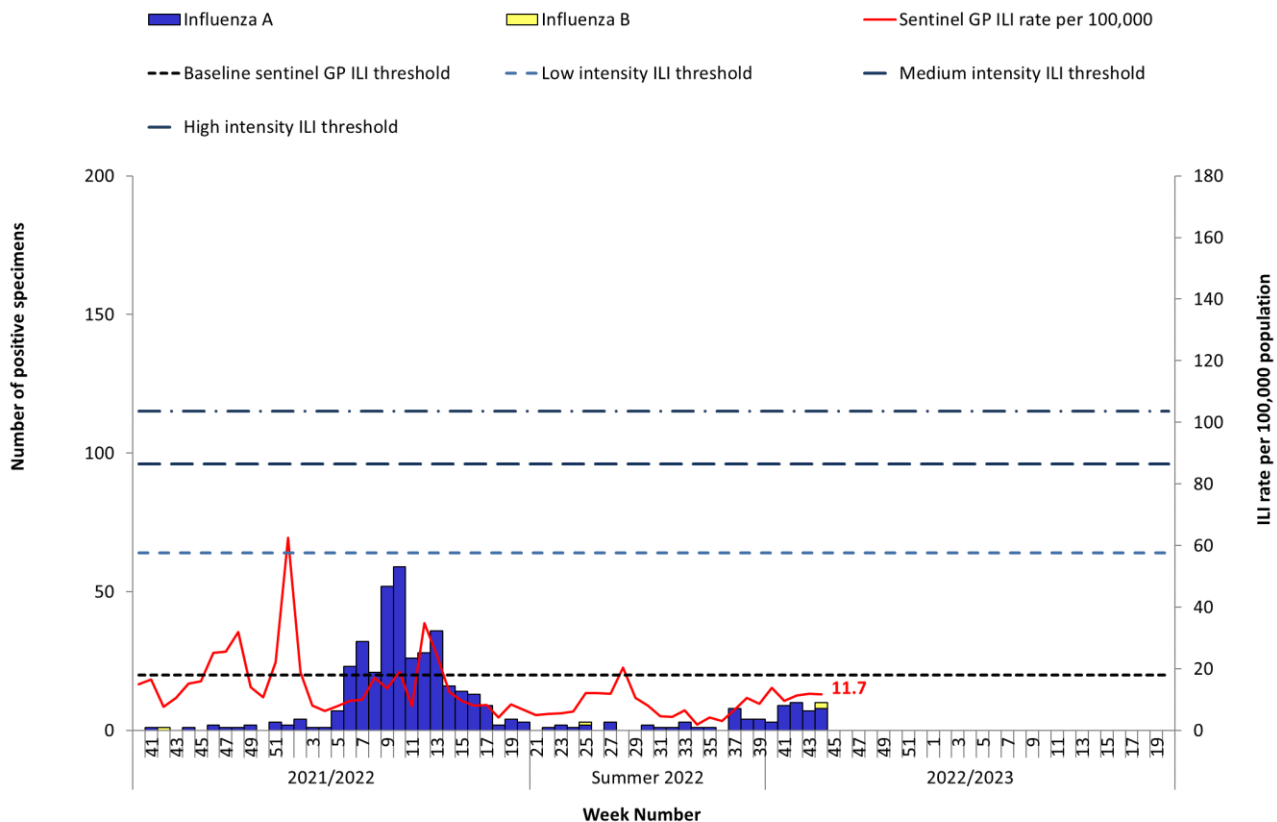


Figure 1: Sentinel GP Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold, medium and high intensity ILI thresholds and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. *Source: ICGP and NVRL*

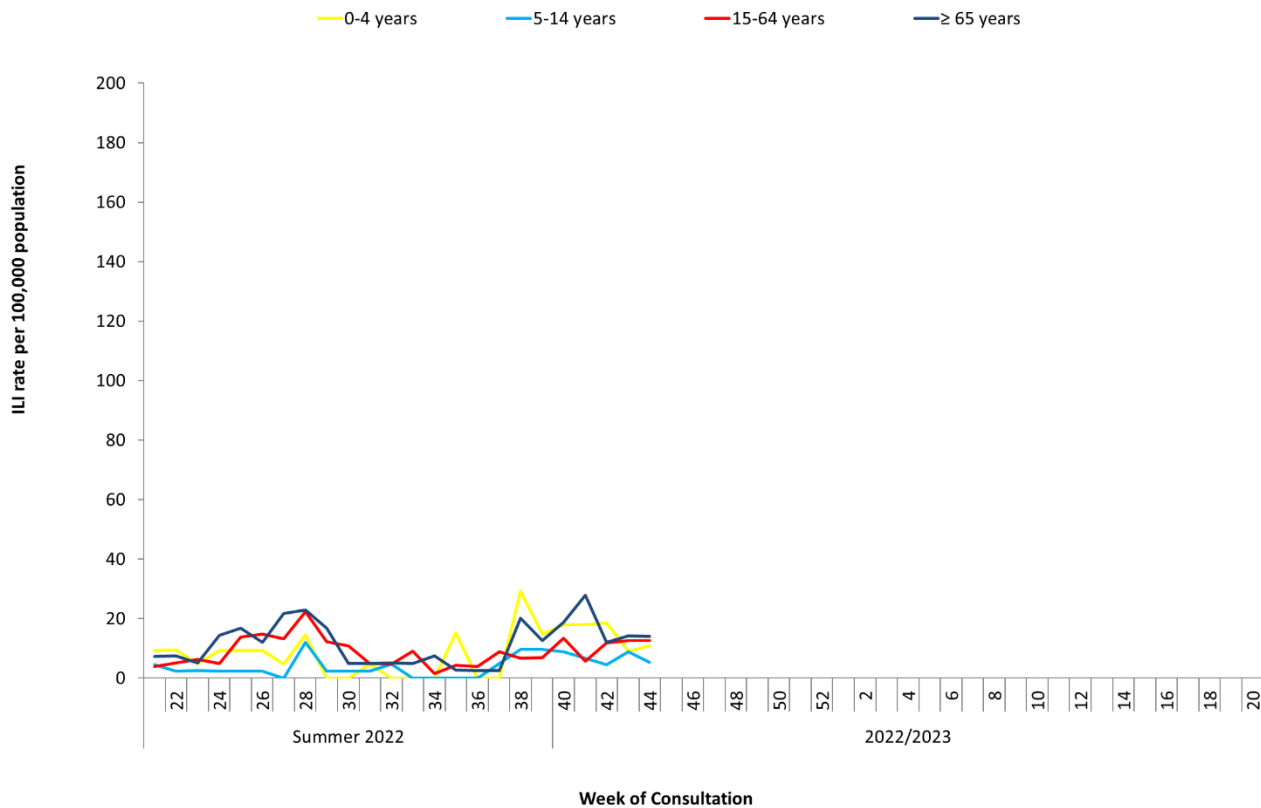


Figure 2: Age specific sentinel GP ILI consultation rate per 100,000 population by week during the summer of 2022 and the 2022/2023 influenza season to date. *Source: ICGP.*

Table 1: Age specific sentinel GP ILI consultation rate per 100,000 population by week (weeks 24-43 2022), 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															
Age group (years)	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
All Ages	4.9	5.3	5.5	6.1	12.2	12.2	11.9	20.4	10.6	8.0	4.6	4.4	6.6	2.0	4.2	3.0	6.8	10.5	8.7	13.8	9.7	11.3	12.0	11.7
<15 yrs	6.1	4.7	3.3	4.6	4.6	4.6	1.5	12.9	1.5	1.5	3.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	3.2	16.0	11.3	11.9	10.3	9.1	8.9	7.1
15-64 yrs	4.0	5.1	6.3	4.9	13.8	14.7	13.3	22.3	12.3	10.8	5.0	4.6	9.0	1.5	4.3	4.0	8.8	6.7	6.8	13.4	5.7	11.8	12.5	12.7
≥65 yrs	7.3	7.4	5.2	14.4	16.8	12.0	21.6	22.8	16.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	7.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	20.2	12.7	18.8	27.9	12.0	14.1	14.1
Reporting practices (N=61)	56	55	56	57	57	57	57	55	57	57	56	54	57	56	57	58	57	57	56	59	59	58	58	51

2. Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Detections - NVRL

The data reported in this section for the 2022/2023 influenza season refers to sentinel GP ILI 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 3). In Ireland, virological surveillance for influenza, RSV and other respiratory viruses (ORVs) undertaken by the Irish sentinel GP network is integrated into current testing structures for COVID-19 primary care referrals.

- Of nine sentinel GP ILI specimens tested and reported by the NVRL during weeks 43 and 44 2022, none were positive for influenza. Of 314 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested and reported by the NVRL during weeks 43 and 44 2022, 17 (5.4%) were positive for influenza: three A(H3), 11 A(H1)pdm09, two influenza B and one influenza A (not subtyped); a lag time with testing and reporting is noted.
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) positivity (non-sentinel respiratory specimens) remained high in recent weeks, at 23% (33/143) during week 44 2022 and 14.6% (25/171) during week 43 2022. During weeks 43 and 44 2022, no sentinel GP ILI specimens were RSV positive.
- Rhinovirus/enterovirus positive detections from non-sentinel respiratory specimens were detected at a positivity rate of 16.8% (24/143) during week 44 2022, a slight decrease from 18.7% (32/171) during week 43 2022 (Figure 5).
- Other respiratory viruses (ORVs) are being detected at lower levels (Figure 3).

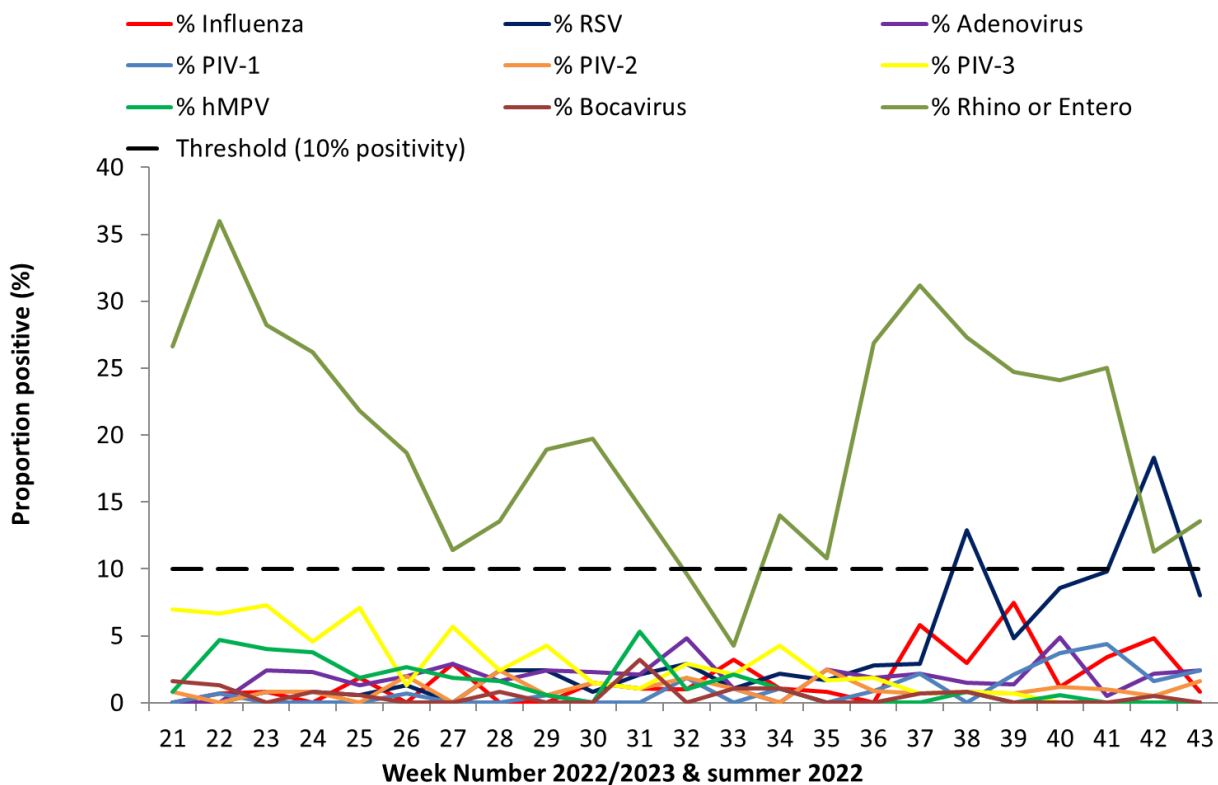


Figure 3: Percentage positive results for non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL for influenza, RSV and other respiratory viruses, weeks 21-43 2022. *Source: ICGP.*

Table 2: Number of sentinel GP ILI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL and positive influenza results, for weeks 43 and 44 2022 and the 2022/2023 season (weeks 40-44 2022). *Source: NVRL*

Surveillance period	Specimen type	Total tested	Number influenza positive	% Influenza positive	Influenza A				Influenza B			
					A(H1)pdm09	A(H3)	A (not subtyped)	Total influenza A	B (unspecified)	B Victoria lineage	B Yamagata lineage	Total influenza B
44 2022	Sentinel GP ILI referral	5	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel	143	10	7.0	6	1	1	8	2	0	0	2
	Total	148	10	6.8	6	1	1	8	2	0	0	2
43 2022	Sentinel GP ILI referral	4	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel	171	7	4.1	5	2	0	7	0	0	0	0
	Total	175	7	4.0	5	2	0	7	0	0	0	0
2022/2023	Sentinel GP ILI referral	29	4	13.8	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel	865	35	4.0	17	13	3	33	2	0	0	2
	Total	894	39	4.4	19	15	3	37	2	0	0	2

Table 3: Number of sentinel GP ILI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL and positive RSV results, for weeks 43 and 44 2022 and the 2022/2023 season (weeks 40-44 2022). *Source: NVRL*

Surveillance period	Specimen type	Total tested	Number RSV positive	% RSV positive	RSV A	RSV B	RSV (unspecified)
Week 44 2022	Sentinel GP ILI	5	0	0.0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel	143	33	23.1	3	30	0
	Total	148	33	22.3	3	30	0
Week 43 2022	Sentinel GP ILI	4	0	0.0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel	171	25	14.6	4	21	0
	Total	175	25	14.3	4	21	0
2022/2023	Sentinel GP ILI	29	3	10.3	0	3	0
	Non-sentinel	865	127	14.7	31	96	0
	Total	894	130	14.5	31	99	0

Table 4: Number of non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL for respiratory viruses and positive results, for weeks 43 and 44 2022 and 2022/2023 season (weeks 40-44 2022). *Source: NVRL*

Virus	Week 44 2022 (N=143)		Week 43 2022 (N=171)		2022/2023 (N=865)	
	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive
Influenza virus	10	7.0	7	4.1	35	4.0
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	33	23.1	25	14.6	127	14.7
Rhino/enterovirus	24	16.8	32	18.7	167	19.3
Adenovirus	2	1.4	3	1.8	18	2.1
Bocavirus	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	1	0.7	0	0.0	2	0.2
Parainfluenza virus type 1 (PIV-1)	3	2.1	4	2.3	25	0.2
Parainfluenza virus type 2 (PIV-2)	0	0.0	4	2.3	9	1.0
Parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV-3)	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	0.1
Parainfluenza virus type 4 (PIV-4)	1	0.7	1	0.6	7	0.8

Table 5: Number of sentinel GP ILI specimens tested by the NVRL for respiratory viruses and positive results, for weeks 42 and 43 2022 and 2022/2023 season (weeks 40-43 2022). *Source: NVRL*

Virus	Week 44 2021 (N=5)		Week 43 2021 (N=4)		2022/2023 (N=29)	
	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive
Influenza virus	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	13.8
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	10.3
Rhino/enterovirus	0	0.0	2	50.0	5	17.2
Adenovirus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Bocavirus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Parainfluenza virus type 1 (PIV-1)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Parainfluenza virus type 2 (PIV-2)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV-3)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Parainfluenza virus type 4 (PIV-4)	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4
SARS-CoV-2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4

4. GP Out-Of-Hours services surveillance

The Department of Public Health in HSE-NE is collating national data on calls to nine of thirteen GP Out-of-Hours services in Ireland. Records with clinical symptoms reported as flu/influenza or cough are extracted for analysis. This information may act as an early indicator of circulation of influenza, SARS-CoV-2 or other respiratory viruses. Data are self-reported by callers and are not based on coded diagnoses.

- 7377 (43.1% of total calls; N=17,117) self-reported cough calls were reported by a network of GP OOHs services during week 44 2022, which was above baseline levels (10.7%) (Figure 4). An increase in the number of and percentage of cough calls in the 0 – 4 year age group in recent weeks is evident.
- 189 (1.1% of total calls; N=17,117) self-reported ‘flu’ calls were reported by a network of GP OOHs services during week 44 2022. The baseline threshold level for self-reported ‘flu’ calls is 2.3% (Figure 6).
- Five GP OOH services provided data for week 44 2022.

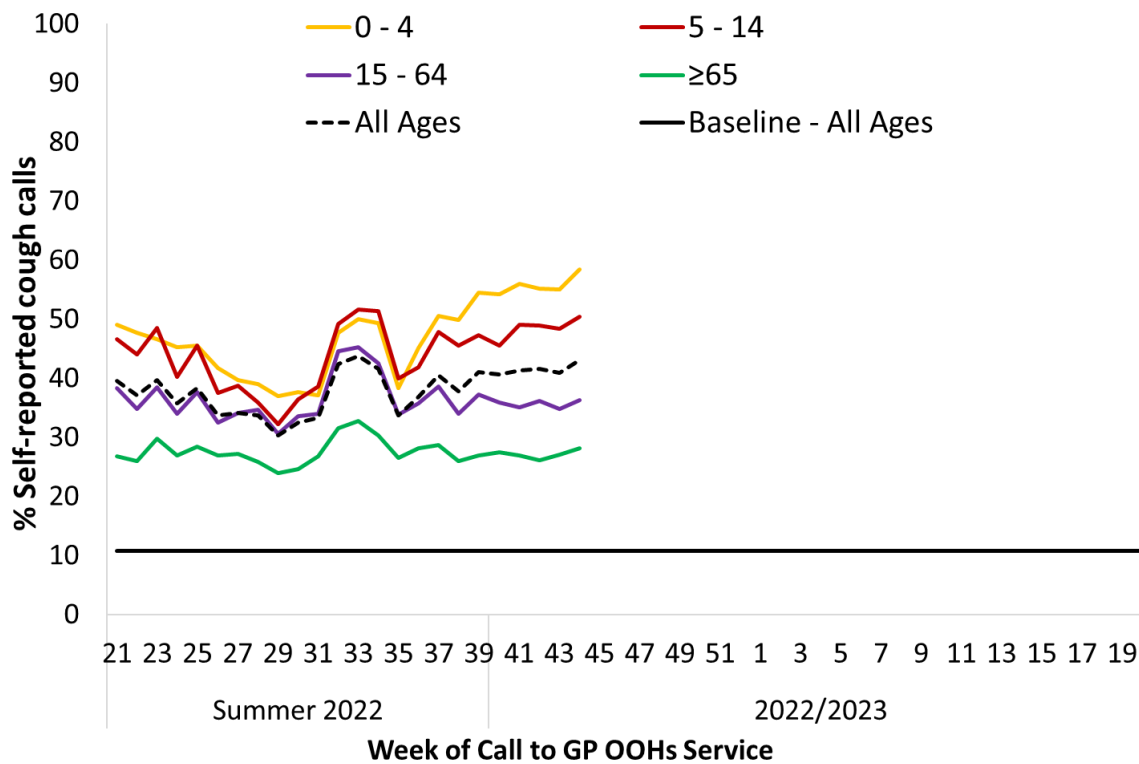


Figure 4: Percentage of self-reported COUGH calls for all ages and by age group as a proportion of total calls to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, summer 2022 and the 2022/2023 season. The % cough calls baseline for all ages calculated using the MEM method on historic data is shown. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE-NE) & ICGP.*

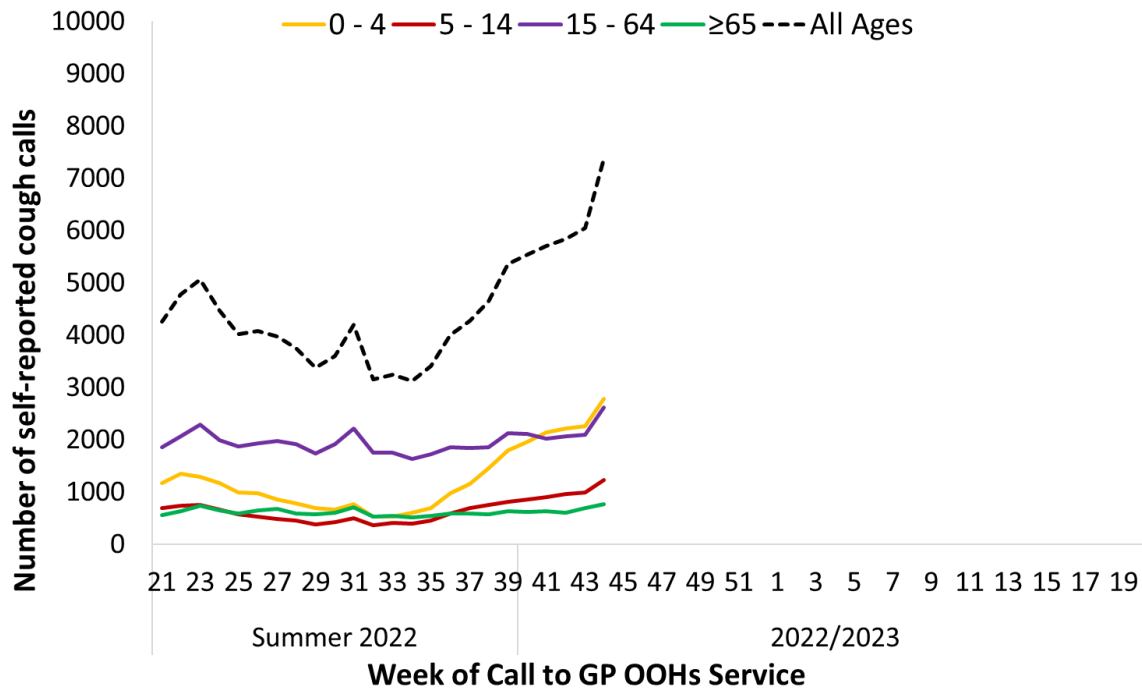


Figure 5: Number of self-reported COUGH calls for all ages and by age group to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, 2022-2023. Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE-NE) & ICGP.

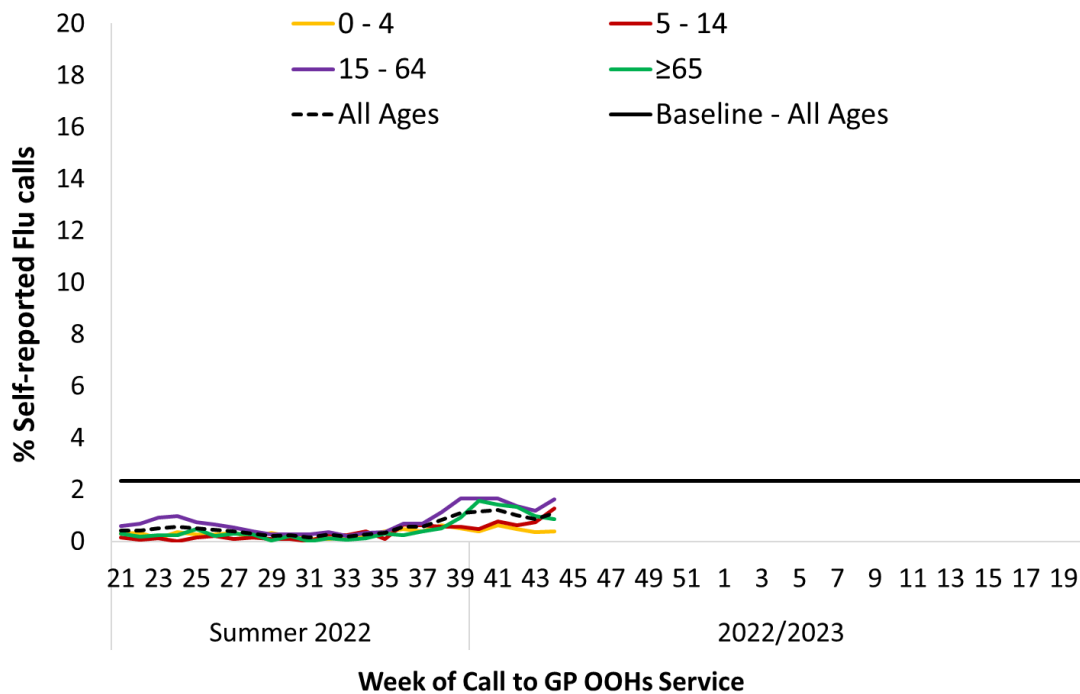


Figure 6: Percentage of self-reported FLU calls for all ages and by age group as a proportion of total calls to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, Summer 2022 and 2022/2023. The % flu calls baseline for all ages calculated using the MEM method on historic data is shown. Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE-NE) & ICGP

5. Influenza & RSV notifications

Influenza and RSV cases notifications are reported on Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR), including all positive influenza /RSV specimens reported from all laboratories testing for influenza/RSV and reporting to CIDR.

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

- 117 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were notified during week 44 2022 – 3 A(H3), one A(H1)pdm09, 107 influenza A (not subtyped) and six influenza B. The number of influenza notifications remained stable during week 44 at 117, compared to 126 notifications during week 43 2022. During the 2022/2023 season to date (weeks 40-44 2022) 466 laboratory confirmed influenza cases have been notified to HPSC.
- Confirmed influenza cases for week 44 2022 were notified in the following HSE areas: HSE-East (n=46), HSE-MidWest (n=3), HSE-Midlands (n=9), HSE-Northeast (n=22), HSE-Northwest (n=21), HSE-Southeast (n=1), HSE-South (n=9) and HSE-West (n=6).
- Age specific rates in notified laboratory confirmed influenza cases were highest in those aged ≥ 65 years (Figure 8).
- 439 RSV cases were notified during week 44 2022, a slight increase compared to 421 cases notified during week 43 2022 (Figure 9).
- During week 44 2022, age specific rates in notified laboratory confirmed RSV cases were highest in those aged 0-4 years (Figure 10).

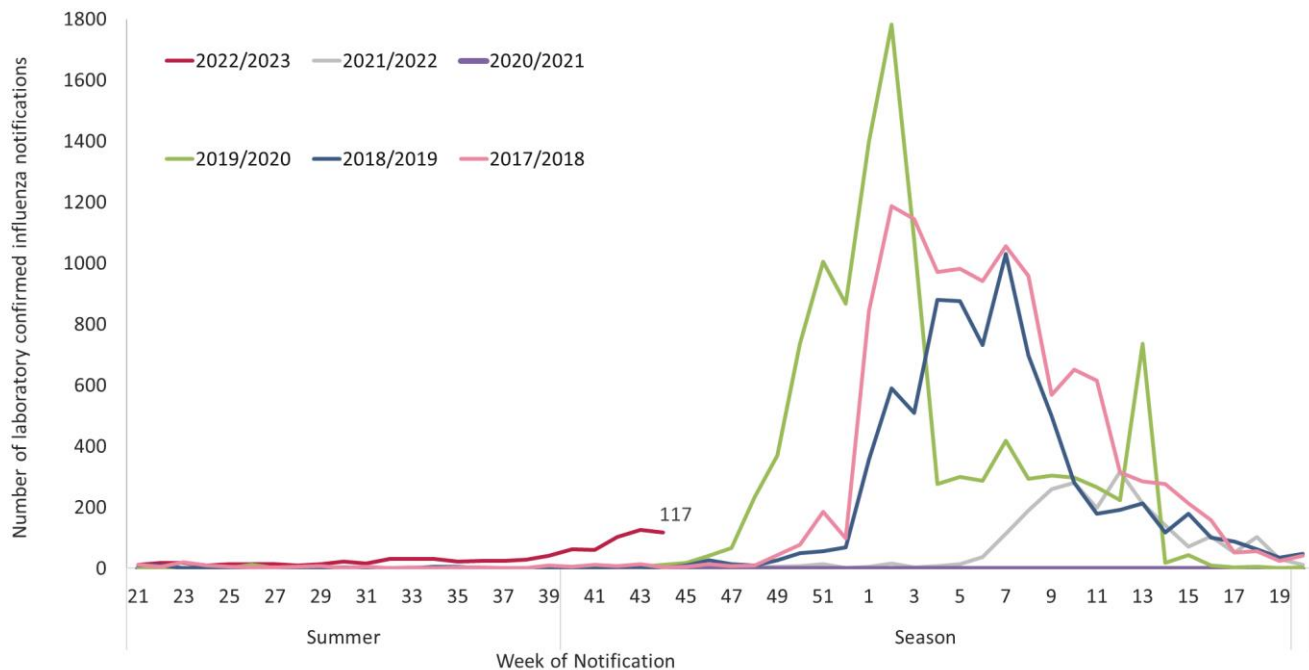


Figure 7: Laboratory confirmed influenza notifications to HSPC by week and season of notification, 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 influenza seasons. *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

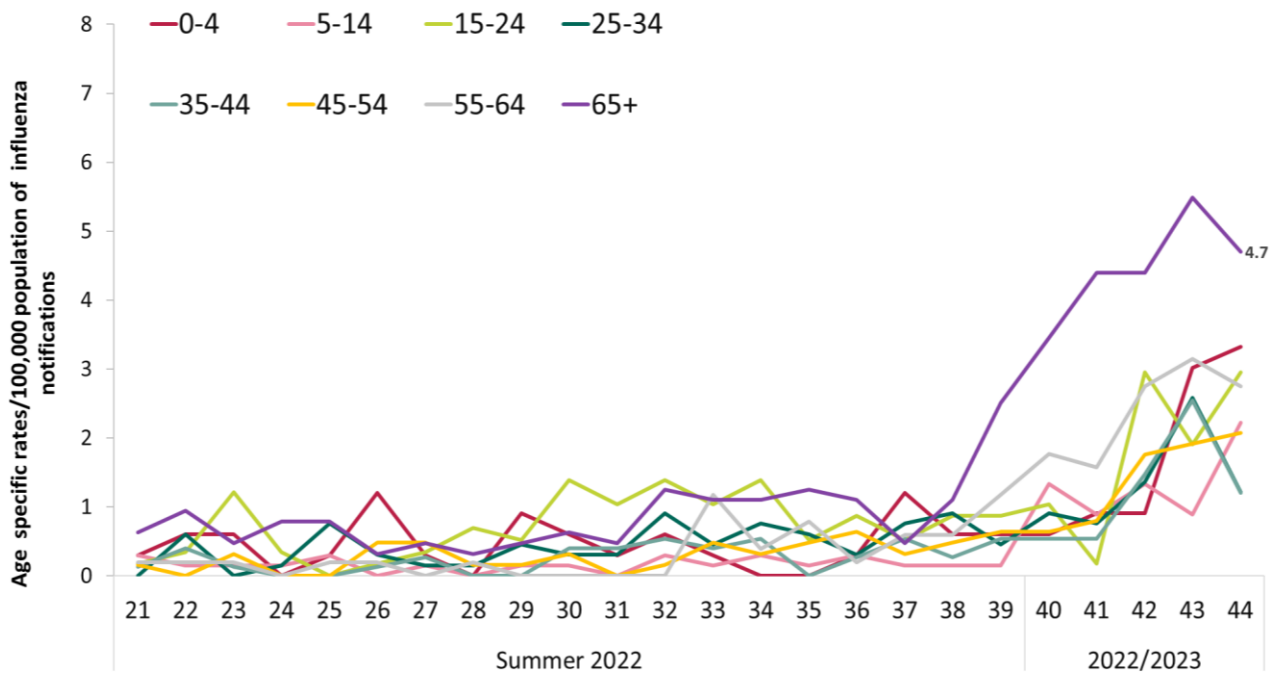


Figure 8: Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed influenza notifications to HSPC by week of notification. *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

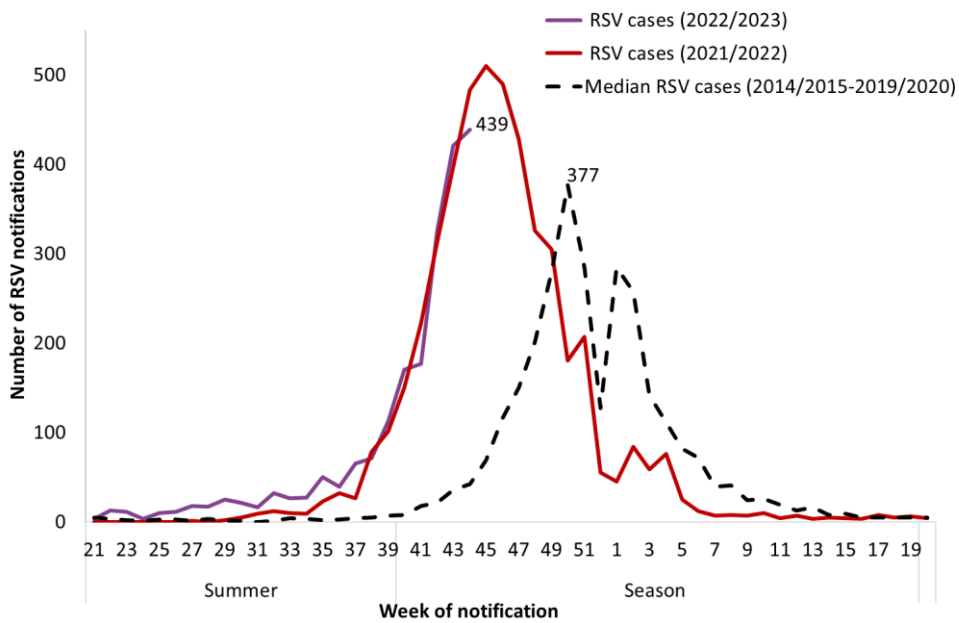


Figure 9: Number of laboratory confirmed RSV notifications to HPSC by week of notification 2022/2023 season 2021/2022 season and median number of RSV notifications by week (2014/2015-2019/2020). *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

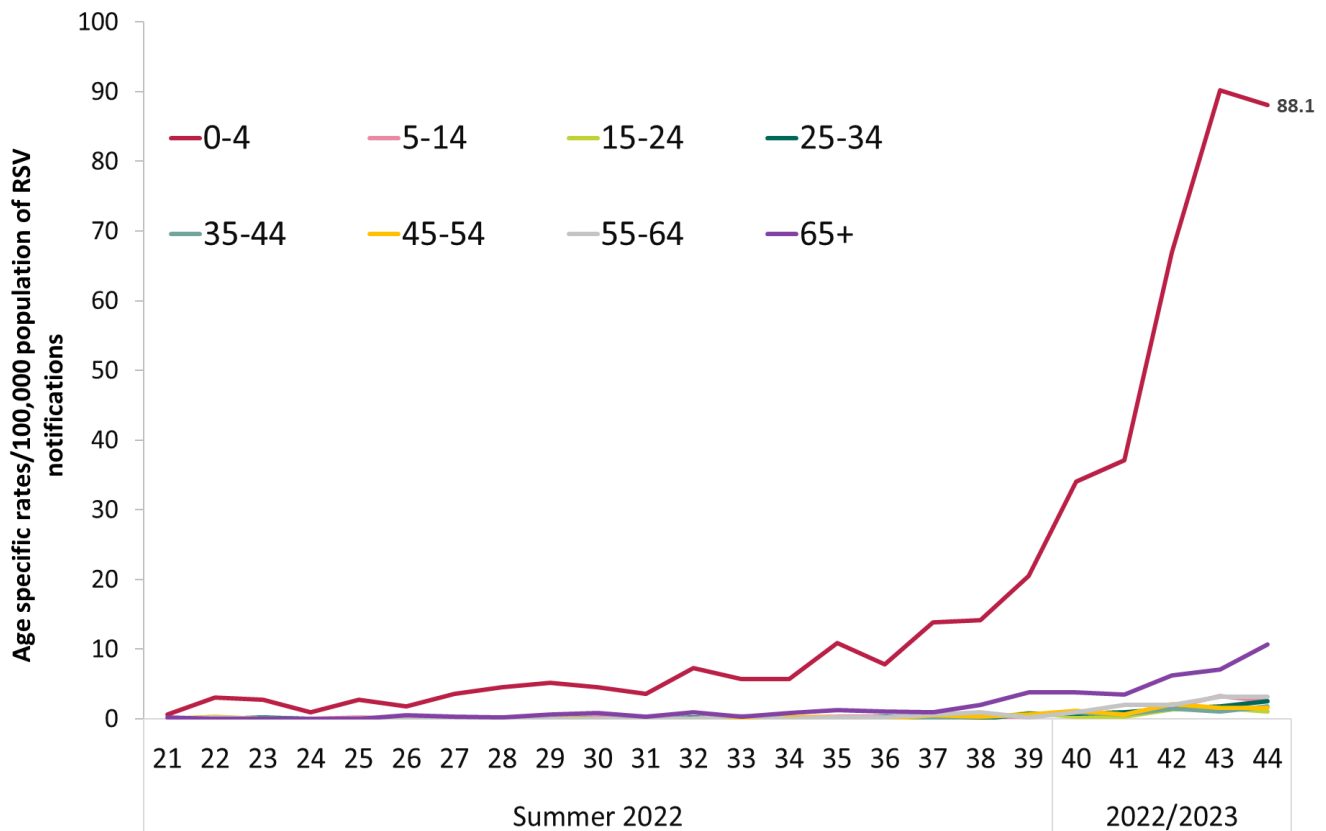


Figure 10: Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed RSV notifications to HSPC by week of notification. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

6. Hospitalisations

- During week 44 2022, 48 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were reported as hospital inpatients: one A(H3), one A(H1)pdm09, 42 influenza A (not subtyped) and four influenza B (Figure 11). This is a slight increase compared to 43 laboratory confirmed influenza notifications reported as hospital inpatients during week 43 2022. During the 2022/2023 season to date (weeks 40-44 2022), 168 laboratory confirmed influenza cases have been reported as being hospitalised.
- In week 44 2022, age specific rates in notified laboratory confirmed hospitalised influenza cases were highest in those aged 0-4 years (Figure 12).
- The number (and age specific rate per 100,000 population) of laboratory confirmed notified influenza hospitalised and critical care cases for the 2022/2023 season are detailed in Table 8.
- Patient type of laboratory confirmed influenza and RSV notifications by week for the 2022/2023 season is reported in Table 6 and 7.
- During week 44 2022, 192 RSV cases out of 439 (44%) were reported as hospital inpatients (Figure 13).
- It should be noted that patient type is not always reported/updated for notified cases.
- In week 44 2022, age specific rates in notified laboratory confirmed hospitalised RSV cases were highest in those aged 0-4 years (Figure 14).

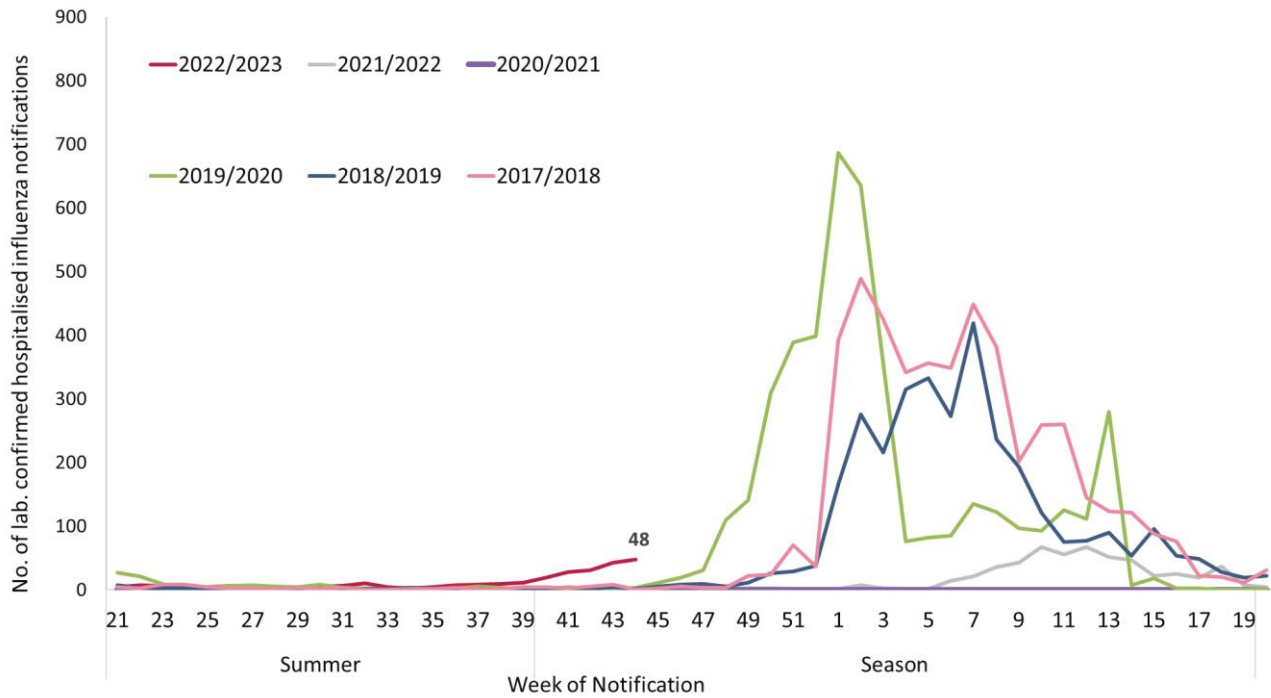


Figure 11: Number of notified laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported as hospital inpatients, for the 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 season. *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System*

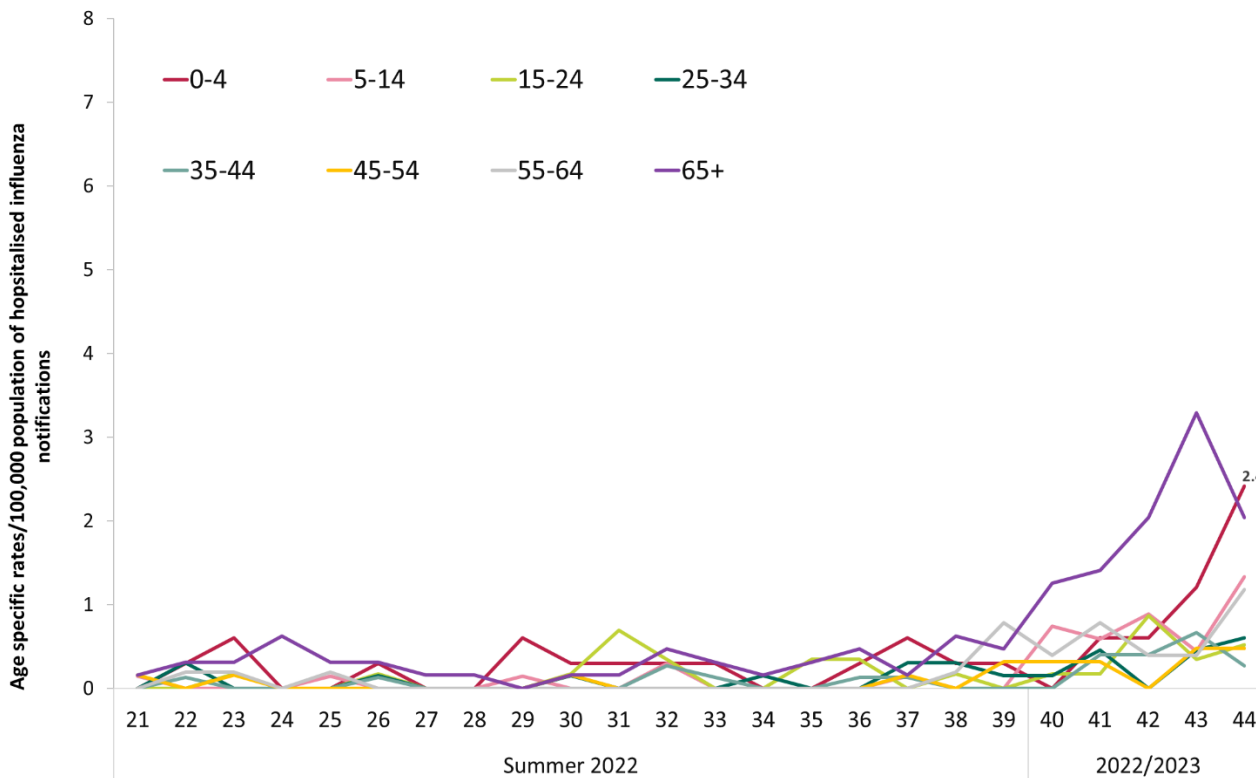


Figure 12: Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported as hospital inpatients by week of notification. *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

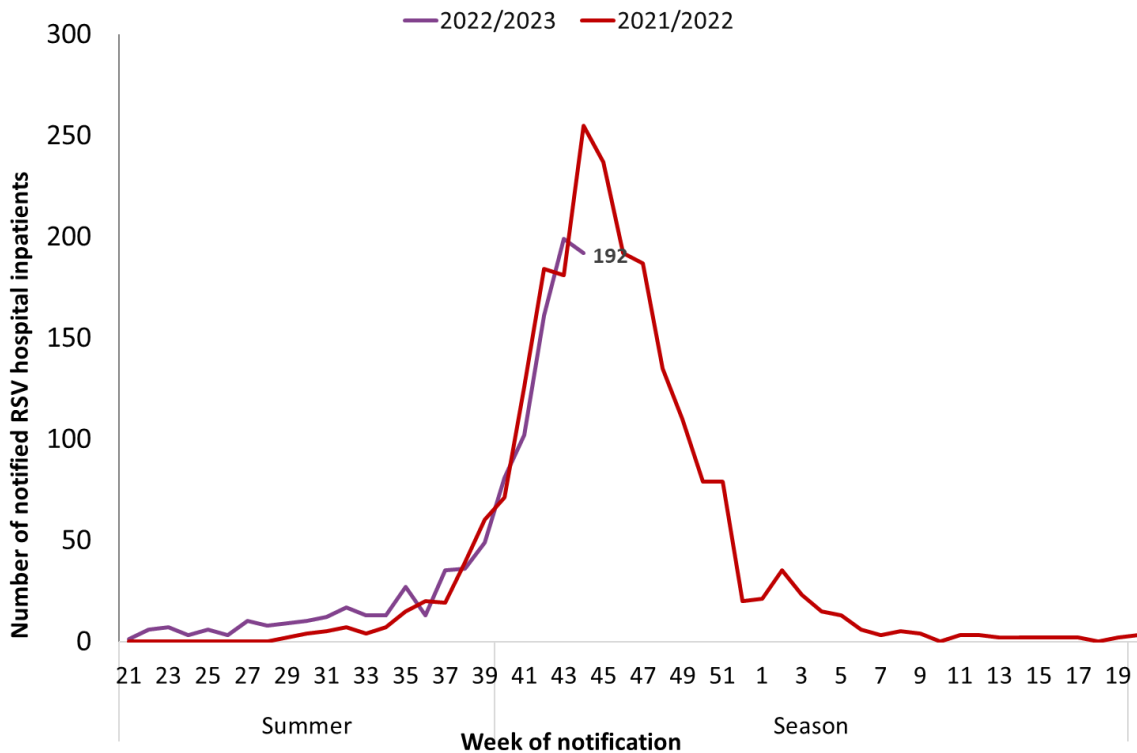


Figure 13: Number of notified RSV cases reported as hospital inpatients, by week of notification and season, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

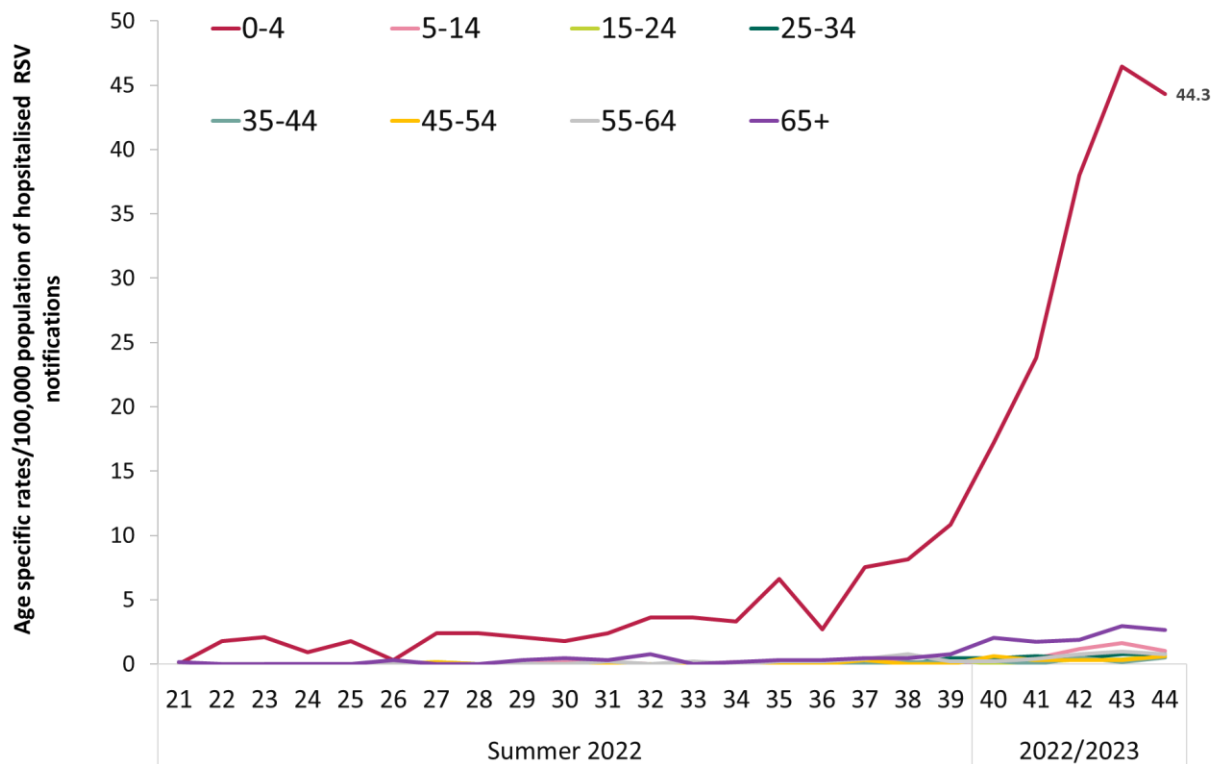


Figure 14: Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed RSV cases reported as hospital inpatients by week of notification. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System*

Table 6: Number of notified **influenza** cases reported by patient type and week of notification and 2022/2023 season (weeks 40-43 2022). *Source: Ireland's Computerised infectious Disease Reporting System*

Patient type	Week of notification					Season total
	40	41	42	43	44	
GP Patient	2	4	1	7	2	16
ED Patient	11	21	45	34	38	149
Hospital Inpatient	19	27	31	43	48	168
Hospital Day Patient	2	0	1	6	4	13
Hospital Outpatient	9	3	16	21	18	67
Other	7	2	3	8	1	21
Unknown	12	2	5	7	6	32
Total	62	59	102	126	117	466

Table 7: Number of notified **RSV** cases reported by patient type and week of notification and 2022/2023 season (weeks 40-43 2022). *Source: Ireland's Computerised infectious Disease Reporting System*

Patient type	Week of notification					Season total
	40	41	42	43	44	
GP Patient	5	3	5	5	6	24
ED Patient	52	45	121	149	177	544
Hospital Inpatient	81	102	161	199	192	735
Hospital Day Patient	1	2	2	9	3	17
Hospital Outpatient	13	14	14	21	23	85
Other	7	5	7	20	16	55
Unknown	11	6	15	18	22	72
Total	170	177	325	421	439	1532

7. Critical Care Surveillance

The Intensive Care Society of Ireland (ICSI) and the HSE Critical Care Programme are continuing with the enhanced surveillance system set up during the 2009 pandemic, on all critical care patients with 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 A (not subtyped) case was admitted to critical care and notified to HPSC during week 44 2022.
- During the 2022/2023 season to date (weeks 40-43), six laboratory confirmed influenza – one influenza A(H3) and 5 A (not subtyped) cases have been admitted to critical care and notified to HPSC.
- The number (and age specific rate per 100,000 population) of laboratory confirmed notified influenza hospitalised and critical care cases for the 2022/2023 season are detailed in Table 8.

Table 8: Cumulative number (and age specific rate per 100,000 population) of laboratory confirmed notified influenza hospitalised and critical care cases, weeks 40-44 2022. *Source: Ireland's Computerised infectious Disease Reporting System.*

Age (years)	Hospitalised		Admitted to ICU	
	Number	Age specific rate per 100,000 pop.	Number	Age specific rate per 100,000 pop.
<1	3	4.8	0	0.0
1-4	13	4.8	0	0.0
5-14	27	4.0	0	0.0
15-24	12	2.1	1	0.2
25-34	11	1.7	0	0.0
35-44	13	2.0	0	0.0
45-54	10	1.6	0	0.0
55-64	16	3.1	1	0.2
≥65	63	9.9	4	0.6
Unknown		–		–
Total	168	3.5	6	0.1

8. Mortality Surveillance

Influenza-associated deaths include all deaths where influenza is reported as the primary/main cause of death by the physician or if influenza is listed anywhere on the death certificate as the cause of death. 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 deaths as part of the influenza surveillance system and the European Mortality Monitoring Project. These data are provisional due to the time delay in deaths' registration in Ireland. <http://www.euromomo.eu/>

- One death in a notified influenza case was reported to HPSC during week 44 2022- influenza A (not subtyped).
- During the 2022/2023 season (weeks 40 2022 - 44 2022), three deaths in notified influenza cases were reported to HPSC – one influenza AH3, two influenza A (not subtyped).
- No excess all-cause mortality was reported during week 43 2022 or for weeks 40-43 2022, after correcting data 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.

9. Outbreak Surveillance

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/>

- Three influenza A (not subtyped) outbreaks - 2 hospital outbreaks in the HSE-East and one in a residential institution in the HSE-North East were notified to HPSC.
- Eight RSV outbreaks were notified to HPSC during week 44 2022: 3 family outbreaks, two hospital, one nursing home, one residential institution and one community hospital. Of the eight RSV outbreaks, four occurred in HSE-North East, two in HSE-North West, one in HSE-East and one in the HSE-South.
- For the season to date (weeks 40-44 2022) six influenza outbreaks, three hospital, two in nursing homes and one in a residential institution was notified to HPSC.
- For the season to date (weeks 40-44 2022), 13 RSV outbreaks, seven family outbreaks, two hospital, one in a childcare facility, one in a nursing home, one in a residential institution and one in a community hospital were notified to HPSC. One ARI (SARS-CoV-2 negative) outbreak in a community hospital/long-stay unit was notified to HPSC during weeks 40-44 2022.

10. International Summary

In the European region, during week 43 2022 (week ending 30/10/2022), influenza virus positivity in sentinel primary care specimens was 8%, this is an increase from 7% during week 42 2022, which is below the ECDC influenza positivity threshold of 10%. For week 43 2022, 149 (8%) of 1,821 sentinel GP specimens tested positive for an influenza virus; 83% were type A and 17% were type B. Of 95 subtyped A viruses, 91% were A(H3) and 9% were A(H1)pdm09. Of the two B viruses ascribed to a lineage, all were B/Victoria. For week 43 2022, 774 of 29,684 specimens from non-sentinel sources (such as hospitals, schools, primary care facilities not involved in sentinel surveillance, or nursing homes and other institutions) tested positive for an influenza virus; 581 (75%) were type A and 193 (25%) were type B. Of 133 subtyped A viruses, 87 (65%) were A(H3) and 46 (35%) were A(H1)pdm09. Four influenza B viruses ascribed to a lineage were of B/Victoria lineage. Of 37 countries and areas reporting on geographic spread of influenza viruses, 15 reported no activity, 16 reported sporadic spread, one reported local spread (Malta, Belarus and Northern Ireland), three reported regional spread (Germany) and two reported widespread influenza activity (Kazakhstan and Portugal).

WHO are advising countries to remain vigilant for the likelihood of influenza circulating and to be prepared for co-circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza. See [ECDC](#) and [WHO](#) influenza surveillance reports for further information.

- Further information on influenza is available on the following websites:
 - Europe – ECDC <http://ecdc.europa.eu/>
 - Public Health England <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 recommend that quadrivalent egg-based vaccines for use in the 2022/2023 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:

- an A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus;
- 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/teams/global-influenza-programme/vaccines/who-recommendations>

Further information on influenza in Ireland is available at www.hpsc.ie

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