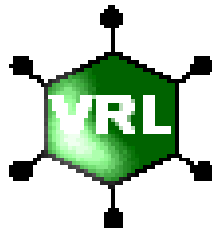


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



**Week 19**

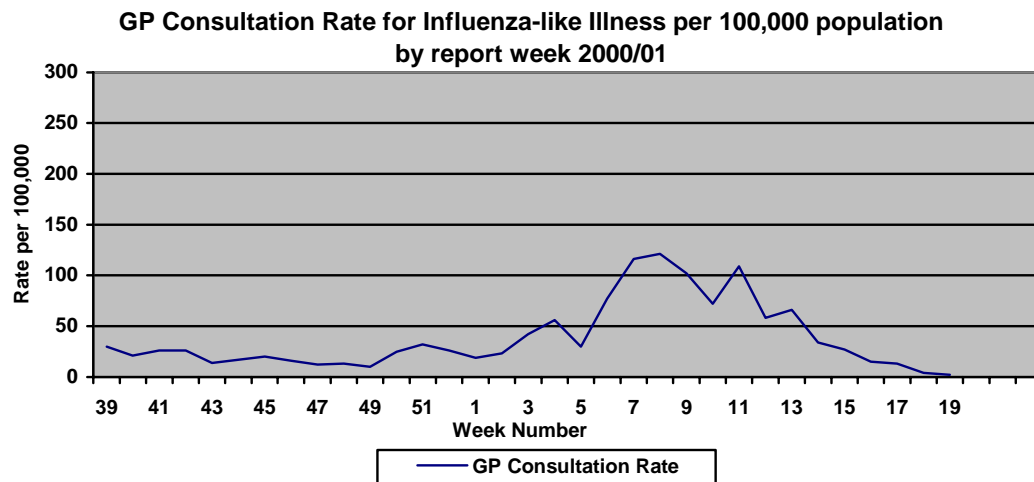
**Report produced: 16/05/2001**

## Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, week 19, influenza activity remained at low levels. There was only 1 case of influenza-like illness reported by sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 2 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 18 of the sentinel general practices, 17 of which reported no influenza activity.

Week 18 has been updated following receipt of reports from 19 of the sentinel general practices. The consultation rate increased slightly to 4 per 100,000.

**Table 1**



## Virological data

During week 19, no swabs were received from sentinel general practices. During week 18, 65 serology tests were carried out, 2 of which were positive for influenza A.

Influenza positive results by serology may be due to:

- Influenza vaccination
- Infection with influenza or
- Both

Therefore these results are used as indicators 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 and a falling titre cannot be determined.

**Table 1**

Influenza results by cell culture and / or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) by type and subtype by report week for 2000/2001

<b>Week number</b>	<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>Influenza A (H1N1)</b>	<b>Influenza A (H3N2)</b>	<b>Influenza B</b>
50 (w/e 16/12/00)	2	1 (PCR)	1 (PCR)	0
51 (w/e 23/12/00)	3	2 (PCR, culture)	1 (PCR)	0
52 (w/e 30/12/00)	1	1 (PCR, culture)	0	0
1 (w/e 06/01/01)	2	2 (PCR, culture)	0	1 (PCR, culture)
2 (w/e 13/01/01)	5	5 (PCR)	0	0
3 (w/e 20/01/01)	7	7 (PCR)	0	1 (PCR)
4 (w/e 27/01/01)	7	7	0	2 (PCR)
5 (w/e 03/02/01)	7	7 (PCR, culture)	0	0
6 (w/e 10/02/01)	4	4 (PCR, culture)	0	3 (PCR, culture)
7 (w/e 17/02/01)	6	5 (PCR, culture)	1	11 (PCR, culture)
8 (w/e 24/02/01)	2	2 (PCR, culture)	0	8 (PCR, culture)
9 (w/e 03/03/01)	0	0	0	13 (PCR, culture)
10 (w/e 10/03/01)	1	1	0	13 (PCR, culture)
11 (w/e 17/03/01)	0	0	0	9 (PCR, culture)
12 (w/e 24/03/01)	0	0	0	3 (PCR, culture)
13 (w/e 31/03/01)	0	0	0	7 (PCR, culture)
14 (w/e 07/04/01)	0	0	0	5 (culture)
15 (w/e 14/04/01)	0	0	0	5 (PCR, culture)
16 (w/e 21/04/01)	0	0	0	0
17 (w/e 28/04/01)	0	0	0	0
18 (w/e 05/05/01)	0	0	0	0
19 (w/e 12/05/01)	0	0	0	0

**Table 2**

Influenza positive results by serology by type and by report week for 2000/2001

<b><i>Week Number</i></b>	<b><i>Influenza A</i></b>	<b><i>Influenza B</i></b>
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 23/12/00)	3	0
52 (w/e 30/12/00)	0	0
01 (w/e 06/01/01)	0	0
02 (w/e 13/01/01)	4	0
03 (w/e 20/01/01)	4	0
04 (w/e 27/01/01)	3	0
05 (w/e 03/02/01)	6	0
06 (w/e 10/02/01)	2	0
07 (w/e 17/02/01)	5	1
08 (w/e 24/02/01)	8	2
09 (w/e 03/03/01)	1	3
10 (w/e 10/03/01)	1	0
11 (w/e 17/03/01)	3	3
12 (w/e 24/03/01)	3	3
13 (w/e 31/03/01)	3	4
14 (w/e 07/04/01)	6	7
15 (w/e 14/04/01)	4	12
16 (w/e 21/04/01)	0	7
17 (w/e 28/04/01)	0	0
18 (w/e 05/05/01)	2	0

**Influenza activity in England, Scotland and Wales**

In Scotland, the GP consultation rate for week 18 was 5 per 100,000 population, which was within the baseline range. Influenza B has continued to predominate with 14 influenza B viruses isolated and no influenza A. Weekly influenza reports are no longer produced for England and Wales. Activity for the 2000/2001 season has been summarised by PHLS. Levels of influenza activity and other seasonal respiratory illness remained low during the 2000/2001 influenza season in England, Scotland and Wales. GP consultations for influenza and flu-like illness peaked in February but remained at the lower end of the range for 'normal seasonal activity' before quickly declining. Influenza activity was initially associated with influenza A (H1N1). Influenza B however, became the predominant circulating strain as the season progressed.

**Influenza activity in United States**

During week 18, week ending the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, the proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness was within baseline levels, at less than 1%, in all 9 surveillance regions. Sporadic activity was reported in 10 state and territorial health departments, 38 reported no influenza activity. WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 347 specimens tested for influenza viruses. No influenza isolates were identified. During the last 3 weeks (weeks 16-18), 2% of specimens tested for influenza were positive and all were influenza B viruses. During week 18, the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.8%. Since October 1<sup>st</sup> 2000, CDC has characterised 685 influenza viruses, all of which have been covered by the current vaccine.

**Influenza activity Worldwide**

For the week ending the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, no influenza activity was reported in Spain and Denmark. Sporadic activity was reported in Denmark, Latvia and Hong Kong. In Norway and Latvia influenza B predominated. In Hong Kong, influenza A (H1N1) predominated; with 67 influenza A (H1N1), 12 influenza A (H3N2), 2 influenza A (unsubtyped) and 21 influenza B.

*Flu Watch (Canada) and the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) are no longer producing weekly influenza reports for the 2000/2001 influenza season.*