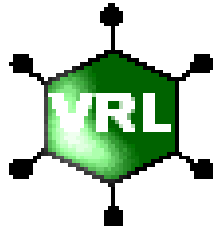


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



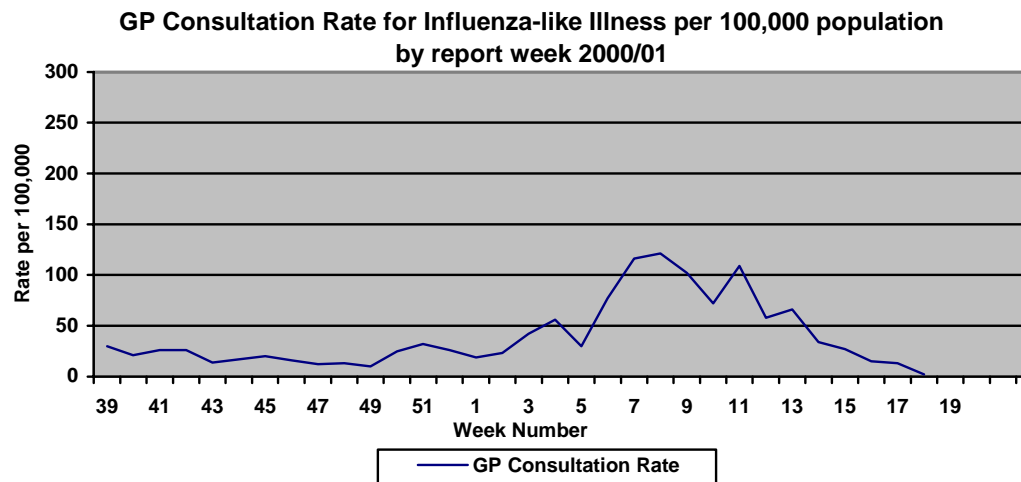
Week 18

Report produced: 09/05/2001

Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 6th of May, week 18, influenza activity has decreased to its lowest level all season. There was only 1 case of influenza-like illness reported from sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 2 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 16 of the general practices, 15 of which reported no influenza activity. Consultation rates for weeks 16 and 17 have been updated. For week 16, following receipt of returns from 18 practices, the consultation rate was 15 per 100,000. For week 17, reports were received from 19 of the practices, increasing the consultation rate to 13 per 100,000.

Table 1



Virological data

During week 18, 3 swabs were received from sentinel general practices. Results are pending on these swabs. During week 17, 102 serology tests were carried out, none were positive for influenza.

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

<i>Week number</i>	<i>Influenza A</i>	<i>Influenza A (H1N1)</i>	<i>Influenza A (H3N2)</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>
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

Table 2

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

<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 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

Influenza activity in England, Scotland and Wales

In Scotland, influenza activity has continued to decrease. The consultation rate for week 17 remained within the baseline range, at 5 per 100,000. Influenza B continued to predominate, with 9 influenza B and 1 influenza A. No data was available for England and Wales.

Influenza activity in Europe, Canada and the United States

In Europe influenza activity was either very limited or absent during week 16, therefore the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme are no longer producing weekly bulletins. The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Canada are also no longer producing influenza reports for the 2000/2001 season. No data was available for week 17 from the United States.

Influenza activity Worldwide

During the week ending the 5th of May, no influenza activity was reported in Spain. Sporadic activity was reported in Brazil, Hong Kong, Chile and Australia. In Brazil, 1 influenza A (unsubtyped) virus was isolated. In Hong Kong influenza A (H1N1) predominated, with 17 influenza A (H1N1), 3 influenza A (H3N2), 2 influenza A (unsubtyped) and 8 influenza B. In Chile, 2 influenza A (unsubtyped) viruses were isolated. One influenza B isolate was characterised in Australia.