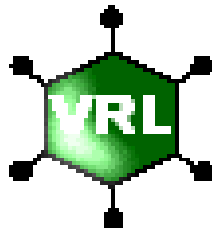


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



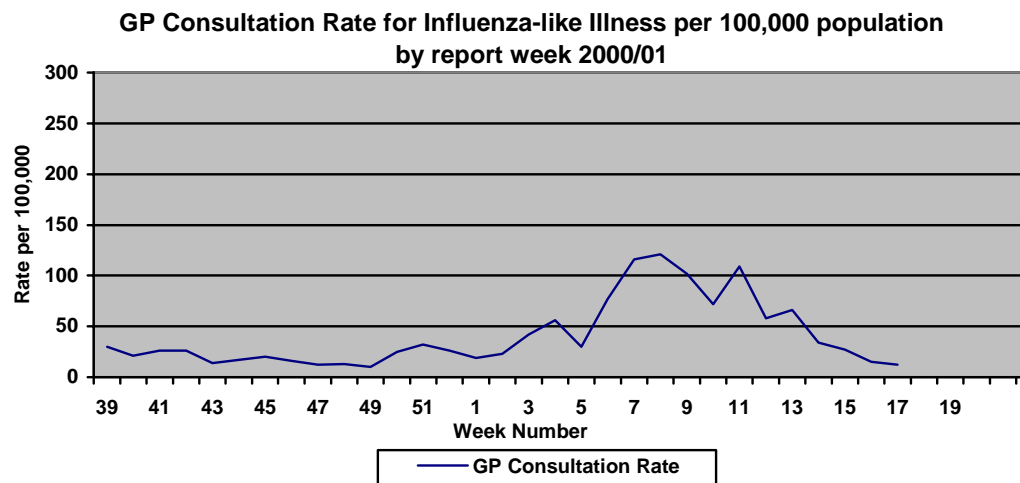
**Week 17**

**Report produced: 02/05/2001**

### Influenza activity in Ireland

During week 17, week ending the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, influenza activity has continued to decrease. There were 6 cases of influenza-like illness reported from sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 12 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 18 sentinel general practices, 13 of which reported no influenza activity.

**Graph 1**



### Virological data

For week 17, 6 swabs were received from sentinel general practices, none of which were positive for influenza. Results are pending on 3 swabs. Data has been updated for week 15, 11 swabs were received from sentinel practices, 5 were positive for influenza B. During week 17, 74 serology tests were carried out, 7 were positive for influenza B.

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

**Table 2**

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

<b>Week Number</b>	<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>Influenza B</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

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

In Scotland, influenza activity has decreased significantly, from a consultation rate of 18 per 100,000 in week 15 to 8 per 100,000 in week 16. Influenza B continued to predominate, with 18 isolates of influenza B and 10 of influenza A. PHLS are no longer producing reports for the 2000/2001 influenza season

#### **Influenza activity in Europe**

During week 16, influenza activity remained at low levels in countries participating in the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS). Denmark, England, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Wales reported no influenza activity. Sporadic activity was reported in Belgium and Ireland. Influenza activity was mainly associated with influenza B. Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Spain reported influenza B as the dominant type. This is the last week that EISS will be producing a weekly influenza bulletin for the 2000/2001 influenza season.

**Influenza activity in Canada**

For the week ending the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, there were no regions reporting widespread activity. Localised activity was reported in 1 region, 5 regions reported sporadic activity and 22 regions reported no influenza-like activity. Sentinel physicians reported 7 cases of influenza-like illness per 1000 patient visits. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control received 735 reports of laboratory tests for influenza viruses: 18 were positive; 12 were influenza A and 6 were influenza B. Since the beginning of the 2000/2001 season, there have been 219 reported outbreaks; 49 at long term care facilities, 6 at hospitals and 164 at other sites.

**Influenza activity in United States**

During week 16 (week ending the 21<sup>st</sup> of April), the proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness was 1%, within baseline levels in all 9 surveillance regions. Nineteen state and territorial health departments reported sporadic influenza activity and 31 reported no influenza activity. WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 516 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 17 of which were positive. Influenza B predominated during week 16, with all 17 isolates positive for influenza B. During the past 3 weeks, 89% of isolates were positive for influenza B viruses. CDC has antigenically characterised 603 influenza viruses since October 1<sup>st</sup> 2000, all have been covered by the current vaccine.

**Influenza activity Worldwide**

For the week ending the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, no influenza activity was reported in Romania and Chile. Sporadic activity was reported in Latvia, with influenza B predominating.