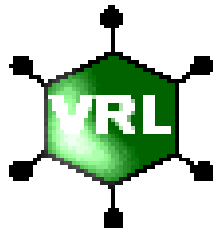


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



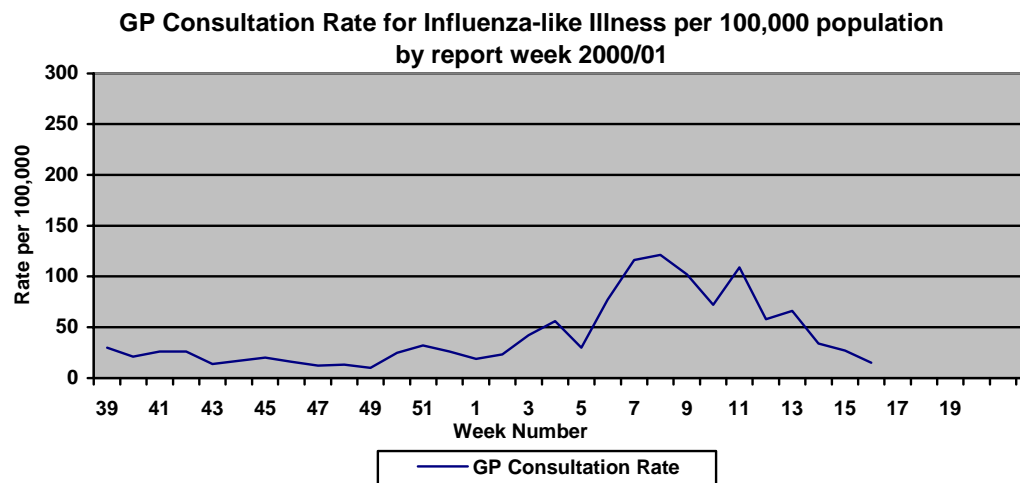
Week 16

Report produced: 25/04/2001

Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 22nd of April, week 16, influenza activity has decreased further. There were only 7 cases of influenza-like illness, which corresponds to a consultation rate of 15 per 100,000 population. This is the lowest consultation rate since the week ending the 10th of December 2000 (week 49). Reports were received from 16 sentinel general practices. No activity was reported from 11 general practices. Consultation rates for weeks 14 and 15 have been updated. For week 14, following receipt of returns from 18 sentinel general practices; the consultation rate was 34 per 100,000. For week 15, the consultation rate has been updated to 27 per 100,000.

Graph 1



Virological data

For week 16, only one swab was received from sentinel general practices, this was not positive for influenza. Weeks 13, 14, and 15 have been updated. During week 13, 17 swabs were received from sentinel general practices, 7 were positive for influenza B. For week 14, 9 swabs were received and 5 were positive for influenza B. 10 swabs were received during week 15, 5 of which were positive for influenza B. Serology results for week 15 have been updated. Out of 62 serology tests carried out, 4 were positive for influenza A and 12 for influenza B. Serology results for week 16 are pending.

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 04/03/01)	0	0	0	13 (PCR, culture)
10 (w/e 11/03/01)	1	1	0	13 (PCR, culture)
11 (w/e 18/03/01)	0	0	0	9 (PCR, culture)
12 (w/e 25/03/01)	0	0	0	3 (PCR, culture)
13 (w/e 01/04/01)	0	0	0	7 (PCR, culture)
14 (w/e 08/04/01)	0	0	0	5 (culture)
15 (w/e 15/04/01)	0	0	0	5 (PCR, culture)
16 (w/e 22/04/01)	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

Influenza activity in England, Scotland and Wales

PHLS are no longer producing influenza reports for the 2000/2001 influenza season. Surveillance of influenza activity, however, will continue and reports will be restarted if new activity emerges. In Scotland influenza activity has remained unchanged. SCIEH have reported a consultation rate of 18 per 100,000 for week 15, week ending the 17th of April, this remained within the baseline range. Influenza B predominated, with 33 isolates of influenza B and 3 isolates of influenza A.

Influenza activity in Europe

For the week ending the 15th of April, week 15, low levels of influenza activity were indicated from countries participating in the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme. No widespread, regional or local activity was reported. Sporadic activity was reported in Ireland, France and Denmark. No influenza activity was reported in England, Wales, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Influenza B predominated in Ireland, England, France and Germany. Five of the networks reported no dominant virus.

Influenza activity in Canada

During week 15, no regions reported widespread or regional activity. Localised activity was reported in 1 region, 23 regions reported sporadic activity and 11 regions reported no influenza activity. Sentinel physicians reported 13 cases of influenza-like illness per 1000 patient visits. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control received 927 reports of laboratory tests for influenza viruses: 47 were positive for influenza A and 39 for influenza B. Since October 1st 2000, there have been 218 outbreaks reported; 48 at long term care facilities, 6 at hospitals and 164 at other sites.

Influenza activity in United States

Due to the decrease in influenza activity, there was no report produced from the CDC for week 15. The next influenza summary report will be produced on the 27th of April.

Influenza activity Worldwide

For the week ending the 21st of April, no influenza activity was reported in Romania, Denmark and Mauritius. Sporadic activity was reported in Hong Kong, France, Latvia and the Russian Federation. In Hong Kong, the following isolates were characterised: 5 influenza A untyped, 19 influenza A (H1N1), 3 influenza A (H3N2) and 32 influenza B. In Latvia and France, influenza B predominated. The consultation rate in the Russian Federation has decreased during the week ending the 21st of April, however in some regions there was an increase among school children.