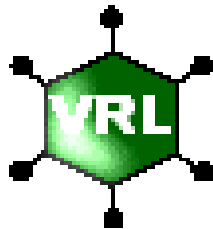


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



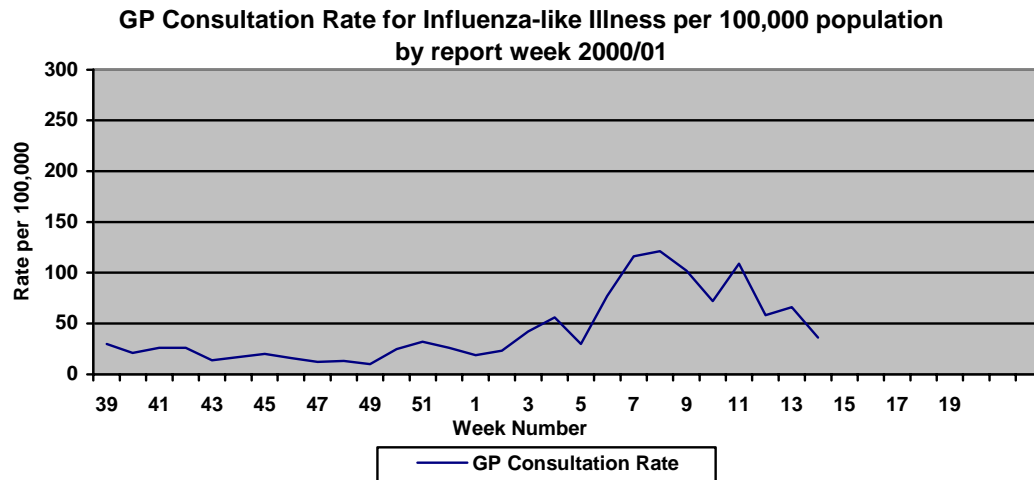
**Week 14**

**Report produced: 11/04/2001**

## Influenza activity in Ireland

For week 14, week ending the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, influenza activity has decreased significantly, to its lowest level since week 5. Sentinel general practices have reported 17 cases of influenza-like illness, which corresponds to a consultation rate of 36 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 17 practices, 9 of which reported no influenza activity. The consultation rate for weeks 12 and 13 have been updated, to 58 and 66 cases per 100,000, respectively.

**Graph 1**



## Virological data

For the week ending the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, week 14, 9 swabs were received from sentinel practices. Influenza B was isolated from 2 samples, 7 other samples are pending. Results have been updated for weeks 11 and 12. For week 11, week ending the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 15 samples were received, 8 of which were positive for influenza B. During week 12, week ending the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, sentinel practices sent 8 swabs; 3 were positive for influenza B.

Serology results for week 13, week ending the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, have been updated. From 86 serology tests carried out, 3 were positive for influenza A and 3 for influenza B. For week 14, week ending the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 67 serology tests were carried out, 6 were positive for influenza A. Results are pending on 10 samples from week 14. 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 falling titre cannot be determined

**Table 1**

Influenza positive 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	8 (PCR, culture)
12 (w/e 25/03/01)	0	0	0	3 (PCR, culture)
13 (w/e 01/04/01)	0	0	0	4 (PCR, culture)
14 (w/e 08/04/01)	0	0	0	2 (culture)

**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	0

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

Influenza activity in England, Scotland and Wales has continued to decrease. In light of the declining influenza activity no PHLS report was produced for week 13. In Scotland, SCIEH have reported a consultation rate of 24 per 100,000 population for week 13, week ending the 02/04/2001. This was less than half the baseline threshold for normal seasonal activity (defined as being between 50 and 600 per 100,000).

### **Influenza activity in Europe**

During week 13, week ending the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, most of the countries participating in the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme continued to report declining or unchanged levels of influenza activity. No widespread or regional influenza activity was reported. Denmark and Ireland reported localised activity. Sporadic activity was reported in Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Spain and Italy. Four countries reported no activity. In England, France, Germany, Italy, and Slovenia influenza activity returned to levels observed before the influenza season. In the remaining countries influenza activity levels either remained unchanged (Ireland, Denmark and Czech Republic) or were decreasing (Spain). The dominant influenza type in most countries was influenza B. Spain and Italy were the exceptions reporting influenza A as the dominant type.

### **Influenza activity in Canada**

For the week ending the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, week 13, influenza activity has continued to decline. No regions reported widespread or regional activity. Local activity was reported in one region; 29 regions reported sporadic activity and 20 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 characterised 1364 tests for influenza viruses. Of the 78 positive specimens, 24 were influenza A and 54 were influenza B. There has been 213 reported influenza outbreaks since the beginning of the 2000/2001 influenza season, 45 of which were at long term facilities; 5 at hospitals and 163 at other sites.

### **Influenza activity in United States**

Due to the decrease in influenza activity, there was no report produced for week 13, week ending the 31<sup>st</sup> of March.

### **Influenza activity Worldwide**

For the week ending the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, there was no widespread, regional or localised activity reported to Flunet. Sporadic activity was reported in Germany, France, Romania, Latvia, Norway, Denmark, Balkans, Brazil, and Hong Kong. No activity was reported in Chile, Argentina, Malaysia and Italy.