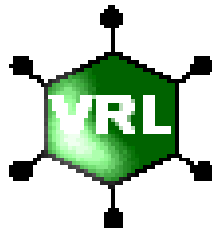


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



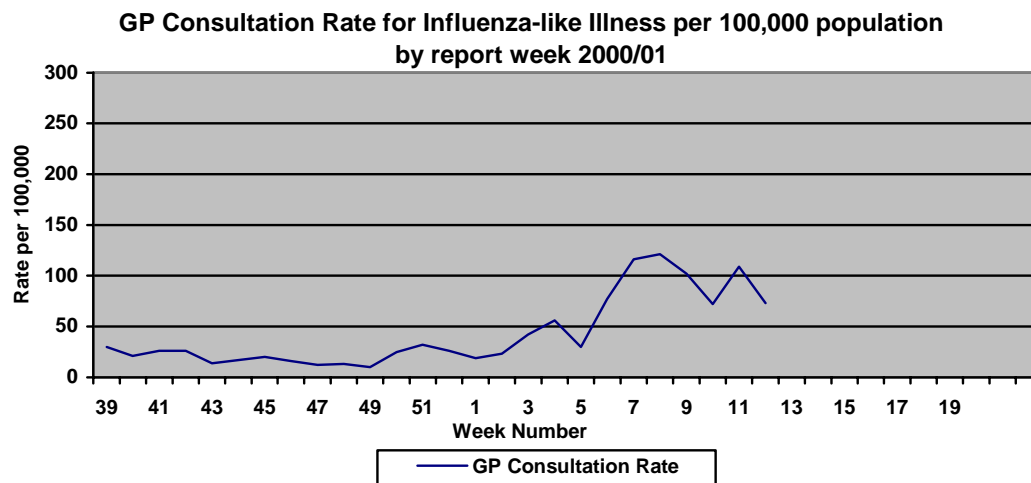
**Week 12**

**Report produced: 28/03/2001**

## Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, week 12, influenza activity has decreased. Sentinel general practices have reported 27 cases of influenza-like illness, which corresponds to a consultation rate of 73 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 16 practices. There were no cases of influenza-like illness from 9 practices.

Graph 1



## Virological data

During week 12, week ending the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 8 samples were received from sentinel general practices. Influenza B was isolated by the VRL in 2 samples in total.

Serology results for week 10 and 11 have been updated. For the week ending the 10/03/01, week 10, there was 1 positive influenza A (n=72). Serology results from week 11, week ending the 17/03/01 reported 6 positive samples, 3 were influenza A and 3 were influenza B (n=111). For the current week, week ending the 24/03/01, there were 6 positive samples, comprising 3 influenza A and 3 influenza B (n=70). Influenza positive results by serology may be due to:

- Influenza vaccination
- Infection with influenza virus 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 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)	5	4 (PCR, culture)	1	10 (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	3 (PCR, culture)
10 (w/e 11/03/01)	1 (culture)	Pending	Pending	11 (PCR, culture)
11 (w/e 18/03/01)	Pending	Pending	Pending	7 (culture)
12 (w/e 25/03/01)	Pending	Pending	Pending	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

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

Influenza and flu-like illness have continued to decrease in England, Scotland and Wales. During week 11, week ending the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, GP consultation rates have fallen to 34 per 100,000 in England, remaining within baseline activity. The regional breakdown for week 11 was as follows: 31 per 100,000 in the Southern region, 33 per 100,000 in the Northern region and 38 per 100,000 in the Central region. In Wales the GP consultation rate has also decreased in week 11, week ending the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, to 5 per 100,000. This rate lies within the lower end of the range for baseline activity. The consultation rate for influenza-like illness in Scotland has decreased only slightly, from 48 in week 10 to 45 per 100,000 in week 11. This rate also remains within baseline activity range.

ENVRL characterised 21 isolates of influenza virus, which comprised of 4 influenza A (H1N1) and 17 influenza B.

### **Influenza activity in Europe**

Most of the countries in Europe participating in the EISS scheme reported low levels of influenza activity in week 11, week ending the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Influenza activity was reported from 12 countries. Exceptions to the general pattern were reported in Sweden and Spain. Sweden reported widespread activity in week 10, reaching their peak for the season during this week. Spain reported an increase in influenza activity in association with influenza A (H3N2) isolates. The Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland and Spain all reported local activity. Sporadic activity was reported in Belgium, France, Germany, and Switzerland. Influenza B isolates predominated in Belgium, England, France, and Ireland. Influenza A (H1N1) isolates were the dominant type in Germany and Italy.

### **Influenza activity in Canada**

For the week ending the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, week 11, there was no widespread activity reported, 21 regions reported localized activity, 31 reported sporadic activity and 4 reported no influenza-like activity. Sentinel physicians reported 16 cases of influenza-like illness per 1000 patient visits. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control characterised 1,698 specimens, 206 were positive for influenza virus; 138 were influenza B and 68 were influenza A. There has been a noticeable decline in both the overall rate of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI and the percentage of respiratory specimens positive for influenza virus.

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

During week 11, week ending the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, the proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness was 1%, within baseline levels in 8 out of 9 surveillance regions. Regional influenza activity was reported from 6 state and territorial health departments, 37 reported sporadic activity and 7 reported no influenza activity. WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 52 specimens positive for influenza virus, of which 9 were untyped influenza A viruses, 1 was influenza A (H3N2) virus, and 42 were influenza B viruses. During the last 3 weeks influenza B viruses have predominated in all 9 surveillance regions. The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 7.6%, below epidemic threshold for this time of year.

### **Influenza activity Worldwide**

During the week ending the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, there was no widespread activity reported. Greece, Portugal, Croatia and Latvia all reported sporadic activity. Local influenza activity was reported in Hong Kong, Finland and Denmark. Only 2 countries reported regional activity, Iceland and Sweden.