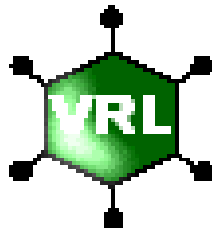


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



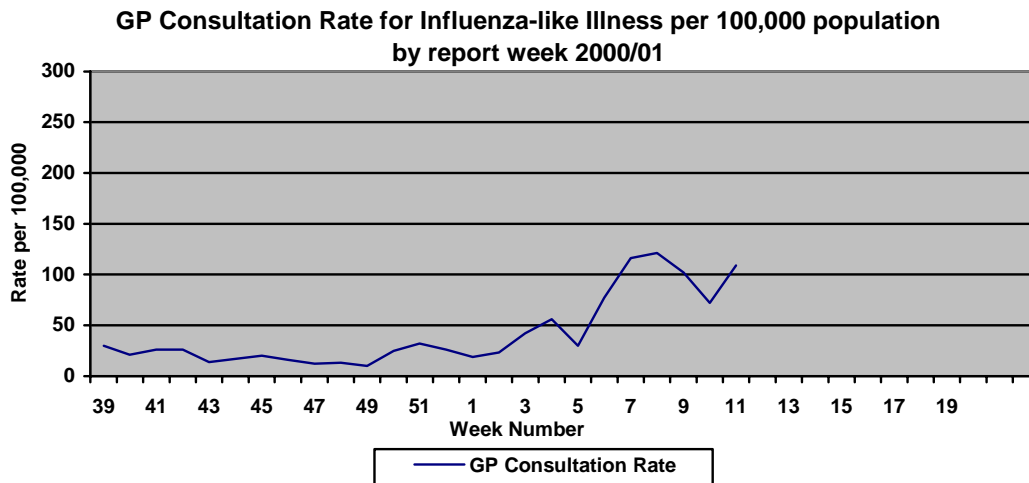
**Week 11**

**Report produced: 22/03/2001**

## Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 18/03/01, week 11, influenza activity has increased. Sentinel general practices reported 58 cases of influenza-like illness, which corresponds to a consultation rate of 109 cases per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 18 practices, four of which reported no influenza activity. The consultation rate for week 10, week ending the 11/03/01 has been updated, to 72 cases per 100,000, following receipt of reports from all 20 sentinel general practices.

**Graph 1**



## Virological data

For week 11, week ending the 18/03/01, 15 swabs were received from sentinel physicians. All 7 positive swabs isolated influenza B virus.

Serology results for week 11 are pending.

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 or 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

<b>Week number</b>	<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>Influenza A (H1N1)</b>	<b>Influenza A (H3N2)</b>	<b>Influenza B</b>
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)	0	Pending	Pending	7 (culture)

**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 04/03/01)	1	3
10 (w/e 11/03/01)	Pending	Pending
11 (w/e 18/03/01)	Pending	Pending

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

Influenza activity has decreased in England for the week ending the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, week 10. The GP consultation rate was 47 per 100,000, which falls within the range of baseline activity. The regional breakdown was as follows: 38 per 100,000 in the Southern region, 58 per 100,000 in the Central region and 43 per 100,000 in the Northern region. For Wales and Scotland influenza activity increased during week 10, but remained within the upper threshold for baseline activity. For the week ending the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, the consultation rate for Wales was 18 per 100,000. In Scotland for the week ending the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, the consultation rate was 48 per 100,000.

Laboratory results for week 10 characterised 58 influenza isolates, 10 were influenza A (H1N1) and 48 were influenza B. All of these isolates were derived from hospital sources. The influenza B isolates were antigenically similar to the current WHO recommended vaccine strain.

**Influenza activity in Europe**

For the week ending the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, influenza activity levels have continued to decrease in most countries. Peak levels of activity were generally observed in February 2001. The overall level of activity this season has not been high. The Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland and Italy all reported local activity for week 10. Sporadic activity was reported from Belgium, France, Germany, Spain and Wales. For week 10, influenza B has been the dominant isolate in Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal and Scotland. Influenza A (H1N1) predominated in France and Germany.

**Influenza activity in Canada**

During the week ending March 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 regions reported localised activity, 41 reported sporadic activity and 2 reported no influenza-like activity. No widespread activity was reported. Sentinel physicians reported 19 cases of influenza-like illness per 1000 patient visits. The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control characterised 327 positive samples for influenza virus, 194 were influenza B and 133 were influenza A. Over the past four weeks the percentage of laboratory tests positive for influenza has remained at 16%, however the percentage of patient visits to sentinel physicians has decreased for the same period.

**Influenza activity in United States**

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness was within baseline levels for the week ending the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, in 8 out of 9 surveillance regions. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 12 reported regional activity, 35 reported sporadic activity and one reported no activity. For the current season the overall national percentage of respiratory specimens positive for influenza peaked at 24% at the end of January. During the past 3 seasons the peak percentages for respiratory specimens positive for influenza viruses have ranged from 28% to 33%. During week 10, 94 specimens were positive for influenza viruses, 7 were influenza A (H1N1), 27 were untyped influenza A and 60 were influenza B viruses. Influenza B has predominated in 8 out of 9 surveillance regions, over the last 3 weeks.

**Influenza activity Worldwide**

For the week ending the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, no widespread or regional activity was reported. Romania, Norway, Finland and Denmark reported local activity. Sporadic activity was reported in 13 countries and Slovenia, Spain and Argentina reported no activity.