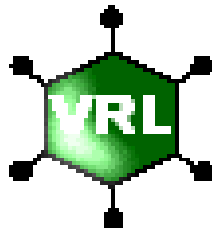


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



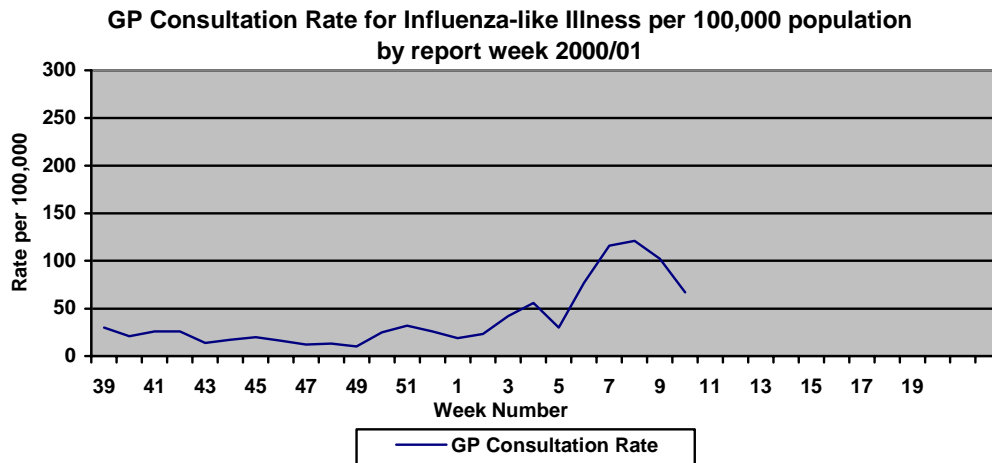
**Week 10**

**Report produced: 14/03/2001**

## Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, week 10, influenza activity has continued to decrease. Sentinel general practices have reported 33 cases of influenza-like illness. This corresponds to a rate of 67 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 18 practices. 3 practices reported no influenza activity.

**Graph 1**



## Virological Data

For the week ending the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, week 10, 21 swabs were sent by sentinel general practices. Of these 12 were positive for influenza. Influenza B isolates account for 11 out of 12 positive samples this week. The remaining sample was identified as influenza A. Results are pending on 5 samples.

Serology results for the week ending the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 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

<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)

**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

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

For the week ending the 4<sup>th</sup> of March (week 9) influenza and influenza-like illness increased slightly in England with a GP consultation rate of 62 per 100,000. This remains within the range of normal seasonal activity. The regional breakdown is as follows: 54 per 100,000 in the Southern region, 73 per 100,000 in the Central region and 55 per 100,000 in the Northern region. For the week ending the 28<sup>th</sup> of February in Wales the consultation rate has decreased even further to 9 per 100,000, this falls within the lower end of the range of baseline activity. In Scotland consultation rates have also decreased to 34 per 100,000 for the week ending the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. This rate remains within the range of baseline activity.

ERNVL characterised 40 influenza isolates, of which 9 were influenza A (H1N1) and 31 were influenza B. Influenza B remains the predominant strain and all isolates are covered by the current 2000/2001 vaccine. The majority of isolates continue to be derived from children less than 5 years and in adults aged 15-44 years of age.

**Influenza activity in Northern Ireland**

For the week ending the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 26 cases of influenza and influenza-like illness were reported. These correspond to a rate of 28 per 100,000. Returns were received

from 12 of the spotter practices. No swabs submitted by sentinel GPs were positive by PCR for influenza.

### **Influenza activity in Europe**

During the week ending the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, week 9, all of the EISS networks reported lower levels of influenza activity. Local levels of activity were reported from the Danish and Swiss networks. The Czech Republic, France, Germany, Scotland, Slovenia and Spain all reported sporadic activity. No activity was reported from Wales and the Netherlands. Although the levels in Europe were generally low, higher levels of activity have appeared in Scandinavia. Denmark reported regional activity and Sweden reported widespread activity for week 8. Norway has reported regional activity for week 9.

In Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland the dominant influenza virus reported was influenza A (H1N1), for week 9. Ireland, England, Scotland, Denmark, Portugal and Spain have all reported influenza B as being the predominant strain, for week 9. France has for the first time since 1991, reported influenza C in weeks 5 and 6.

### **Influenza activity in Canada**

For the week ending the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, no regions reported widespread activity, 12 reported local activity and 23 regions reported sporadic activity. One region reported no activity. Sentinel physicians reported 28 cases of influenza like illness per 1000 patient visits. Of the 371 positive laboratory tests for influenza viruses, 234 were influenza B and 137 were influenza A. Since the beginning of the 2000/2001 season there have been 211 reported outbreaks; 38 at long term care facilities, 5 at hospitals and 168 at other sites.

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

For the week ending the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, the proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness was 2% in the US overall and in 8 out of 9 surveillance regions. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 18 reported regional activity and 31 reported sporadic activity. During week 9, WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 137 specimens positive for influenza. 10% were influenza A (H1N1), 2% were influenza A (H3N2), 37% were unsubtyped influenza A and 61% were influenza B viruses. During the past 3 weeks the percentage of isolates nationwide that were influenza B was 63%. For the same period, influenza B has predominated in 7 of 9 surveillance regions. Since October 1 2000, all influenza strains tested have been covered by the 2000/2001 influenza vaccine.

### **Influenza activity Worldwide**

For the week ending the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, regional activity was reported in Japan. Romania and Latvia reported local activity. Sporadic activity was reported in Portugal, Croatia, Balkans, the Slovak Republic, Poland and Norway; Spain and Brazil reported no activity.