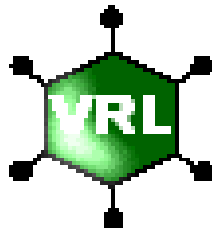


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



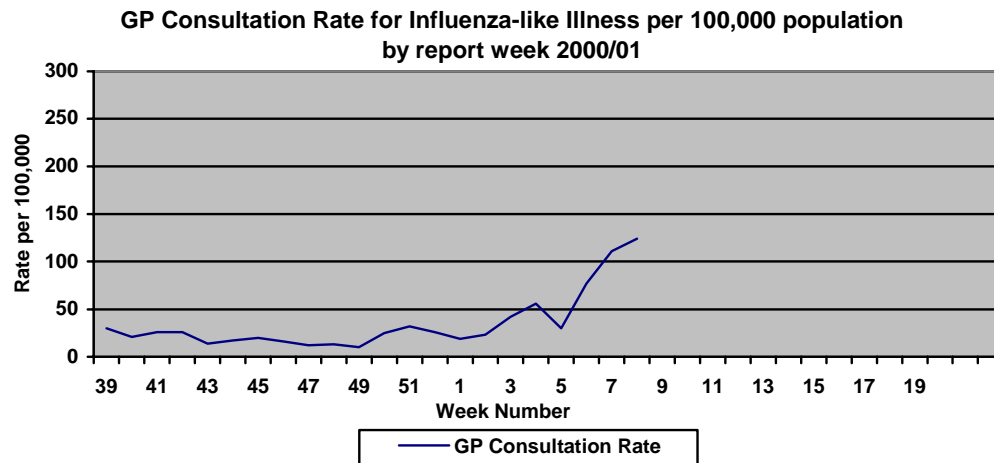
**Week 8**

**Report produced: 28/02/2001**

### Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, week 8, influenza activity increased further. Sentinel general practices reported 67 cases of influenza-like illness. This corresponds to a rate of 124 cases per 100,000. Reports were received from 19 practices. Five practices reported no influenza activity. The consultation rate for week 7, week ending the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, has been updated and is now 111 cases per 100,000 following receipt of reports from all 20 practices.

**Graph 1.**



### Virological data

Updated results for week 7, week ending the 17/02/01, reported 15 positive swabs from a total of 19 received. These comprise of 10 influenza B isolates and 5 influenza A isolates.

For week 8, week ending the 24/02/01, 18 swabs were sent by sentinel practices. Of these 8 were positive for influenza (7 influenza B isolates, 1 influenza A (H1N1) isolate). Results are pending on 6 samples and will be updated next week.

From 100 serology tests carried out for the same period, 3 were positive for influenza A. 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 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>
40 (w/e 07/10/00)	2	1 (PCR,culture)	1(PCR)	0
41 (w/e 14/10/00)	0	0	0	0
42 (w/e 21/10/00)	0	0	0	0
43 (w/e 28/10/00)	0	0	0	0
44 (w/e 04/11/00)	0	0	0	1
45 (w/e 11/11/00)	0	0	0	0
46 (w/e 18/11/00)	0	0	0	0
47 (w/e 25/11/00)	0	0	0	0
48 (w/e 02/12/00)	2	0	0	0
49 (w/e 09/12/00)	1	1 (PCR)	0	0
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 (PCR, culture)	10 (PCR, culture)
8 (w/e 24/02/01)	1	1 (PCR, culture)	0	7 (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)	3	0

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

Influenza activity in England, for the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> of February, has decreased, and was reported to lie within normal seasonal activity range. The overall consultation rate was 69 per 100,000. The regional breakdown for week 7 was 44 per 100,000 in the Northern region, 66 per 100,000 in the Southern region and 92 per 100,000 in the Central region. Wales has also reported a decrease for the week ending 14<sup>th</sup> of February, with a consultation rate of 8 per 100,000. This lies below the baseline activity level. Data for influenza activity in Scotland was not available at the time of reporting.

Virological data for the week ending the 18<sup>th</sup> of February from the ERNVL reported an increase in influenza B isolates, with 33 positive for influenza B and 16 positive for influenza A (H1N1).

#### **Influenza activity in Northern Ireland**

Influenza activity for the week ending the 10/02/01, reported a consultation rate of 11.5 cases per 100,000 for combined “flu” and “flu-like illness”. All swabs tested for the same period by PCR were negative for influenza.

**Influenza activity in Europe**

Denmark reported widespread activity to the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme for the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> of February. Regional influenza activity was reported for Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy and Switzerland. France and Slovenia reported local activity. Sporadic activity was reported from Belgium, England, The Netherlands and Spain. Influenza A (H1N1) dominated in most of Europe, except Ireland and England, where influenza B was the dominant influenza virus.

**Influenza activity in United States**

For the week ending the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 14% of specimens tested by WHO and NREVSS laboratories were positive for influenza. 7 state and territorial health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 27 reported regional activity and 14 reported sporadic activity. From weeks 5 to 7, influenza B viruses have predominated in 5 of 9 surveillance regions, and have increased nationwide from 37% to 52%. Antigenic characterisation of influenza A and B isolates circulating are covered by this year's vaccine strains.

**Influenza activity in Canada**

For the week ending the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 1 region reported widespread activity, 20 regions reported localised activity, 23 regions reported sporadic activity and 2 regions reported no influenza-like activity. 381 specimens were positive for influenza, of these 190 were influenza B and 191 were influenza A. Since October 1 2000, there have been 200 reported outbreaks, 36 of these were at long-term care facilities, 5 at hospitals and 159 were at other sites. Over 98% of influenza A and B isolates characterised to date are covered by this year's vaccine.

**Influenza activity Worldwide**

For the week ending the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, widespread activity was reported in Croatia. Latvia and the Russian Federation reported regional activity, Romania and the Slovak Republic reported local activity.