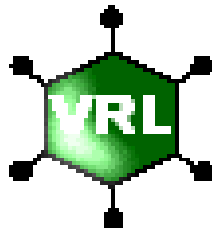


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



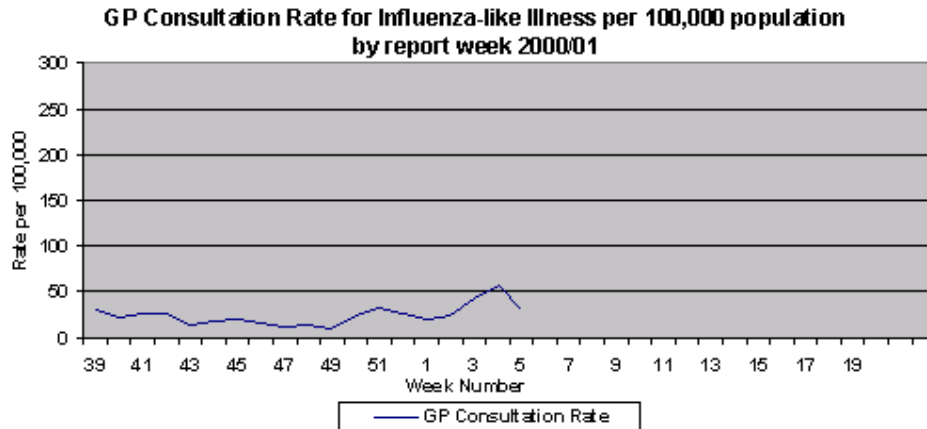
**Week 5**

**Report produced: 08/02/01**

### Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2001, 16 cases of influenza-like illness were seen by sentinel physicians. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 30 cases per 100,000 population. Returns were filed by 18 practices.

**Graph 1.**



### Virological data

For the week ending 27/01/01, updated results show that 7 samples in total were isolated as influenza A (H1N1) and two samples were isolated as influenza B. Serology results for the same period report 3 positive samples (influenza A) from hospitals sources (n=78).

For the week ending 03/02/01, week 5, 12 samples were received from sentinel practices. Of these 4 were identified as influenza A (H1N1) by culture and PCR methods and 3 other samples require further confirmation.

Serology results from week 5 reported 6 positive samples, all identified as influenza A (n=68). Influenza positive results by serology may be due to:

- Influenza vaccination
- Infection with influenza virus
- 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

<i>Week number</i>	<i>Influenza A</i>	<i>Influenza A (H1N1)</i>	<i>Influenza A (H3N2)</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>
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	0
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
4 (w/e 27/01/01)	7	7 (PCR, culture)	0	2
5 (w/e 03/02/01)	4	4 (PCR, culture)	0	0

**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

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

Influenza activity in England is on the increase. For week 5, week ending the 04/02/01, the overall consultation rate for England was 64 per 100,000. The regional breakdown comprises of: Central region 80 per 100,000, Southern region 58 per 100,000 and Northern region 52 per 100,000. These rates lie within the normal seasonal activity levels (50-200 per 100,000).

Scotland's activity level has decreased to 41 consultations per 100,00 ie. within baseline activity range. Wales continues to remain below the upper level set for baseline activity level.

Laboratory results for week 5 report a further 8 isolates of influenza A (H1N1), 7 of which were derived from hospital sources.

Sporadic outbreaks of upper respiratory tract infection and influenza-like illness are still occurring in schools across England and Scotland.

**Influenza activity in Europe**

For week 4, week ending the 28/01/01, activity in Germany and the Czech Republic was reported at widespread levels. France reported activity at regional levels, Belgium and Denmark reported local activity levels. Isolates of influenza A (H1N1) and increasingly influenza B were reported from various countries for the same period.

**Influenza activity in Canada**

For the week ending January 27<sup>th</sup>, one region reported widespread activity, 12 regions reported localised activity, and 24 regions reported sporadic activity. Influenza B is currently the predominant virus circulating in Canada. Since the beginning of the season, there has been 79 reported outbreaks, 12 occurring at long term facilities.

**Influenza activity in the United States**

For week 4, week ending the 27<sup>th</sup> January, the proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness was 4 %. The baseline level of 0-3% was exceeded in 7 of 9 surveillance regions. Thirteen state and territorial health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 22 reported regional influenza activity and 14 reported sporadic activity. WHO and NRVES Laboratories report that 24% (n=475) of specimens received were positive for influenza. The majority of these were influenza A untyped (n= 250). Influenza A (H1N1) was identified in 67 specimens and influenza B in the remainder.

**Influenza activity Worldwide**

According to FluNet, for the week ending the 03/02/01, Greece, Latvia and Iceland reported influenza activity levels at local outbreak level. Widespread activity was reported in Finland, Austria and Croatia.