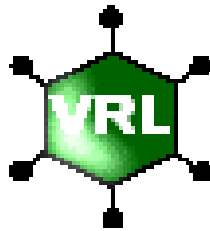


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



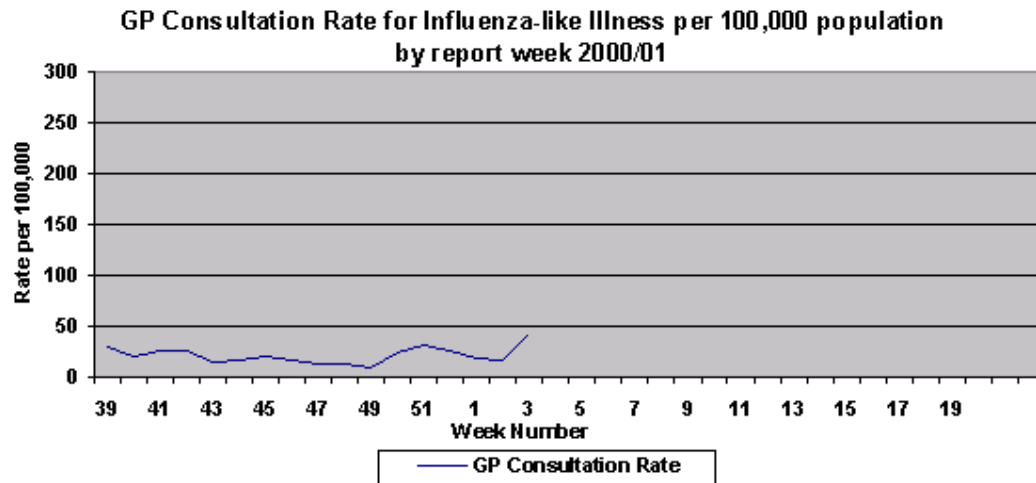
**Week 3**

**Report produced: 25/01/01**

### Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2001, 20 cases of influenza –like illness were reported by sentinel practices. This corresponds to a rate of 42 cases per 100,000 population, an increase from 17 cases per 100,000 population for week 2. Reports were received from 17 participating practices.

**Graph 1.**



### Virological Data.

For the week ending the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, week 1, further results show three positive samples, one case positive for influenza B and two cases of influenza A (H1N1). An updated report for week 2 (w/e 13<sup>th</sup> of January), reports five positive cases in total of influenza A, all subtyped as H1N1. Results for week 3, (w/e 20<sup>th</sup> of January), report 5 samples were positive for influenza A (H1N1). Results are pending on three other cases. In total 11 samples were received.

For the same period, four serology samples from hospitals were positive for influenza A (n=103). 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

<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	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)	5	5 (PCR)	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

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

Clinical indicators remain low for England Scotland and Wales. The Royal College of General Practitioners report an overall consultation rate of 33 per 100,000 for England. The regional breakdown comprises of a rate of 50 cases per 100,000 population in the Northern Region, 32 per 100,000 for the Central Region and 26 per 100,000 for the Southern Region. Baseline activity levels are set at less than 50 cases per 100,000 population and normal seasonal activity level ranges from 50 –200 consultation per 100,000 population.

Sentinel practices in Wales report levels of activity at below threshold level for baseline activity.

Scotland reported for week 2 a rate of 62 consultations per 100,000 (normal seasonal level ranges from 50-600 per 100,000). For week 3, the rate is now 50 cases per 100,000 population.

#### **Influenza activity in Europe**

Overall clinical activity in Europe remained low. Germany reported influenza activity at lower end of the range for normal seasonal activity for the week ending the 14<sup>th</sup> of January. Influenza A (H1N1) continues to be isolated in a number of European countries.

#### **Influenza activity in Canada**

For the week ending the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 3 regions reported widespread activity, 19 regions sporadic activity and 25 regions had no influenza activity. Influenza B is the predominant circulating virus in Canada.

**Influenza activity in the United States**

The proportion of visits to sentinel physicians remains at baseline levels. Two state and territorial health departments reported widespread activity, 21 reported regional activity and 26 reported sporadic activity. 15% of specimens received by WHO and NRVES were positive for influenza.

**Influenza activity Worldwide**

According to FluNet, sporadic influenza activity has been reported in Iran, Spain, Denmark and Italy for the week ending the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. Switzerland, Norway, the United Kingdom, Iceland and the Slovak Republic reported local outbreak levels for the same period.