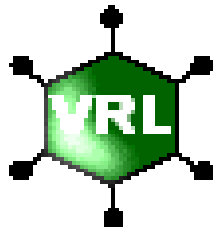


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



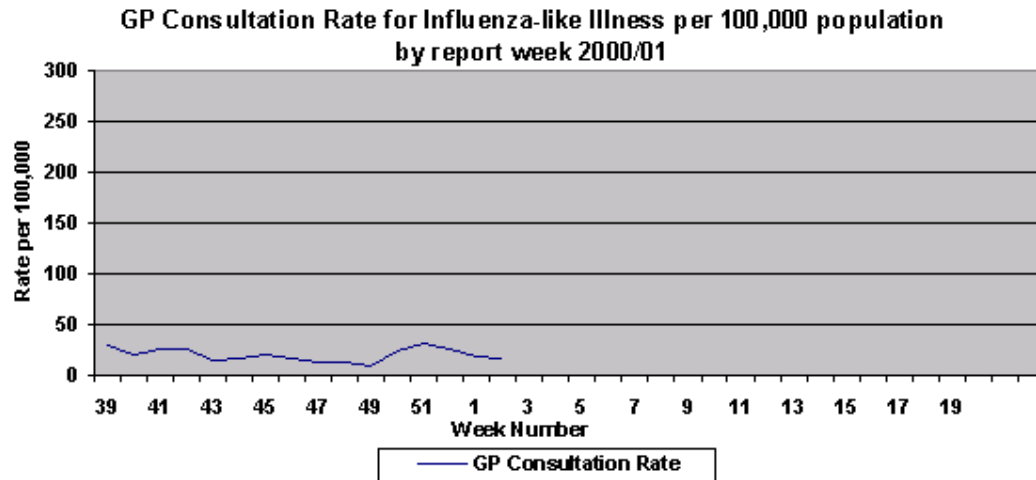
Week 2

Report produced: 18/01/01

Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 14th of January, 9 cases of influenza-like illness were seen by sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a rate of 17 cases per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 17 of the practices.

Graph 1.



Virological data

For the week ending 13th of January 2001, 12 samples were sent by sentinel practices. Influenza A (H1N1) was isolated from 4 of these cases.

Serology results for week 1, week ending 6th of January, were negative for influenza. In week 2, week ending 13th of January, 4 samples were positive for influenza A (n=85).

Influenza positive results by serology may be due to:

- Influenza vaccination
- Infection with influenza virus
- Both

Therefore these results are used as indicators only 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

Week number	Influenza A	Influenza A (H1N1)	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza 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)	1	1 (PCR,culture)	0	1 (PCR,culture)
2 (w/e 13/01/01)	4	4 (PCR)	0	0

Table 2

Influenza positive results by serology by type and by report week for 2000/2001

Week Number	Influenza A	Influenza 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

Influenza activity in England, Scotland and Wales

The Royal College of General Practitioners reported a consultation rate for influenza-like illness as 38 per 100,000 for the week ending 14th of January. The regional breakdown for England comprises of: Northern region rate of 49 per 100,000, Central region rate of 45 per 100,000 and Southern region rate of 26 per 100,000. The rate is still below the upper level set for baseline activity of 50 cases per 100,000.

Scotland reports a rate of 62 cases of influenza-like illness per 100,000 for the week ending 15th of January. The threshold level for normal seasonal activity according to SCIEH is 50-600,000 per 100,000.

Virological results available from ERNVL for week 2, report 21 isolates of influenza A (H1N1) and 5 isolates of influenza B.

Influenza activity in Europe

France continues to report local and regional activity. Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the Czech Republic report sporadic activity. Influenza A (H1N1) has been isolated in Finland and France.

Influenza activity in Canada

Widespread activity was reported in 4 regions, 8 regions reported sporadic activity, 13 regions reported no activity and 28 regions did not report, during the week ending 6th of January. Five outbreaks have occurred in the Saskatchewan region and were due to influenza B.

Influenza activity in United States

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians remains within baseline levels of 0%-3%. Two state and territorial health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 11 reported regional activity and 35 reported sporadic activity. During week 1, week ending the 6th of January, 12% of the specimens tested by WHO and NRVES laboratories were positive for influenza. Of these, 64% were identified as influenza A unsubtype, 15% as influenza A (H1N1), 1% as influenza A (H3N2) and 20% were influenza B viruses.

Influenza activity Worldwide.

According to FluNet, for the week ending the 13th of January, France reported regional outbreak activity, Finland reported local outbreak activity, Spain, Hong Kong, and Italy reported sporadic activity levels.