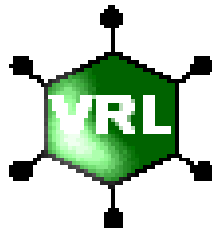


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



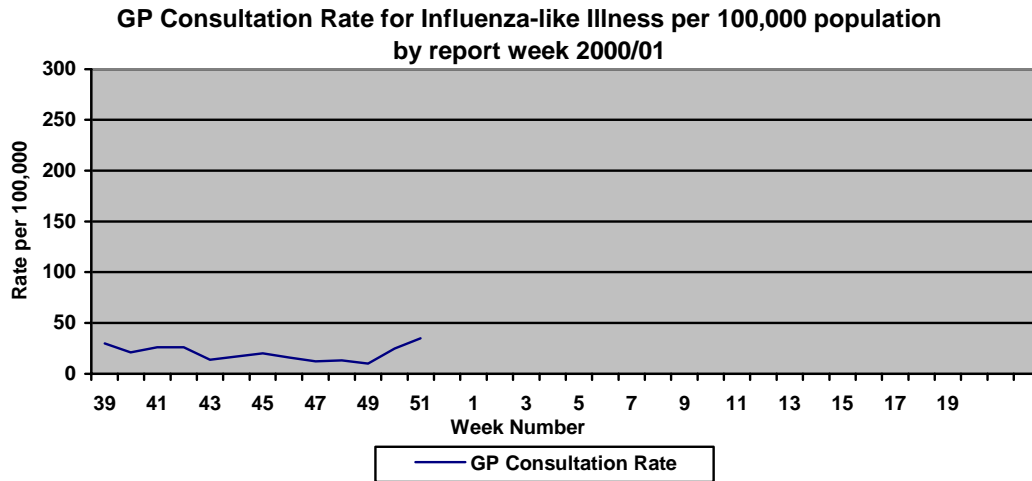
Week 51

Report produced: 28/12/00

Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending the 24th of December, week 51, 16 cases of influenza –like illness were reported by sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 35 per 100,000 population. In all, fifteen of the participating practices filed a return.

Graph 1



Virological data

For week 51, week ending the 23rd of December, 7 samples were received by the laboratory. Of these, 2 samples were negative for influenza and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) results are pending on the five remaining samples. Serology reports from hospitals are also pending.

A sentinel practice sample from week 50 has tested positive for influenza A (H3N2) by PCR.

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 of respiratory symptoms are used. Most importantly samples received from hospitals, are not paired samples 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 2000-01

<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)	Results pending	Results pending	Results pending	Results pending

Table 2

Influenza positive results by serology by type and by report week for 2000-01

<i>Week Number</i>	<i>Influenza A</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>
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)	Results pending	Results pending

Influenza activity in England and Wales

According to the PHLS, clinical activity for influenza still remains low across England and Wales. The RCGP sentinel practices reported a consultation rate of 23 per 100,000 overall, well below the threshold of 50 per 100,000 baseline activity level. The sentinel practices across Wales also report consultation rates as below baseline activity.

Virological data from the ERNVL has characterised 27 influenza isolates in total since week 40, 25 were subtyped influenza A (H1N1), and two were typed as influenza B.

Influenza activity in Europe

The bulletin released by EISS (European Influenza Surveillance Scheme) reports that influenza activity in France and Belgium is at regional levels with the remaining countries reporting either sporadic activity or no activity.

Influenza activity in Canada

Influenza activity in Canada remains at below seasonal average overall for the week ending the 16th of December, week 50. Virological data reveals that the most common isolate was influenza B (n=123) for the same period.

Influenza activity in the United States

During week 50 week ending the 16th of December, the proportion of visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness was within baseline levels of 0-3%. Laboratory results from WHO and NRVES for the same week show 7 % of specimens were positive for influenza. Of these, 26 were influenza A (H1N1) viruses, 33 were influenza A, untyped and 12 were influenza B viruses.

Influenza activity Worldwide.

Sporadic influenza like activity is reported for Portugal, Australia, Finland and Hong Kong, and local outbreak levels in Israel and France for the week ending 23/12/00.