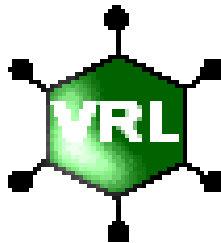


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



Week 20 2002

Report produced: 23/05/2002

This report is produced in collaboration with the Departments of Public Health

Influenza Activity in Ireland

This is the final influenza surveillance report for this season. Influenza surveillance reports will resume in October 2002 for the 2002/2003 influenza season. A summary report of the 2001/2002 influenza season will be produced in the forthcoming weeks. During week 20, the week ending the 19th of May 2002, the GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained at low levels. Three ILI cases were reported from sentinel general practices, corresponding to a consultation rate of 6 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 20 sentinel GPs, with 2 reporting ILI cases.

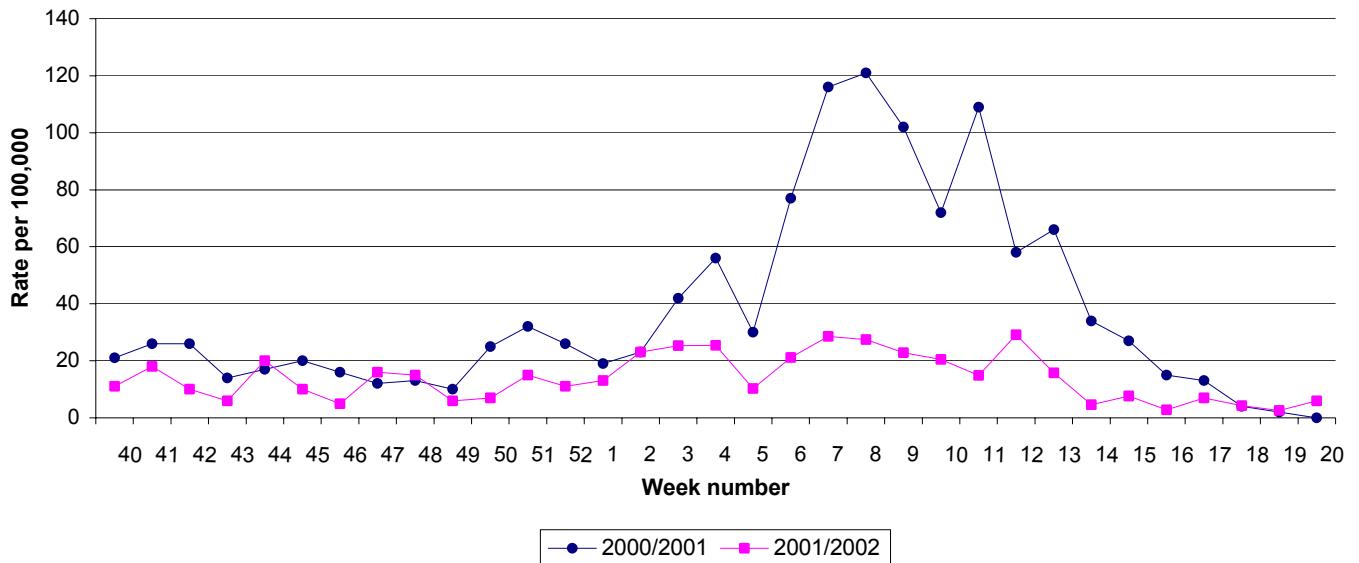


Figure 1: GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness per 100,000 population by report week, during the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 influenza seasons.

Virological Data from the Virus Reference Laboratory (VRL)

The VRL received 2 swabs from sentinel GPs during week 20; both were negative. To date this season the VRL have tested 243 swabs for influenza virus; 67 (28%) were positive. Influenza A (H3N2) has been the predominant circulating strain this season. Twelve influenza A (unsubtyped), 2 influenza A (H1N1), 9 influenza A (H1N2), 43 influenza A (H3N2) and one influenza B viruses have been detected by the VRL from sentinel specimens this season.

The VRL have also tested 719 respiratory specimens from non-sentinel sources (hospitals and GPs) since October 2001. During week 20, 9 respiratory specimens were received from non-sentinel sources; two were positive for RSV. Since the start of the influenza season, 214 RSVs, 2 adenoviruses, 2 parainfluenza type 3 viruses and 4 influenza A (unsubtyped) viruses have been identified from non-sentinel sources.

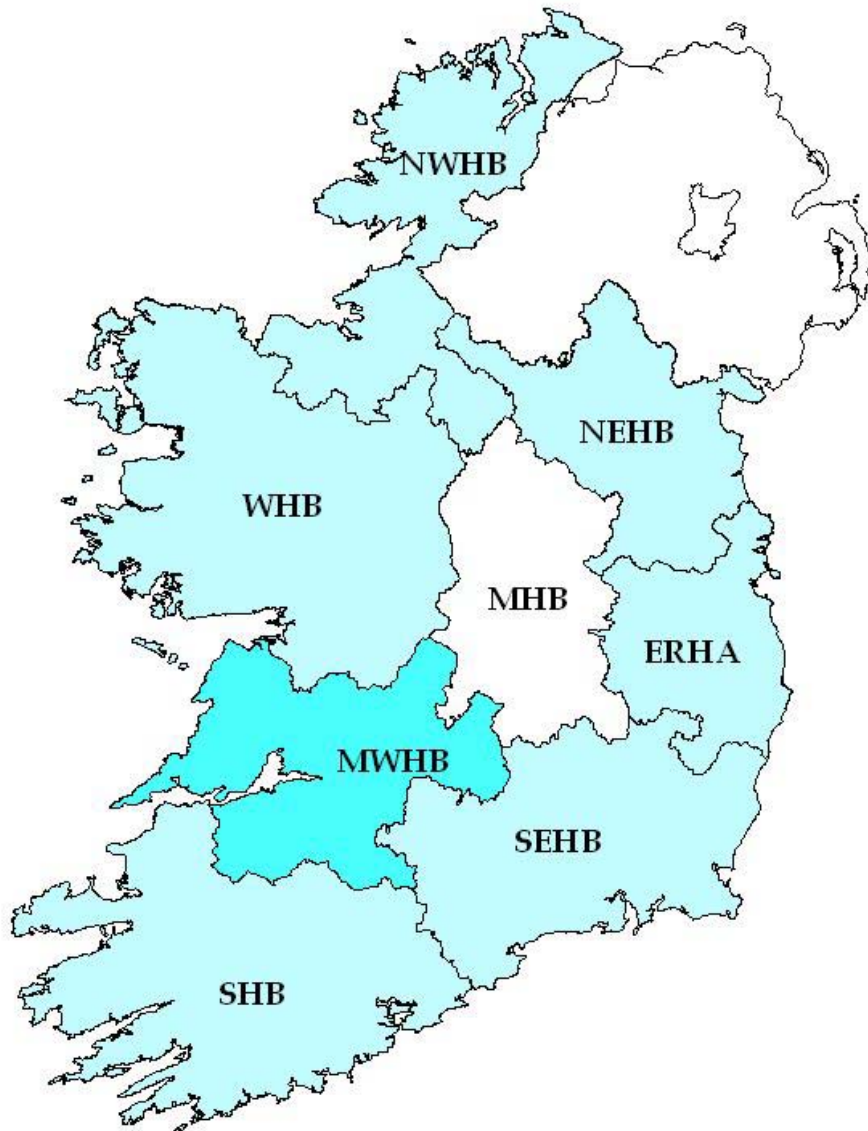
Table 1: Sentinel influenza results by type, subtype and report week for 2001/2002

<i>Week number</i>	<i>Total swabs</i>	<i>Positive swabs</i>	<i>Percentage positive</i>	<i>A (unsubtyped)</i>	<i>A (H1N1)</i>	<i>A (H1N2)</i>	<i>A (H3N2)</i>	<i>B</i>
40	5	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
41	4	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
42	4	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
43	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
44	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
45	6	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
46	3	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
47	10	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
48	8	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
49	6	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
50	8	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
51	9	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
52	1	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
1	7	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
2	9	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
3	12	4	33%	0	1	0	3	0
4	14	6	43%	0	0	0	6	0
5	15	3	20%	0	0	2	1	0
6	15	10	67%	1	1	1	7	0
7	16	5	31%	0	0	0	5	0
8	13	6	46%	0	0	3	3	0
9	14	8	57%	0	0	1	7	0
10	14	7	50%	1	0	2	4	0
11	9	4	44%	2	0	0	2	0
12	12	7	58%	3	0	0	3	1
13	8	4	50%	2	0	0	2	0
14	2	1	50%	1	0	0	0	0
15	6	1	17%	1	0	0	0	0
16	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
17	3	1	33%	1	0	0	0	0
18	1	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
19	1	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
20	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
Total	243	67	28%	12	2	9	43	1

Influenza Activity by Health Board/Authority

Influenza activity is reported on a weekly basis from the Departments of Public Health. Influenza activity is based on sentinel GP ILI consultation rates, laboratory confirmed cases of influenza, hospital admissions data, and/or school absenteeism levels. During week 19, 6 health boards reported no influenza activity and 1 reported sporadic activity.

Influenza Activity - Week 19



2002-2003 Influenza vaccine

The EU recommendation for the influenza trivalent vaccine composition for the 2002-2003 season is as follows:

- A/Moscow/10/99 (H3N2)-like strain
- A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like strain
- B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like strain.

The complete text of the EU recommendations can be located at:

<http://www.emea.eu.int/pdfs/human/bwp/085202en.pdf>

Influenza Activity in Northern Ireland

CDSC NI has finished their weekly influenza surveillance reporting for this season.

Influenza Activity in England, Scotland and Wales

The PHLS has finished reporting influenza activity in the UK for the 2001/2002 influenza season. Surveillance of influenza activity, however, will continue and reports will be restarted if new activity emerges. If no further activity emerges the weekly influenza reports for next season will resume at the beginning of October.

Influenza Activity in Europe

The European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) have finished reporting on influenza activity for this season.

Influenza Activity in Canada

During week 19, influenza activity was declining in Canada. Regions of Nova Scotia, Ontario, and British Columbia reported localised activity and no regions reported widespread activity. Sentinel physicians reported 9 cases of ILI per 1000 patient visits, which is the expected rate for the time of year. Health Canada received 966 reports of laboratory tests for influenza during week 19: 38 (4%) were positive for influenza A and 19 (2%) for influenza B.

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 19, the overall proportion of patient visits for ILI was 0.6%, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. Twenty state and territorial health departments reported sporadic influenza activity and 25 reported no influenza activity. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.8%, which is below the epidemic threshold. During week 19, the WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 461 specimens tested for influenza virus; 32 (6.9%) of these were positive. One was influenza A (H1N1), 3 were influenza A (unsubtyped) and 28 were influenza B.

Influenza Activity Worldwide

During week 19, no influenza activity was reported in Chile. Hong Kong reported sporadic activity during week 19, with influenza A (H3N2) continuing to be isolated. In Australia, sporadic activity was also reported with influenza B predominating.

The VRL, ICGP and NDSC would like to thank the sentinel GPs who provided data throughout the 2001/2002 influenza season.

This report was produced by Dr Lisa Domegan, Surveillance Scientist, NDSC.