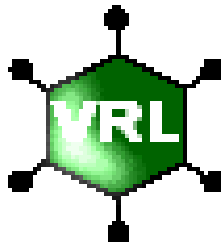


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



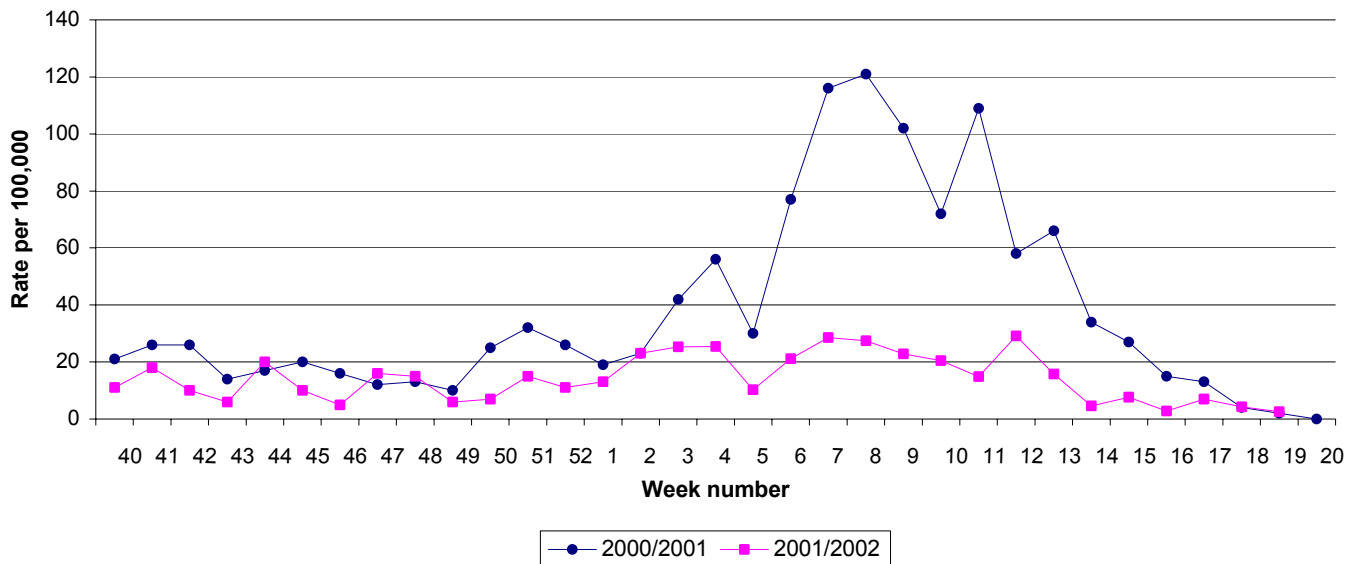
**Week 19 2002**

**Report produced: 16/05/2002**

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

### Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 19, the week ending the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2002, the GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained at low levels. One ILI case was reported from sentinel general practices, corresponding to a consultation rate of 3 per 100,000 population. This is the lowest GP consultation for ILI this season. Reports were received from 16 sentinel GPs, with 1 reporting an ILI case. Data for week 18 has been updated to 4 per 100,000 population.



**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)

During week 19, the VRL received one swab from sentinel GPs, the results of which are negative. Results for week 18 have been updated; one swab was received from sentinel GPs and this was negative. There have been no positive isolations of influenza virus from sentinel swabs in the last 2 weeks. To date this season the VRL have tested 241 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 710 respiratory specimens from non-sentinel sources (hospitals and GPs) since October 2001. During week 19, 22 respiratory specimens were received from non-sentinel sources. Four were positive for RSV and one was positive for parainfluenza virus type 3. Since the start of the influenza season, 212 RSVs, 2 adenoviruses, 2 parainfluenza type 3 viruses and 4 influenza A (unsubtyped) viruses have been identified from non-sentinel sources.

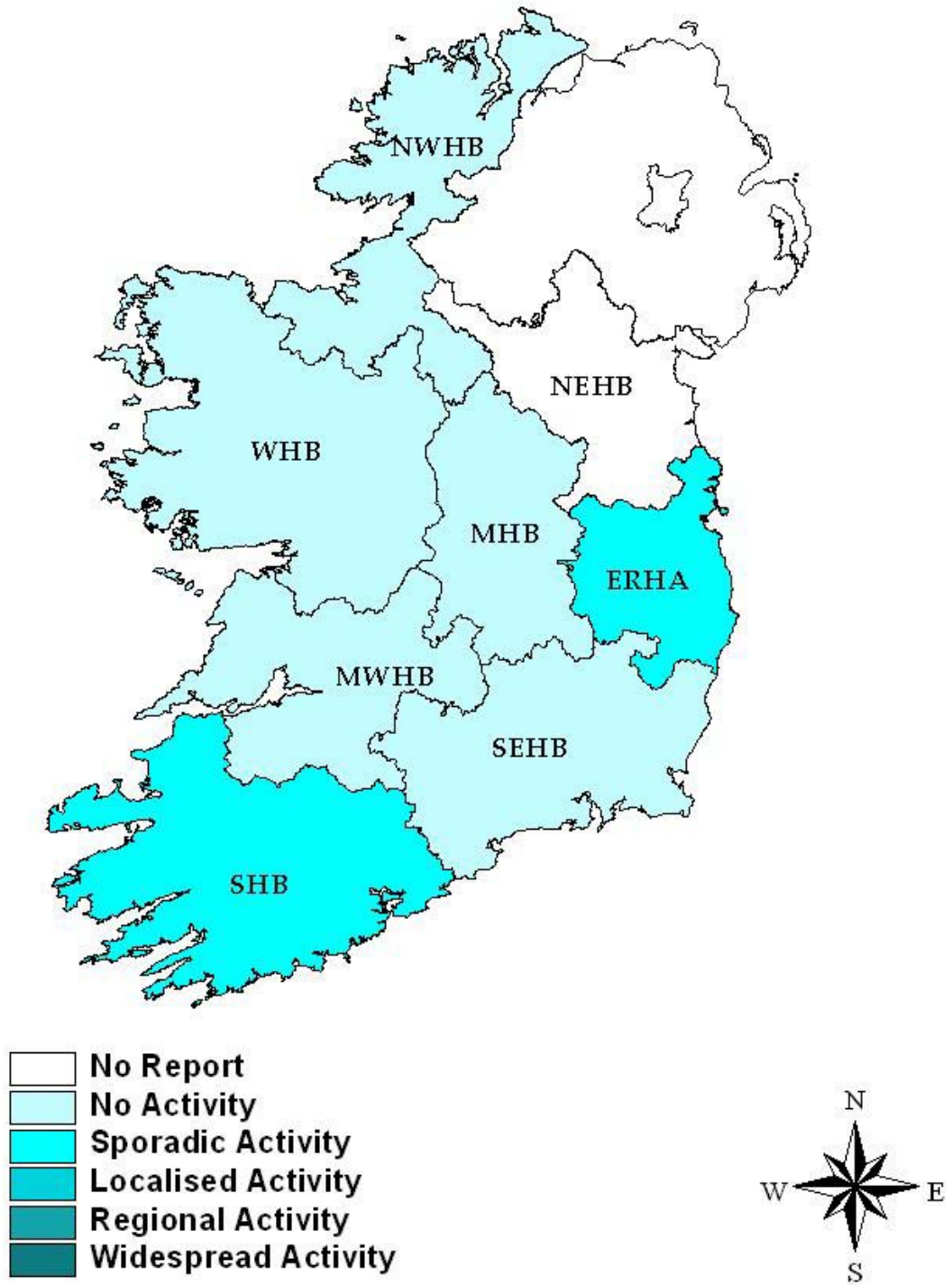
**Table 1: Sentinel influenza results by type, subtype and report week for 2001/2002**

<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	<b>1</b>	0	<b>3</b>	0
4	14	6	43%	0	0	0	<b>6</b>	0
5	15	3	20%	0	0	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	0
6	15	10	67%	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	0
7	16	5	31%	0	0	0	<b>5</b>	0
8	13	6	46%	0	0	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	0
9	14	8	57%	0	0	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	0
10	14	7	50%	<b>1</b>	0	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	0
11	9	4	44%	<b>2</b>	0	0	<b>2</b>	0
12	12	7	58%	<b>3</b>	0	0	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
13	8	4	50%	<b>2</b>	0	0	<b>2</b>	0
14	2	1	50%	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0
15	6	1	17%	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0
16	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
17	3	1	33%	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0
18	1	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
19	1	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>

**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 18, 5 health boards reported no influenza activity and 2 reported sporadic activity.

# Influenza Activity - Week 18



### **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**

No influenza activity was reported in Spain during week 18. In Norway, localised influenza activity was reported. While the ILI consultation rate has fallen to insignificant levels in most regions of Norway. In Northern Norway, ILI consultation rates remain at outbreak threshold levels and all reported virus detections are from this region.

### **Influenza Activity in Canada**

During week 18, influenza activity was declining in Canada. Regions of Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia reported localised influenza activity. 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 virus, 38 (4%) were positive for influenza A and 19 (2%) were positive for influenza B.

### **Influenza Activity in the United States**

In the US, the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI during week 18 was 0.6%, which is below the national baseline. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 4 reported regional activity, 27 reported sporadic activity and 15 reported no influenza activity. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.6%, which is below the epidemic threshold. The WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 682 respiratory specimens tested for influenza virus. Fifty-two of these specimens were positive for influenza virus, 4 (8%) were positive for influenza A (H3N2), 1 (2%) was positive for influenza A (unsubtyped) and 47 (90%) were positive for influenza B.

### **Influenza Activity Worldwide**

During week 18, no influenza activity was reported in South Africa. Sporadic influenza activity was reported in Argentina, Hong Kong and Australia.

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