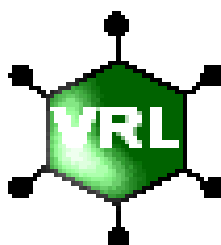


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



Week 18 2002

Report produced: 08/05/2002

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

Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 18, the week ending the 5th of May 2002, the GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained at low levels. Two ILI cases were reported from sentinel general practices, corresponding to a consultation rate of 5 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 18 sentinel GPs, with 2 reporting ILI cases.

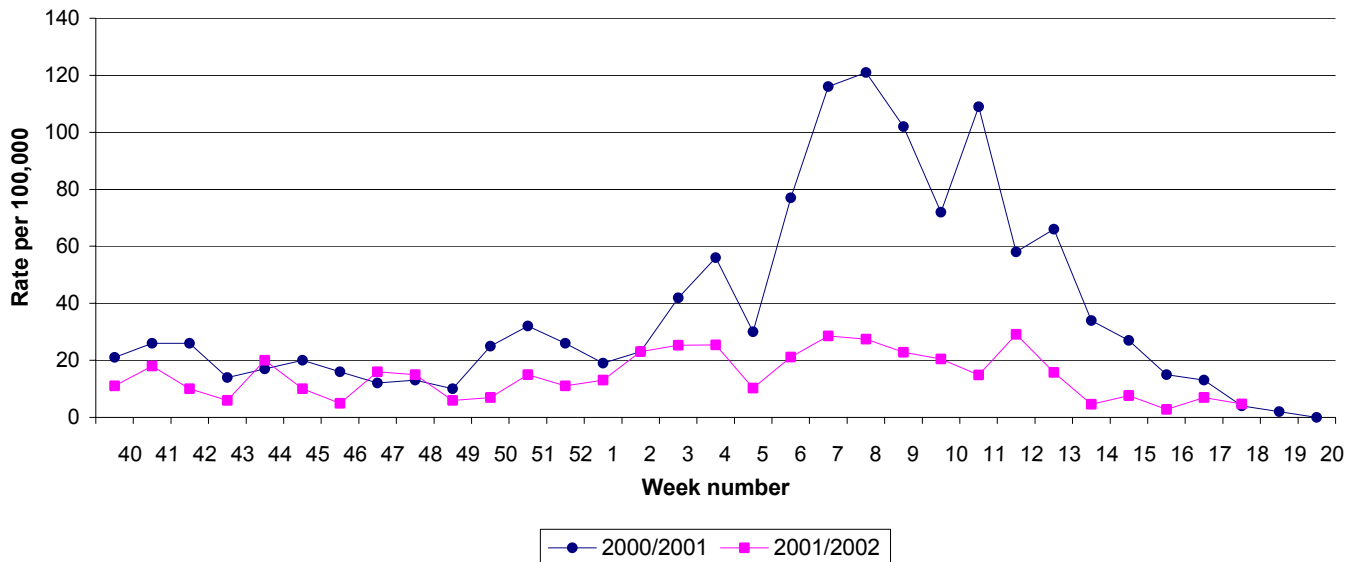


Figure 1: GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness per 100,000 population by report week, during the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 influenza seasons.

Virological Data from the Virus Reference Laboratory (VRL)

During week 18, the VRL received one swab from sentinel GPs, the results of which are pending. Results for week 17 have been updated; two swabs received from the sentinel GPs were negative, the third swab was positive for influenza A (unsubtyped). To date this season the VRL have tested 240 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 688 respiratory specimens from non-sentinel sources (hospitals and GPs) since the start of the influenza season. During week 18, 18 respiratory specimens were received from non-sentinel sources. Six were positive for RSV, bringing the total RSV cases detected this season to 208. Since October 2001, 2 adenoviruses, 1 parainfluenza type 3 virus and 4 influenza A (unsubtyped) viruses have been identified from non-sentinel sources.

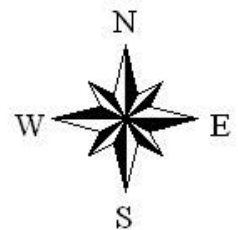
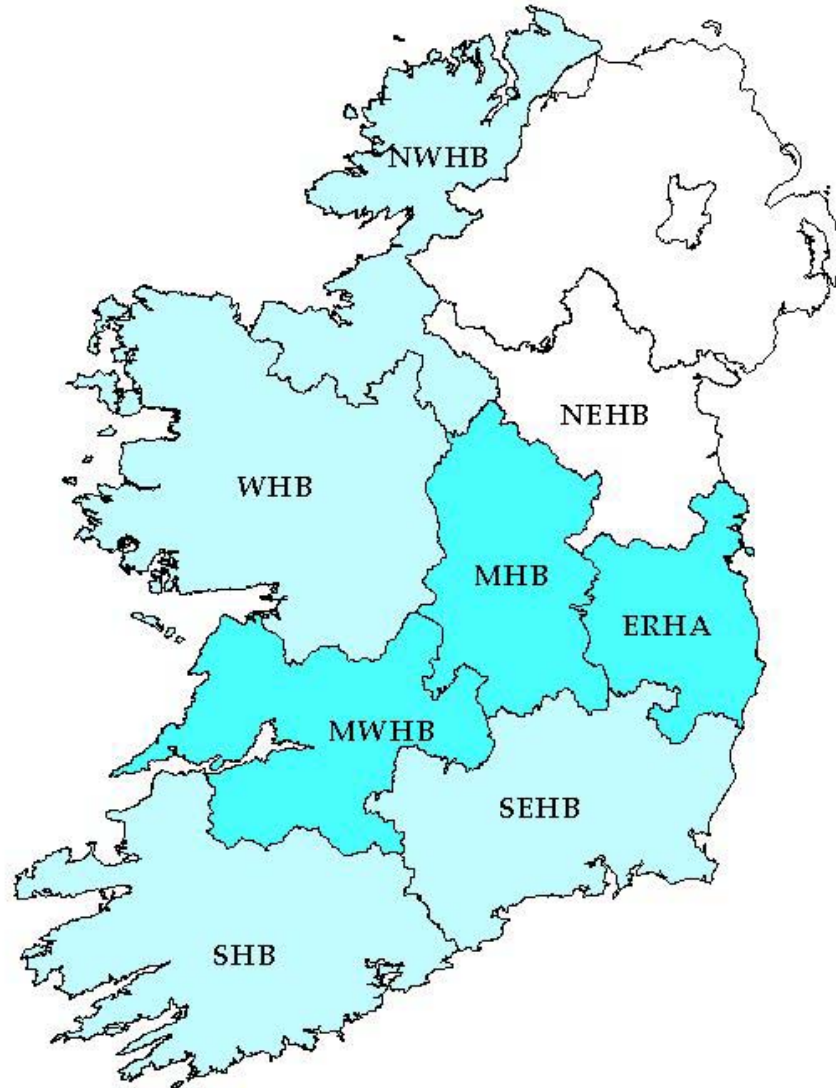
Table 1: Sentinel influenza results by type, subtype and report week for 2001/2002

<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
Total	240	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 17, 4 health boards reported no influenza activity and 3 reported sporadic activity.

Influenza Activity - Week 17



2002-2003 Influenza vaccine

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

Trivalent vaccine containing:

- 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 Italy, Denmark, France and Poland during week 17. Sporadic influenza activity was reported in Norway, Latvia and Greece. In Norway, the weekly ILI consultation rate is now below the designated outbreak threshold in all regions. The only virus detections have been in the Northern part of the country.

Influenza Activity in Canada

In Canada, one region of Nova Scotia reported widespread influenza activity during week 17 and one region of British Columbia reported localised activity. Sentinel physicians reported 7 ILI cases per 1000 patient visits, which is the expected rate for the time of year. Eight percent (85) of laboratory tests for influenza were positive for influenza A and one percent (14) was positive for influenza B during week 17.

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 17, one state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 4 reported regional activity, 23 reported sporadic activity and 16 reported no influenza activity. The WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 573 specimens tested for influenza virus; 35 (6.1%) of which were positive. Three were influenza A (H3N2), 3 were influenza A (unsubtyped) and 29 were influenza B viruses.

Influenza Activity Worldwide

No influenza activity was reported in Argentina, Chile and South Africa during week 17. In Hong Kong, sporadic influenza activity was reported, with influenza A (H3N2) predominating.

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