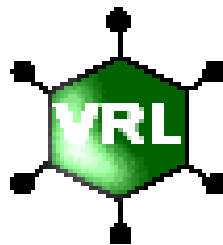


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



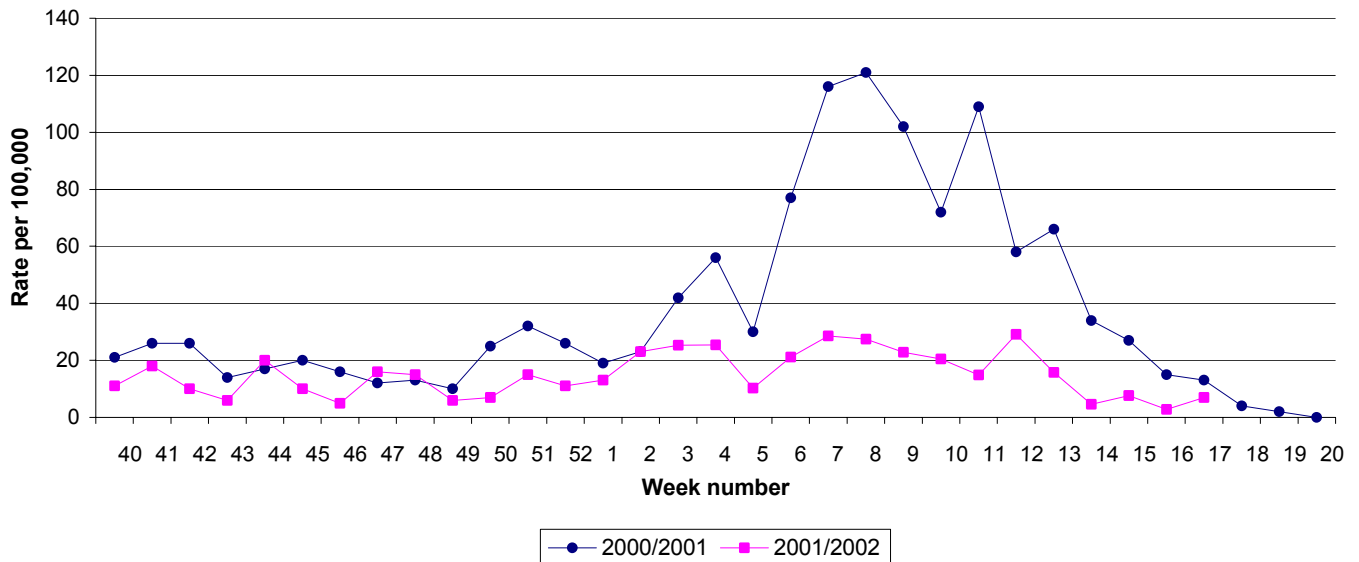
**Week 17 2002**

**Report produced: 02/05/2002**

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

### Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 17, the week ending the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 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 7 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 20 sentinel GPs, with 3 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 17, the VRL received 3 swabs from sentinel GPs, one was negative for influenza virus and the results for the other two swabs are pending. Results for week 16 have been updated; the two swabs received from sentinel GPs were both negative for influenza virus. To date this season the VRL have tested 237 swabs for influenza virus, 65 (27%) were positive. Influenza A (H3N2) has been the predominant strain this season. Ten 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 tested 670 respiratory specimens from non-sentinel sources (hospitals and GPs) since the start of the influenza season. During week 16, 1 specimen was positive for influenza A (unsubtyped). During week 17, 20 respiratory specimens were received from non-sentinel sources. Two were positive for RSV, bringing the total RSV cases detected this season to 202. 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**

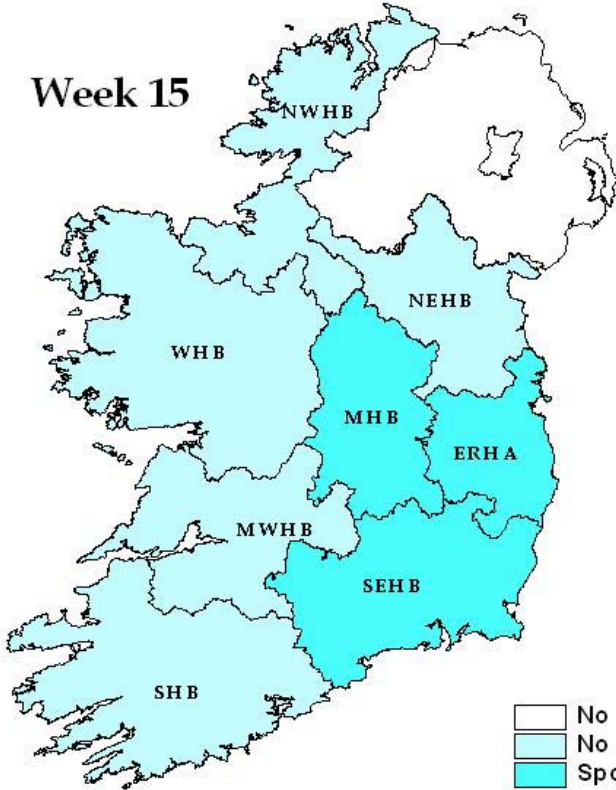
<i>Week number</i>	<i>Total swabs</i>	<i>Positive swabs</i>	<i>Percentage positive</i>	<i>A (unsubtyped)</i>	<i>A (H1N1)</i>	<i>A (H1N2)</i>	<i>A (H3N2)</i>	<i>B</i>
40	5	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
41	4	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
42	4	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
43	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
44	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
45	6	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
46	3	0	0%	0	0	0	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	5	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
16	2	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
17	3	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>

**Influenza Activity by Health Board/Authority**

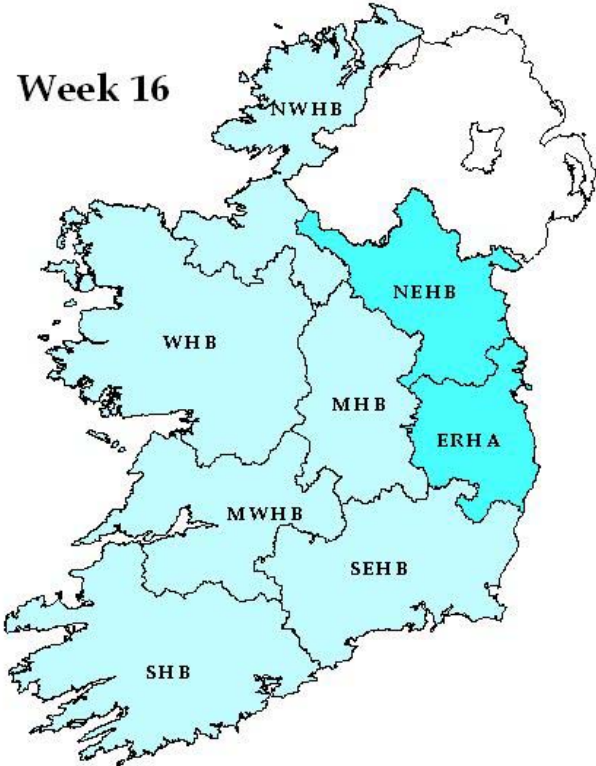
Influenza activity is reported on a weekly basis from the Departments of Public Health. Influenza activity is based on sentinel GP ILI consultation rates, laboratory confirmed cases of influenza, hospital admissions data, and/or school absenteeism levels. Influenza activity during weeks 15 and 16 has decreased. During week 15, 5 health boards reported no influenza activity and 3 reported sporadic activity. No activity was reported in 6 health boards during week 16 and 2 reported sporadic activity.

# Influenza Activity

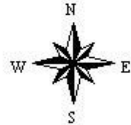
Week 15



Week 16



- No Report
- No Activity
- Sporadic Activity
- Localised Activity
- Regional Activity
- Widespread Activity



### **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 France, Denmark, and Poland during week 16. Norway reported sporadic influenza activity with influenza B predominating. Latvia, Greece and the Slovak Republic also reported sporadic activity. In Latvia, influenza A (H3N2) was the predominant circulating strain. The European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) has completed publishing the weekly electronic bulletins for the 2001-2002 influenza season. The EISS weekly electronic bulletin will resume publication in October 2002 for the 2002-2003 influenza season.

### **Influenza Activity in Canada**

Sentinel physicians reported 12 cases of ILI per 1000 patient visits, which is the expected rate for the time of year. Health Canada received 1331 reports of laboratory tests for influenza during week 16: 1287 were positive for influenza A and 20 were positive for influenza B.

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

During week 16, the proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians was 0.9%, which is below the national baseline. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 2 reported regional activity, 31 reported sporadic activity and 13 reported no influenza activity. During week 16, the WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 9 influenza A (unsubtyped), 10 influenza A (H3N2) and 66 influenza B viruses. The percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza was 7.6%, which is below the epidemic threshold.

### **Influenza Activity Worldwide**

No influenza activity was reported in Argentina and Australia during week 16. Hong Kong reported sporadic activity with an increase in influenza A (H3N2). Outbreaks in an elderly home were reported in Hong Kong. Sporadic influenza activity was also reported in Iceland. The Russian Federation reported a localised outbreak in Chernigiv.

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