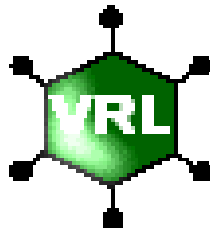


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



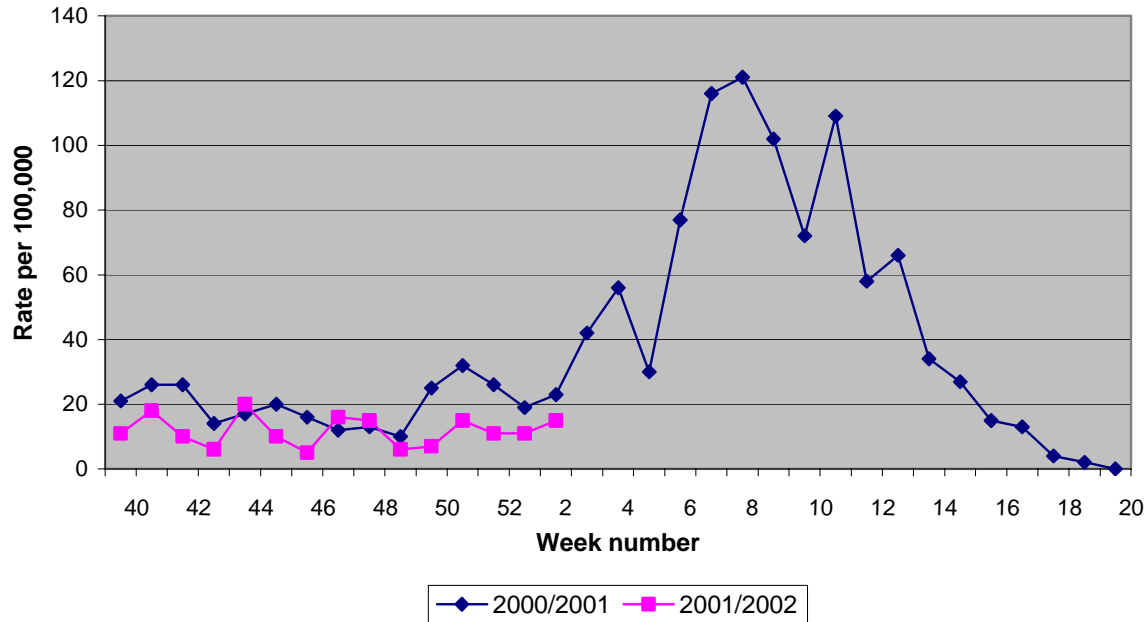
**Week 2 2002**

**Report produced: 16/01/2002**

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

### Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 2, week ending the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2002, 11 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) were reported from sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 15 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 26 sentinel GPs, with 8 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 2 2002, the VRL received 9 swabs from sentinel GPs. The results of 8 swabs were negative and one is pending. Since the start of the 2001/2002 influenza season the VRL has received 84 swabs from sentinel GPs; influenza virus has not been detected in any of these swabs to date (table 1).

Between week 40 2001 and week 2 2002, the VRL have tested 295 respiratory specimens from non-sentinel sources (hospitals and GPs), 64 were positive for RSV, 1 was positive for parainfluenza type 3 and 1 was positive for adenovirus. The number of RSV cases has decreased from 24 during week 52 to 12 during week 1.

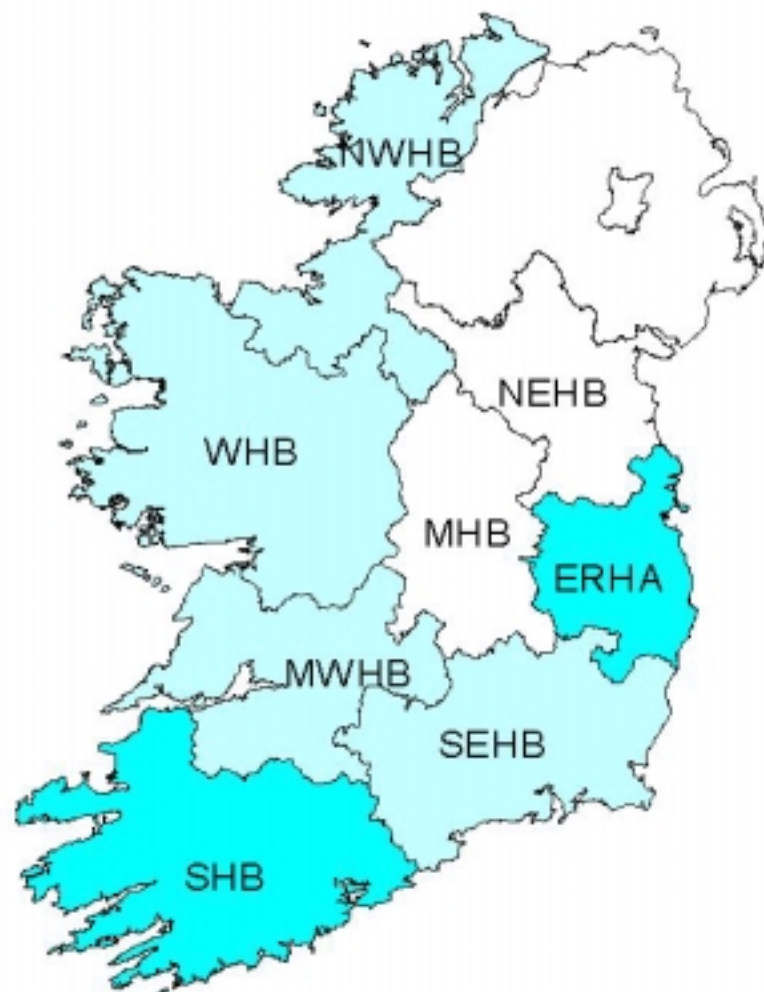
**Table 1: Sentinel influenza results by type, subtype and report week for 2001/2002**

<b>Week number</b>	<b>Number of swabs</b>	<b>Percentage Positive</b>	<b>Influenza A (unsubtyped)</b>	<b>Influenza A (H1N1)</b>	<b>Influenza A (H3N2)</b>	<b>Influenza B</b>
40	5	0%				
41	4	0%				
42	4	0%				
43	2	0%				
44	2	0%				
45	6	0%				
46	3	0%				
47	10	0%				
48	8	0%				
49	6	0%				
50	8	0%				
51	9	0%				
52	1	0%				
1	7	0%				
2	9	0%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>					

**Influenza Activity by Health Board/Authority**

Influenza activity for week 1 (week ending the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2002) was reported 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 1, sporadic influenza activity was reported in 2 health boards. No influenza activity was reported in 4 health boards.

# Influenza Activity - Week 1



### **Influenza Activity in Northern Ireland**

In Northern Ireland, during week 1, the GP consultation rate for ILI was 19 per 100,000 population. Influenza viruses have not been isolated to date this season.

### **Influenza Activity in England, Scotland and Wales**

In England, the GP consultation rate for influenza and ILI has increased to a rate of 31 per 100,000 in week 1. In Scotland, the GP consultation rate for ILI remained little changed with a rate of 33 per 100,000 in week 1. In Wales, the GP consultation rate for influenza and ILI decreased to 0 per 100,000. During week 1, the ERNVL detected 8 influenza A (H1N1) and 11 influenza A (H3N2) isolates. All influenza viruses characterised to date are similar to strains contained in this year's vaccine. Laboratory reports of RSV and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* remain low for the time of year.

### **Influenza Activity in Europe**

During week 1, influenza activity in Europe varied from none to widespread. In France influenza activity was described as widespread. Regional activity was reported in Belgium and local activity in Spain. Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland all reported sporadic activity. The remaining 10 countries that reported to the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme reported no influenza activity. Belgium, England, France, Norway, Spain and Switzerland all reported influenza A as the dominant influenza type.

### **Influenza Activity in Canada**

During week 1, influenza activity has increased in some areas of Canada, most notably in Quebec. Sporadic activity was reported in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Yukon. Localised activity was reported in Quebec. Sentinel physicians reported 20 cases of ILI per 1000 patient visits. During week 1, 103 respiratory specimens were positive for influenza A and 2 were positive for influenza B. Laboratory detections of RSV have also continued to increase, especially in Quebec.

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

In the US during week 1, the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 2.4%, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 11 reported regional activity, 32 reported sporadic activity, and 2 states reported no influenza activity. The WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 1281 specimens tested for influenza viruses. Thirty-four influenza A (H3N2) viruses and 60 influenza A (unsubtyped) viruses were identified. All influenza A and B viruses that have been antigenically characterised are similar to the current vaccine strains.

### **Influenza Activity Worldwide**

No influenza activity was reported in Chile during week 1. Sporadic influenza activity was reported in Mexico, with one influenza A (unsubtyped) virus isolated. In Israel, localised influenza activity was reported, with 4 influenza A (H1N1) and 8 influenza A (H3N2) viruses detected. Elevated ILI levels were reported in the Russian Federation where regional activity levels were reported.

**This report is prepared by Lisa Domegan, Surveillance Scientist, NDSC.**