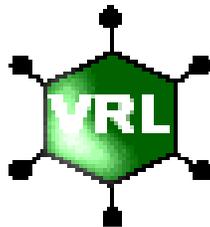


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



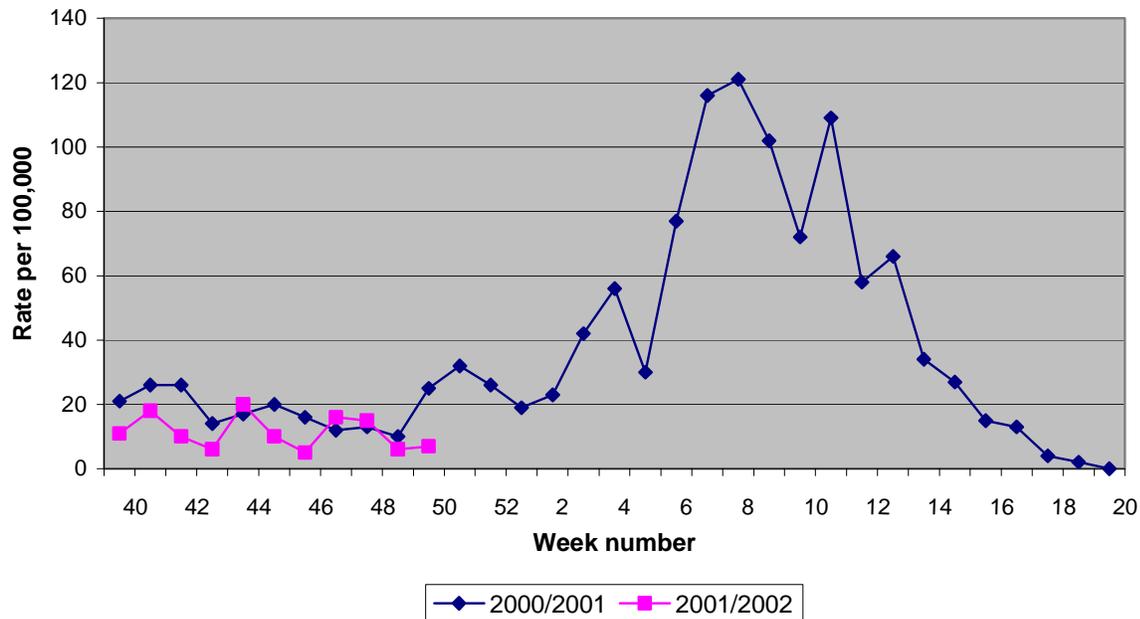
**Week 50**

**Report produced: 19/12/2001**

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

## Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 50, sentinel general practices reported 5 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI). This corresponds to a consultation rate of 7 per 100,000 population. Twenty-five sentinel GPs sent in reports, only 4 of which reported 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 50, the VRL received 8 swabs from sentinel GPs, none were positive for influenza virus. The results of one swab are pending. Since the start of the 2001/2002 influenza season, the VRL has received 57 swabs from sentinel GPs; influenza virus has not been detected in any of these swabs (table 1).

Since October 1<sup>st</sup> 2001 (week 40), the VRL have tested 163 respiratory swabs from non-sentinel sources (hospitals and GPs). Seventeen specimens were positive for RSV, 1 was positive for adenovirus, and 1 was positive for parainfluenza virus type 3. No influenza has been detected in these specimens to date.

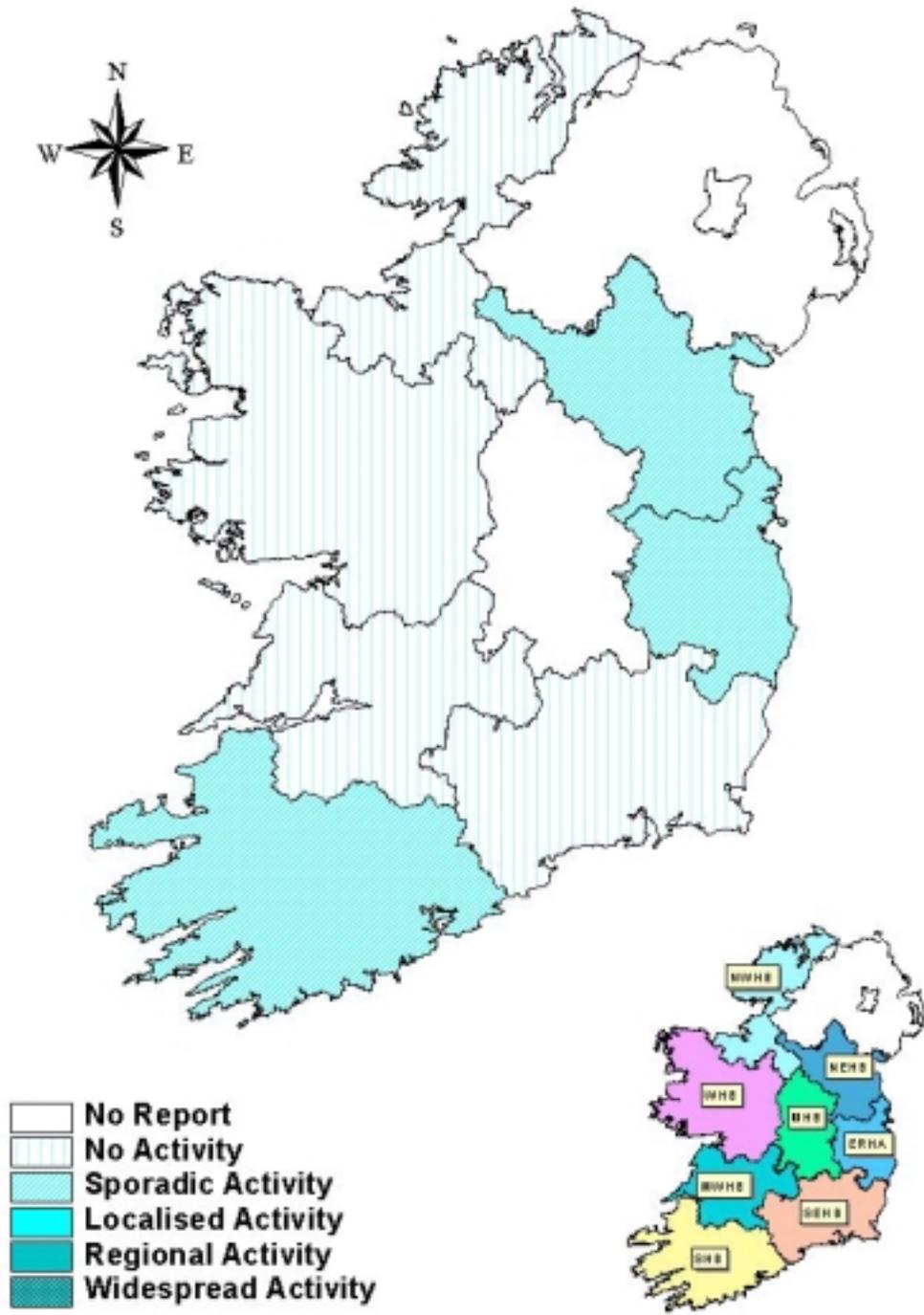
**Table 1: Sentinel influenza results by type, subtype and report week for 2001/2002**

<i>Week number</i>	<i>Number of swabs</i>	<i>Percentage Positive</i>	<i>Influenza A (unsubtyped)</i>	<i>Influenza A (H1N1)</i>	<i>Influenza A (H3N2)</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>
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	5	0%				
50	8	0%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>					

#### **Influenza Activity by Health Board/Authority**

Influenza activity for week 49 (week ending the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2001) was reported from the Departments of Public Health. Influenza activity is based on sentinel GP ILI consultation rates, laboratory confirmed cases of influenza, school absenteeism levels and hospital admissions data. Four health boards/authority reported no activity and 3 reported sporadic activity.

# Influenza Activity - Week 49



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

During week 50, GP consultation rates for influenza and ILI decreased to 0 and 14.1 per 100,000 population, respectively. There have been no laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in Northern Ireland.

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

In England, the GP consultation rates for influenza and ILI have decreased slightly from a rate of 22 per 100,000 in week 49 to 18 per 100,000 in week 50. In Scotland the GP consultation rate for ILI increased slightly from a rate of 26 per 100,000 in week 49 to 34 per 100,000 population in week 50. The consultation rate for influenza and ILI in Wales remained unchanged at a rate of 4 per 100,000. GP consultations remain well below the upper level set for baseline activity in England, Scotland and Wales. During week 50, 2 community-derived specimens have tested positive for influenza A (H1N1) by PCR. Since week 40, the ERNVL have characterised 3 isolates of influenza A (H3N2), all of which have been characterised as antigenically related to the influenza A (H3N2) Panama-like strain, one of the strains included in this season's vaccine. Laboratory reports of RSV and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* received by CDSC remain low for the time of year.

### **Influenza Activity in Europe**

Influenza activity continues to remain at low levels in Europe. During week 49, three networks reported sporadic activity (France, Slovenia, and Romania), while the other networks reporting to the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme reported no influenza activity. Influenza A (H3N2) was reported in France, influenza A (H1N1) in Romania, and influenza B in France and Slovenia. Belgium also reported isolations of influenza A (unsubtyped).

### **Influenza Activity in Canada**

In Canada, influenza activity also remains low. During week 49, all regions reported no influenza activity. Sentinel physicians reported 18 cases per 1000 patient visits, which is below the expected rate for the time of year. Health Canada received 888 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, one was positive for influenza A. All influenza viruses reported to date have been A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like, a strain in this season's vaccine.

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

During week 49, the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 1.2%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, one reported regional activity, 33 reported sporadic activity, and 14 reported no influenza activity. During week 49, WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 943 specimens tested for influenza viruses. Two influenza A (H3N2), 6 influenza A (unsubtyped) and 3 influenza B viruses were identified.

### **Influenza Activity Worldwide**

Hong Kong and Egypt reported sporadic activity during week 49. In Hong Kong, one influenza A (H1N1), one influenza A (H3N2) and 2 influenza B viruses were isolated. In Egypt, one influenza A (H1N1) virus was isolated.