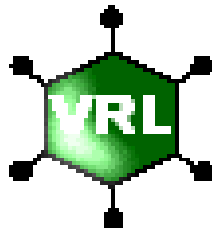


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



Week 47

Report produced: 29/11/2001

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

Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 47, week ending the 25th of November 2001, 12 influenza-like illness (ILI) cases were reported by sentinel general practices. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 17 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 26 sentinel general practices, 9 of which reported ILI cases

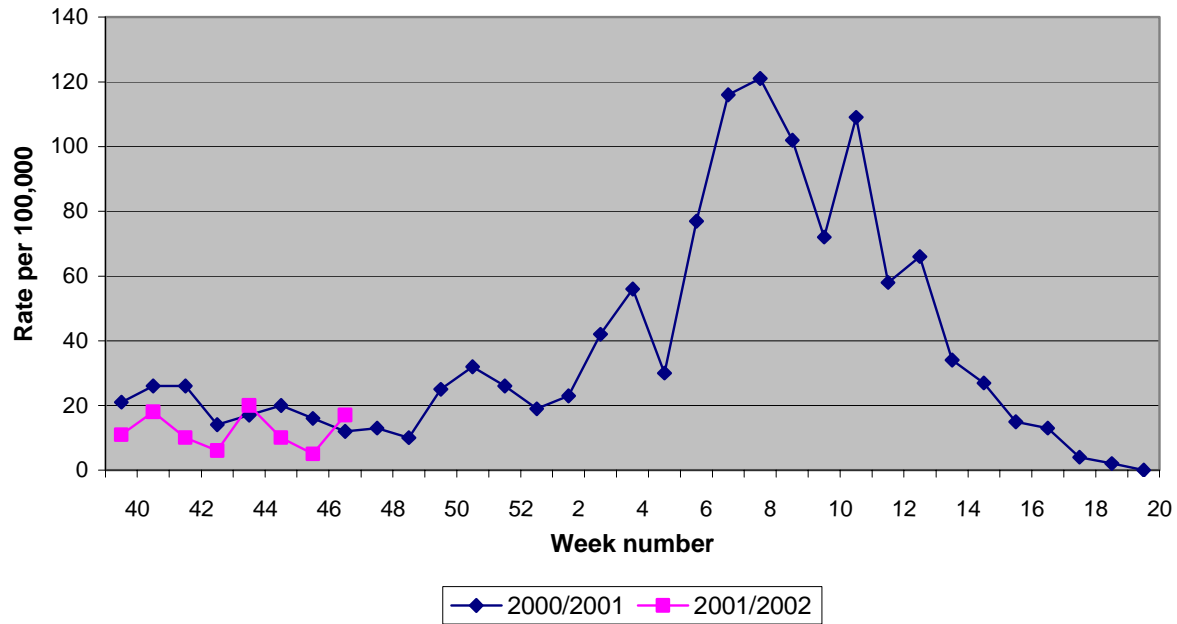


Figure 1: GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness per 100,000 population by report week, during the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 influenza seasons.

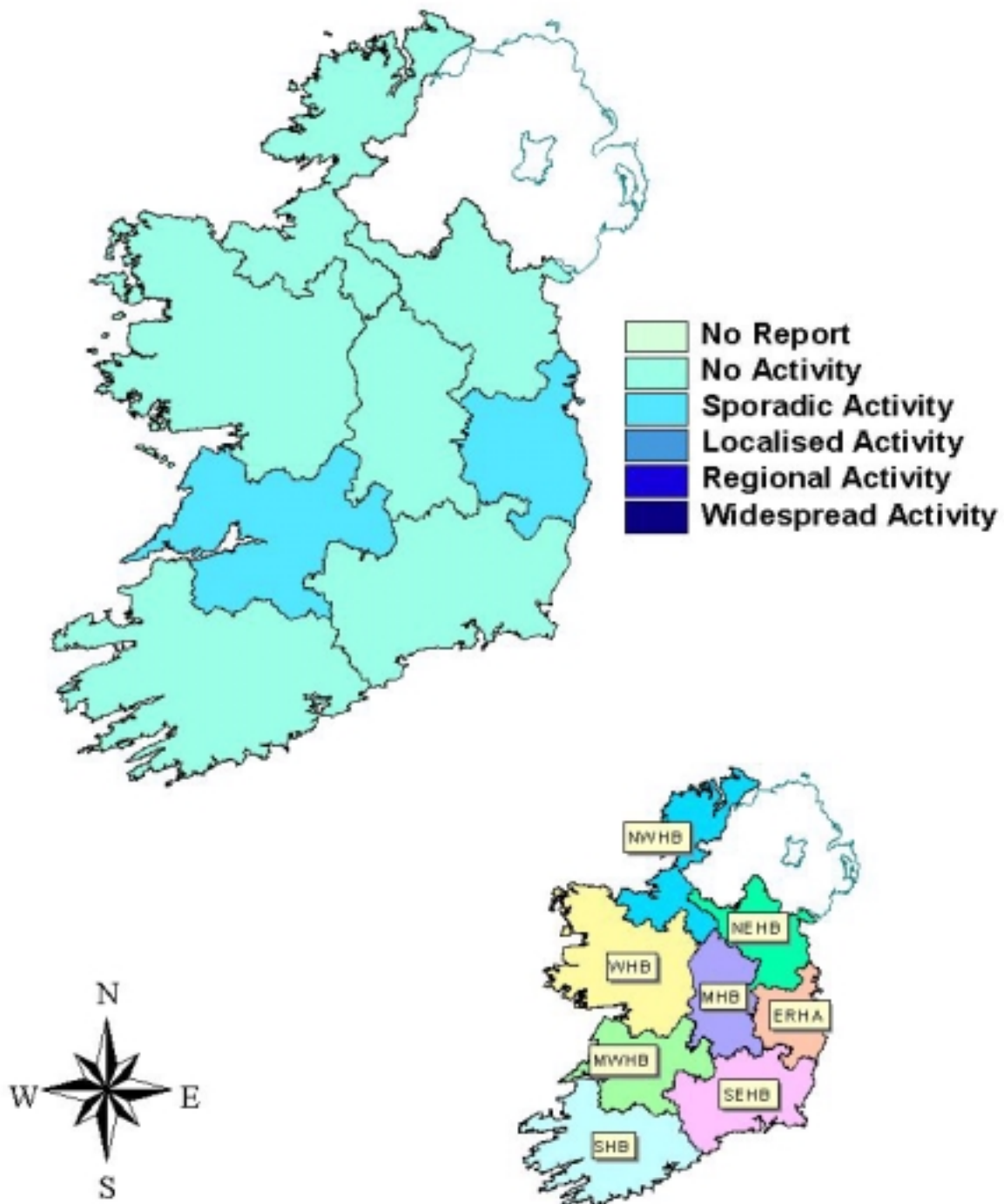
Virological Data from the Virus Reference Laboratory (VRL)

The VRL received 10 swabs from sentinel general practices during week 47. All 10 were negative for influenza A and B. There have been no laboratory confirmed cases of influenza through the sentinel surveillance system during the 2001/2002 influenza season.

Influenza Activity by Health Board/Authority

Influenza activity for week 46 (week ending the 18th of November 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.

Influenza Activity - Week 46



Influenza Activity in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales

During week 46, the consultation rate for combined influenza and ILI has decreased to a rate of 24 per 100,000 in Northern Ireland. In England and Wales, GP consultations for influenza and ILI changed little with a rate of 15 per 100,000 and 1 per 100,000, respectively. In Scotland, the consultation rate for ILI has increased to a rate of 28 per 100,000. In England, Scotland and Wales the rates remain well below the upper level set for baseline activity. One isolate of influenza A (H3N2) has been detected in a specimen submitted during week 46. The isolate has been characterised as influenza A (H3N2) Panama-like, one of the strains included in this season's vaccine composition. The sample was taken from a 5-year old male in the south of England.

Influenza Activity in Europe

Sentinel influenza surveillance networks in Europe reported low levels of influenza activity during week 46. South France and the Czech Republic reported sporadic influenza activity, however all other networks reported no influenza activity. Influenza virus infections were confirmed in Portugal, Spain and the Czech Republic. In Portugal, one case of influenza A (H3N2) was confirmed. In Spain one case of influenza A was detected. The Czech Republic reported 4 influenza A and one influenza B.

Influenza Activity in Canada

In Canada, during week 46, 48 regions reported no influenza activity and 5 regions reported sporadic activity. Sentinel physicians reported 11 cases of ILI per 1000 patient visits. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control received 690 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: one positive for influenza A.

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 46, the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for ILI was 1.2%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. Four state and territorial health departments reported regional influenza activity, 19 reported sporadic activity and 24 reported no influenza activity. During the same period, the WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 625 specimens tested for influenza virus. Five were positive for influenza virus: 2 influenza A (H3N2), 2 influenza A (unsubtyped) and 1 influenza B.

Influenza Activity Worldwide

Influenza activity worldwide for week 46 was not available on the WHO Flunet website.