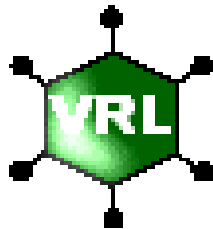


Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



Week 44

Report produced: 7th November 2001

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

Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 44, week ending the 4th November 2001, sentinel general practices reported 7 influenza-like illness (ILI) cases. This corresponds to a GP consultation rate of 20 per 100,000 population, this is the highest rate this season. Reports were received from 16 sentinel general practices, only 3 of which reported ILI cases. The GP consultation rate for week 43 has been updated to 6 per 100,000 population.

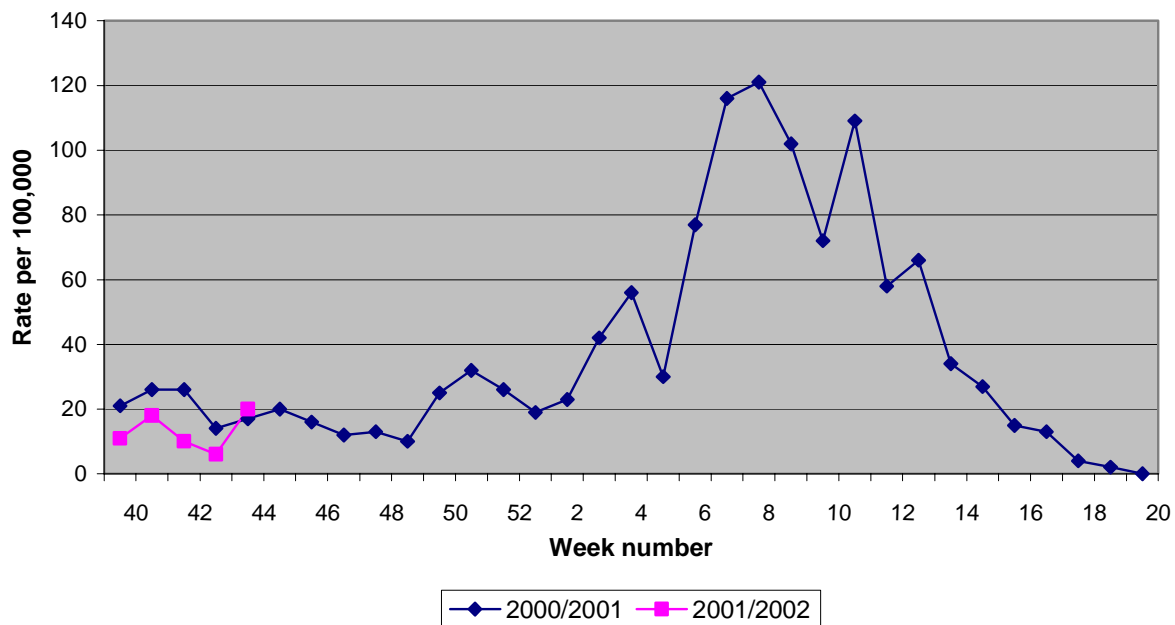


Figure 1: GP consultation rate for influenza-like illness per 100,000 population by report week, during the 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 influenza seasons.

Virological Data from the Virus Reference Laboratory (VRL)

The VRL received 2 swabs from sentinel general practices during week 44. Results are pending on one swab and the other was negative. No influenza viruses have been isolated to date this season.

Influenza Activity in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales

The GP consultation rate for combined influenza and ILI for week 43 in Northern Ireland was 27 per 100,000 population, an increase from 18 per 100,000 in week 42. In England, GP consultation rates for influenza and ILI remained little changed with a rate of 12 per 100,000 in week 42 and 9 per 100,000 in week 43. In Scotland, the consultation rate for ILI also remained little changed with a rate of 10 per 100,000 in week 42 and 20 per 100,000 in week 43. The GP consultation rates for Wales were 4 per 100,000 in week 42 and 1 per 100,000 in week 43. In England, Scotland and Wales the GP consultation rates continue to remain below the upper level set for baseline activity. In Northern Ireland, this is only the second year of the scheme and baseline values have not yet been established. To date this season, no influenza isolates have been detected in specimens submitted by the ERNVL.

Influenza Activity in Europe

The European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) reported low levels of influenza activity in Europe for week 43. During week 43, 11 networks in EISS reported no influenza activity. One network, the Czech Republic, reported sporadic activity, with two laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A and one case of influenza B.

Influenza Activity in Canada

During week 43, week ending the 27th October, 53 regions reported no influenza activity in Canada. Sentinel physicians reported 18 cases of ILI per 1000 patient visits. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control received 618 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, none of which have been positive for influenza.

Influenza Activity in the United States

No report for week 43 was available at the time of production of this report.

Influenza Activity Worldwide

During week 44, week ending the 3rd of November, no influenza activity was reported from the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Latvia, France and Switzerland. Australia, Belarus, Chile, Hong Kong and Norway all reported sporadic activity. Australia, Hong Kong and Norway each reported one case of influenza A (unsubtyped). One influenza B isolate was detected in Santiago, Chile. Sporadic cases of influenza A and B were detected by immunofluorescence tests in Belarus.