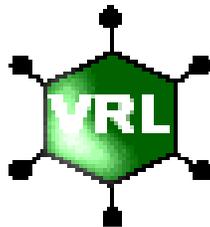


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



**Week 41**

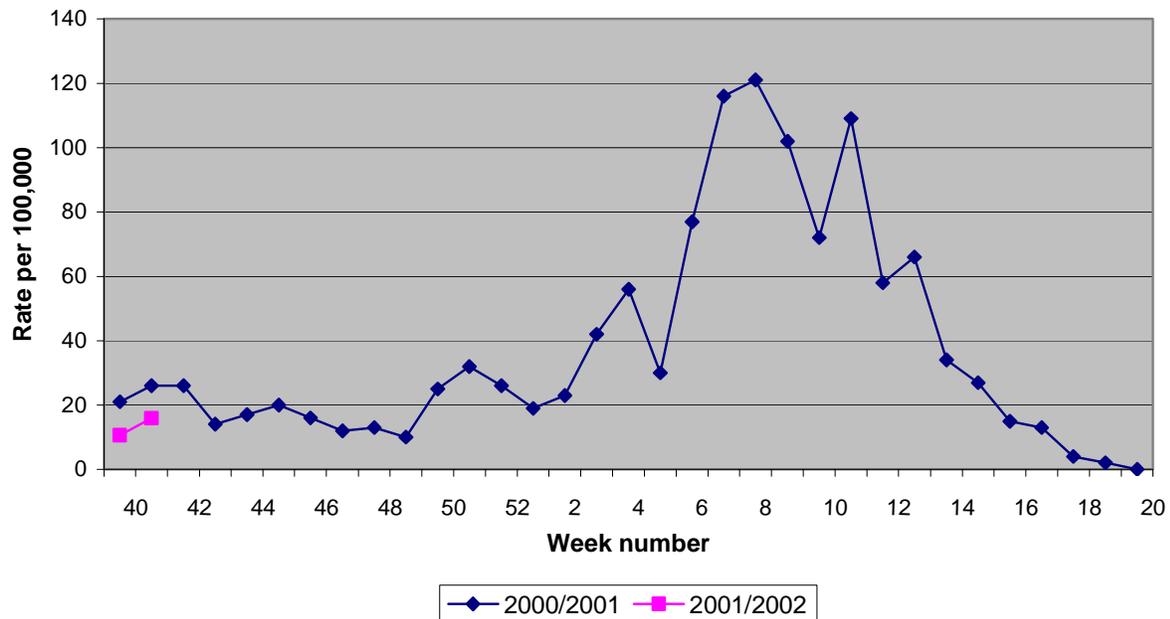
**Report produced:**

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2001**

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

## Influenza Activity in Ireland

During week 41, week ending 14<sup>th</sup> October 2001, sentinel general practices reported 6 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI). This corresponds to a GP consultation rate of 16 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from a total of 17 sentinel general practices, only 4 of these reported ILI cases. Data for week 40 has been updated, reports were received from 21 sentinel general practices, 17 of which reported no cases. The updated GP consultation rate for week 40 is 11 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

The Virus Reference Laboratory received 4 swabs from sentinel general practices during week 41, none of these were positive for influenza virus. No swabs have tested positive for influenza virus so far this season.

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

At the time of production of this report, no data was available for week 41 from the PHLS. In Scotland, the consultation rate for week 40 was 12 per 100,000 population. In Northern Ireland, during week 40 (week ending 05/10/2001), a GP consultation rate of 23.5 per 100,000 population was reported for 'flu and flu-like illness'. There have been no isolations of influenza virus during week 40, and all indicators suggest that influenza is not yet circulating in Northern Ireland.

### **Influenza Activity in Europe**

The first influenza bulletin for the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) will not be available until the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2001.

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

During week 40 (week ending the 06/10/2001), the overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians was 1.3%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. Seven state and territorial health departments reported sporadic influenza activity and 38 reported no influenza activity. The WHO and NREVSS reported 295 specimens tested for influenza virus during week 40, 2 influenza A isolates were identified. These isolates were collected in a New York Nursing Home during the month of September. The percentage of all deaths attributed to influenza and pneumonia during week 40 was 7.0%. This is above the epidemic threshold level of 6.7%, but is based on incomplete data and should not therefore cause concern.

### **Influenza Activity Worldwide**

During week 40, sporadic activity was reported in Hong Kong. Three influenza A (unsubtyped), 2 influenza A (H1N1) and 2 influenza A (H3N2) viruses were isolated.