

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Weekly Report

Influenza Week 17 2013 (22nd – 28th April 2013)



 **Intensive Care Society of Ireland**

This report is published on the [HPSC website](#). As influenza activity is currently low, a shorter summary report has been produced for week 17 2013. A more detailed report will be published for week 18 2013.

Summary

- **Influenza activity in Ireland decreased and was at low levels during week 17 2013. The number of acute respiratory outbreaks reported in residential care facilities is continuing to decline.**
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 8.5 per 100,000 population in week 17 2013, a decrease compared to the updated rate of 11.4 per 100,000 during week 16 2013.
 - ♦ The ILI consultation rate was below the Irish baseline threshold (21.0 per 100,000 population) and has been for four consecutive weeks.
 - ♦ ILI age specific rates were low in all age groups
- The proportion of influenza-related calls to GP Out-of-Hours services decreased and was at low levels during week 17 2013, compared to the previous week.
- Influenza positivity decreased further during week 17 2013 to 5.8%, compared to 11.4% during the previous week. Seven influenza A(H3), 4 influenza A(H1)pdm09 and 2 influenza B positive specimens were reported from the NVRL for week 17 2013. No specimens taken by sentinel GPs tested positive for influenza virus during week 17 2013.
- Positivity levels for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human metapneumovirus and adenoviruses remained at low levels during week 17 2013. Parainfluenza virus type 3 positive detections increased during week 17 2013 compared to recent weeks, as expected for this time of year.
- During week 17 2013, 13 confirmed influenza cases were reported as hospitalised, 12 associated with influenza A and one with influenza B. To date this season, 437 confirmed influenza cases were reported as hospitalised, 51.0% associated with influenza A and 49.0% associated with influenza B.
- Twenty-seven adults and ten paediatric confirmed influenza cases have been admitted to critical care to date this season. Of these 37 cases, 15 were associated with influenza B, 15 with influenza A (H1)pdm09, five influenza A (H3) and two with influenza A (not subtyped). Thirty-two RSV paediatric cases were also admitted to critical care this season.
- To date this season, 10 confirmed influenza associated deaths have been reported to HPSC, five associated with influenza B, two with influenza A(H3), one influenza A (H1)pdm09 and two with influenza A (not subtyped).
- Four new acute respiratory outbreaks were reported to HPSC during week 16 2013. To date this season, 83 acute respiratory outbreaks have been reported to HPSC.
- In Europe, influenza activity continued to decline or has already returned to baseline levels. After more than four months of active influenza transmission, the 2012/2013 influenza season is coming to an end.
- For up to date information on human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in China including the current case numbers and the WHO assessment of the situation please see [here](#). The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has published additional information including an updated rapid risk assessment of the situation, see [here](#).

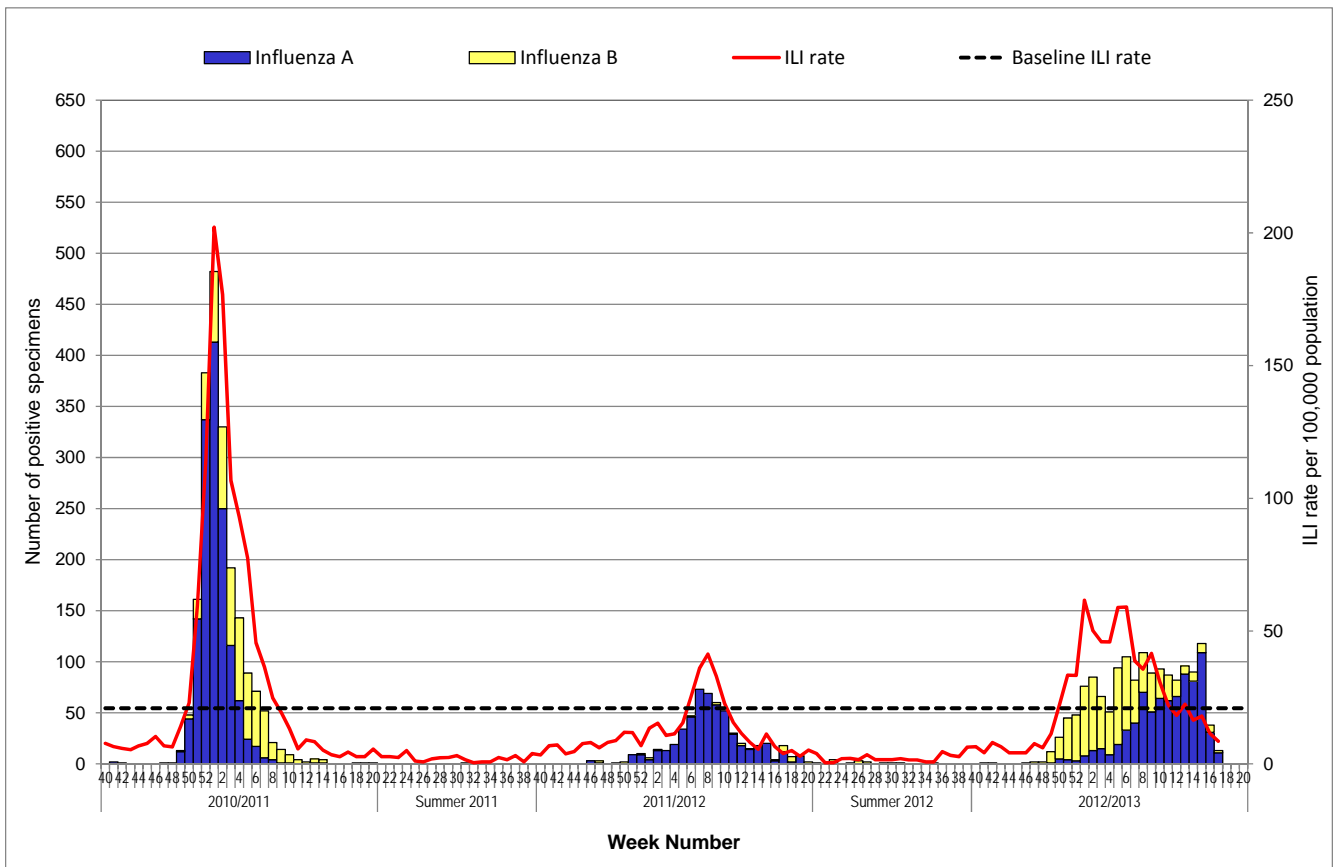


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.

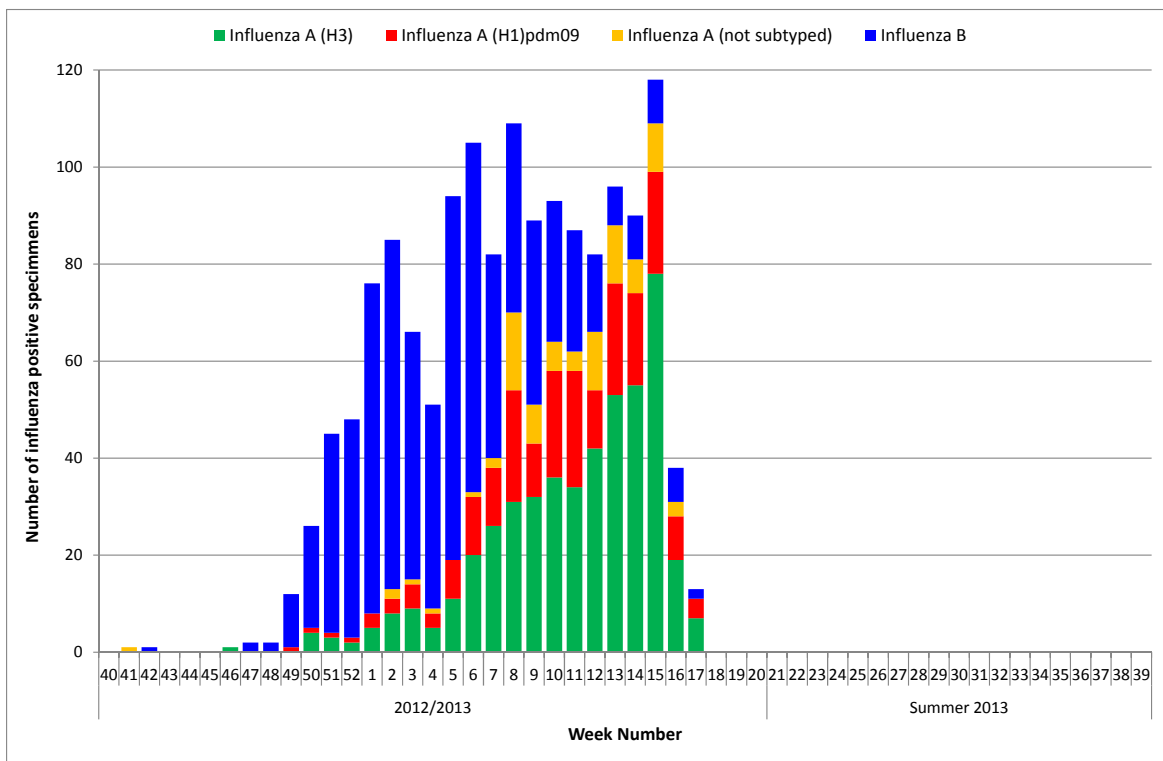


Figure 2: Number of positive influenza specimens by influenza type/subtype from sentinel and non-sentinel sources tested by the NVRL, by week for the 2012/2013 influenza season.

International summary

The WHO Global Influenza Programme monitors influenza activity worldwide and publishes an update every two weeks. The most recent update of 26th April 2013, stated that influenza activity across the northern temperate regions has continued to decline to near inter-seasonal levels in much of North America, Europe, and northern Asia although low level persistent transmission was still noted in many countries. The persistence of transmission in the northern hemisphere temperate regions has been associated with increasing numbers of influenza B virus appearing late in the season in a number of countries of North America and Europe. Prior to this, influenza A(H3N2) was the most commonly detected virus in North America, A(H1N1)pdm09 in Europe, and both in varying proportions in different countries of northern Asia. Low levels of influenza activity continued to be reported across the tropical regions of the world and activity in countries of the southern hemisphere remained at inter-seasonal levels. Nearly all influenza A viruses characterised this season have been antigenically related to those contained in the current trivalent vaccine. Among the B viruses characterised, those that were of the B/Yamagata lineage were antigenically related to the viruses recommended for the trivalent vaccine but a sizable number of B viruses were also of the B/Victoria lineage. Very low numbers of oseltamivir and zanamivir resistant viruses have been detected. In China, new cases of H7N9 have been reported with 126 cases reported to date; for more information see links below.

- For up to date information on influenza A(H7N9) in China including the current case numbers and the WHO assessment of the situation please see [here](#). The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has published a rapid risk assessment of the A(H7N9) situation, see [here](#). Further information on influenza A(H5N1) is available [here](#).
- Further information on novel coronavirus is available on the [WHO website](#) and [ECDC website](#).

Further information on influenza in Ireland and internationally

Ireland	www.hpsc.ie
Northern Ireland	http://www.fluawareni.info/
Europe – ECDC	http://ecdc.europa.eu/
Public Health England	http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SeasonalInfluenza/
United States CDC	http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm
Public Health Agency of Canada	http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/12-13/index-eng.php

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