

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Weekly Report

Influenza Weeks 18 & 19 2014 (28th April – 11th May 2014)



Summary

- All indicators of influenza activity in Ireland remained at low levels during weeks 18 and 19 2014.
- **Influenza-like illness (ILI):** The sentinel GP ILI consultation rates remained low during weeks 18 and 19 2014, at 2.8 and 0.0 per 100,000 population, respectively.
 - ILI rates remained below the Irish baseline threshold (21.0 per 100,000 population).
 - Age specific ILI rates were low in all age groups during weeks 18 and 19 2014.
- **National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL):** Influenza positivity reported from the NVRL decreased further and remained low during week 18 2014, with three (1.8%) influenza positive specimens reported. No influenza positive specimens were reported from sentinel or non-sentinel sources during week 19 2014.
- **Hospitalisation:** Nine confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were reported to HPSC during weeks 18 and 19 2014, bringing the total number of hospitalised cases reported this season to 668.
 - The highest age specific rates for confirmed influenza cases admitted to hospital were in those aged less than 1 year and those aged 65 years and older.
- **ICU admissions:** 82 confirmed influenza cases were admitted to ICU and reported to HPSC to date this season, 41 associated with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 31 with A(H3N2), 9 A (not subtyped) and one influenza B.
- **Mortality:** 34 influenza-associated deaths were reported to HPSC to date this season.
- **Outbreaks:** One acute respiratory outbreak (associated with influenza A) was reported to HPSC during week 18 2014, in a residential care facility in HSE-South. No acute respiratory outbreaks were reported to HPSC during week 19 2014.
- **Europe:** Overall, influenza activity in Europe is low and declining.

Surveillance Systems

In order to monitor influenza activity in Ireland a number of surveillance systems are currently in place:

1. Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) GP sentinel surveillance system
2. Virological data from the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL)
3. GP Out-of-Hours surveillance system
4. Influenza notifications reported on the Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system (CIDR)
5. Enhanced surveillance of all hospitalised confirmed influenza cases aged 0-14 years
6. Intensive Care Society of Ireland (ICSI) enhanced surveillance of all ICU patients with confirmed influenza and enhanced surveillance of all severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) in one adult and one paediatric ICU site.
7. Outbreak reporting on CIDR
8. Network of sentinel hospitals reporting hospital admission data

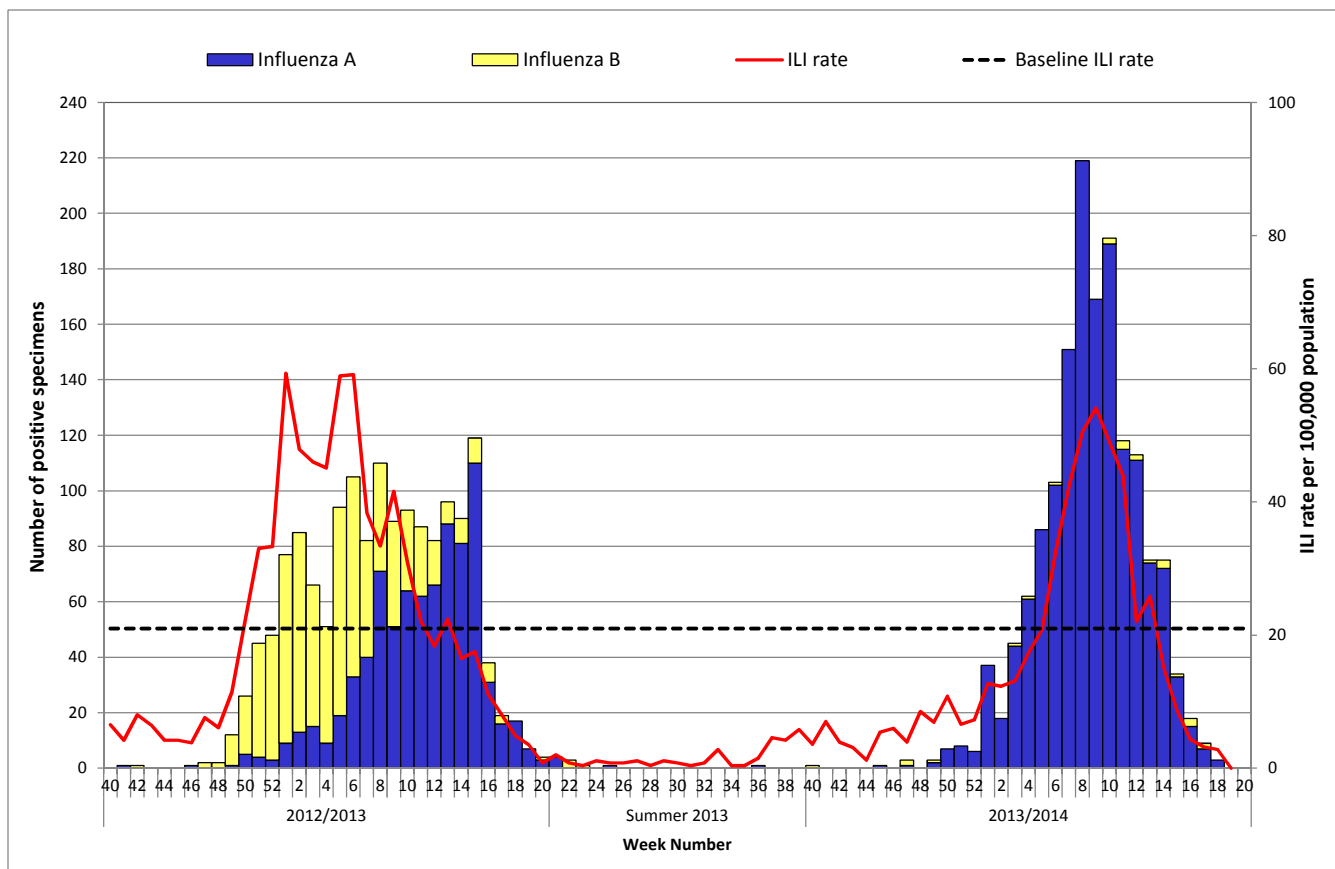


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. Source: ICGP and NVRL.

International Websites

- Further information is available on the following websites:
 - Northern Ireland <http://www.fluawareni.info/>
 - Public Health England <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SeasonalInfluenza/>
 - Europe – ECDC <http://ecdc.europa.eu/>
 - WHO http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/en/
 - 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>

Novel viruses

- For up to date information on human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in China including the current case numbers and WHO risk assessment of the situation please see [here](#).
- Information on Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), including the latest ECDC rapid risk assessment is available on the [ECDC website](#). Further information and guidance documents are also available on the [HPSC](#) and [WHO](#) websites.
- For information on other avian influenza viruses, please see [here](#).

Further information on influenza is available at www.hpsc.ie

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