

# Influenza Summer Surveillance Report



**A REPORT BY THE HEALTH PROTECTION SURVEILLANCE CENTRE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE IRISH COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, THE NATIONAL VIRUS REFERENCE LABORATORY & THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

## Weeks 36-39 2007 (3<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007)

### Summary

During weeks 36-39 2007, influenza activity remained at low levels in Ireland. Sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates increased in week 39 2007 reaching 6.7 per 100,000 population, the highest rate since week 14 2007. No specimens tested by the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) were positive for influenza during this period.

### Background

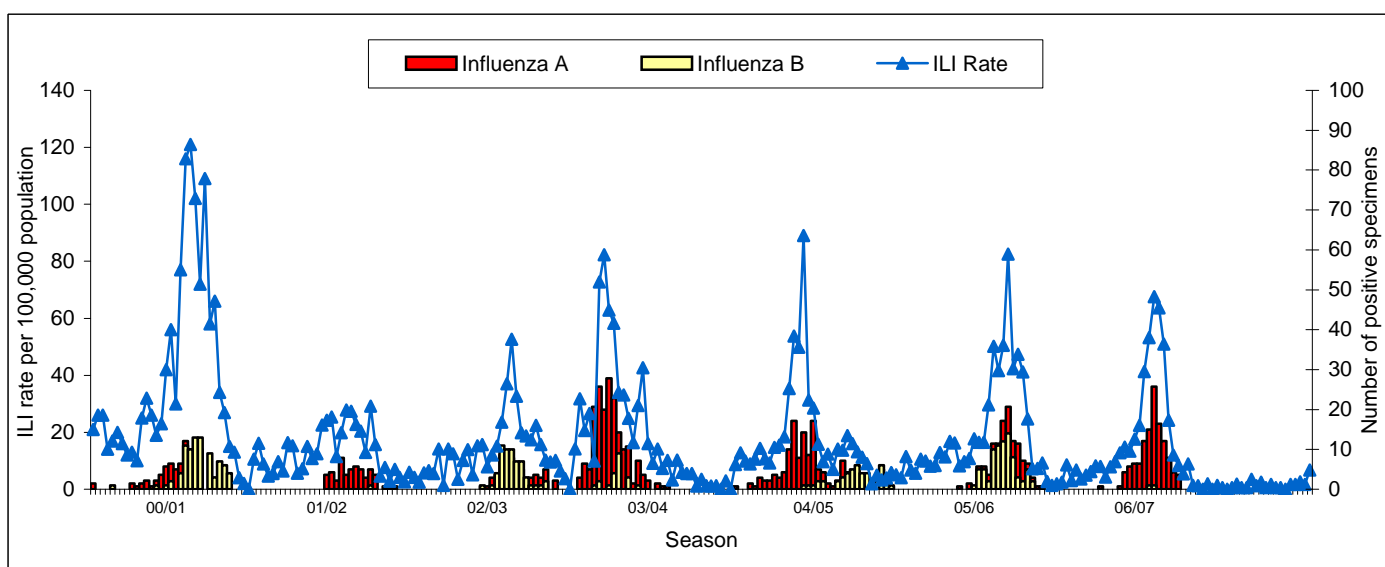
The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) is working in collaboration with the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP), the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) and the Departments of Public Health on this sentinel surveillance project. Forty-eight sentinel general practices have been recruited to report on the number of patients with ILI

on a weekly basis. Further information on the influenza sentinel surveillance system can be found on the HPSC website [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie).

### Results

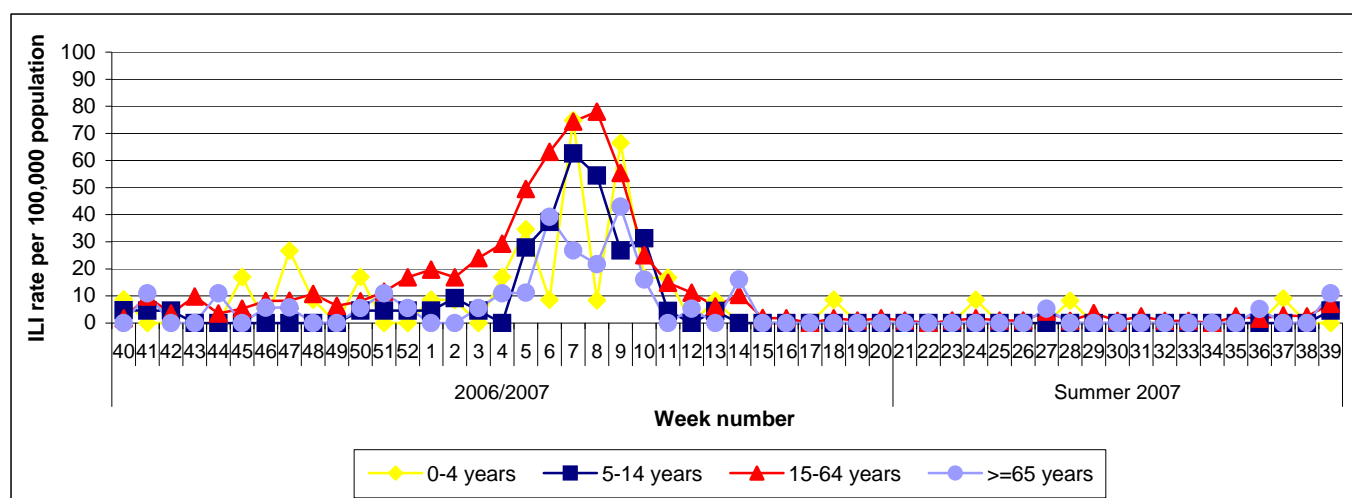
#### Clinical Data

During weeks 36-39 2007, 21 ILI cases were reported by sentinel GPs, with ILI consultation rates peaking at 6.7 per 100,000 during week 39 2007 (figure 1), the highest rate since week 14 2007. The highest age specific ILI consultation rates during weeks 36-39 2007, were in those aged 65 years or older in week 39 2007, peaking at 11.0 per 100,000 population (figure 2). Approximately, 80% of sentinel GPs have reported on a timely basis each week during the summer period (weeks 21-39 2007).



**Figure 1:** ILI rate per 100,000 population and the number of positive influenza specimens detected by the NVRL from 2000/2001 to the summer of 2007.

## Results (continued)



**Figure 2:** Age specific GP consultation rate\* for ILI per 100,000 population by week during the 2006/2007 influenza season and the summer of 2007.

\*Please note the denominator used in the age specific consultation rate is from the 2006 census data; this assumes that the age distribution of the sentinel general practices is similar to the national age distribution.

### NVRL Virological Data

The NVRL tested five sentinel and 159 non-sentinel specimens during weeks 36-39 2007, no sentinel or non-sentinel specimens tested positive for influenza virus. Seven non-sentinel specimens were positive for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), one for parainfluenza virus type 1 and two were positive for parainfluenza virus type 3 (table 1).

**Table 1:** Total number of sentinel and non-sentinel\* respiratory specimens and positive results for weeks 36-39 2007.

Week Number	Specimen Type	Total Specimens	No. Influenza Positive	% Influenza Positive	Influenza A	Influenza B	RSV
36-39 2007	Sentinel	5	0	0.0	0	0	NA
	Non-Sentinel	159	0	0.0	0	0	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

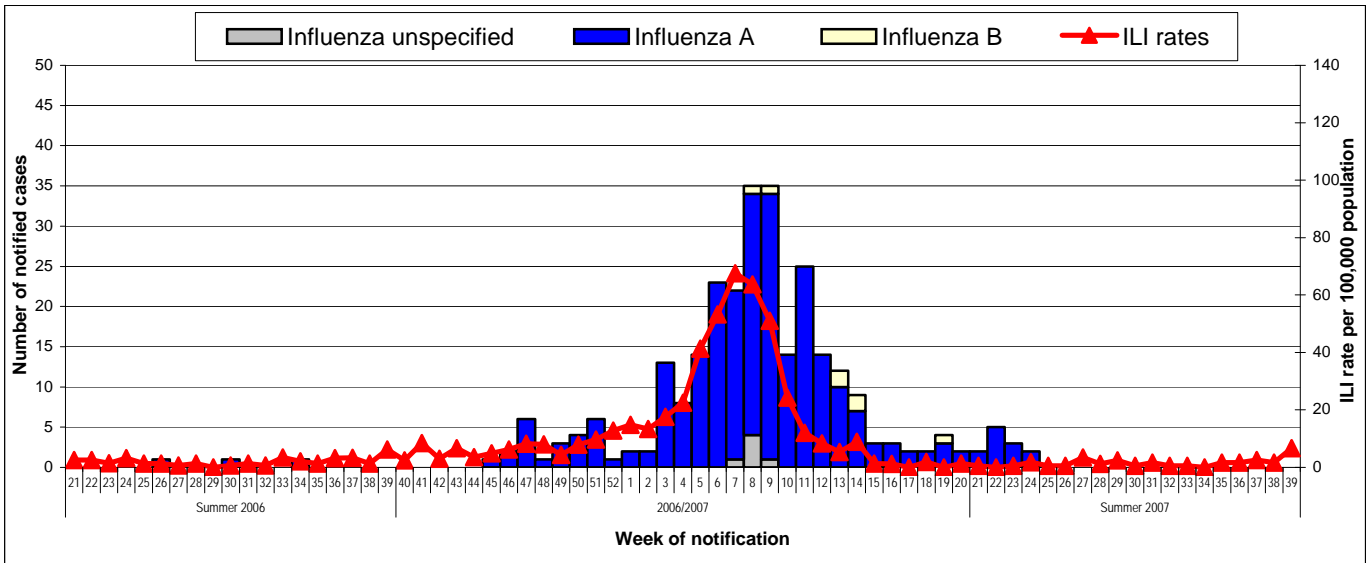
\*Please note that non-sentinel specimens include all specimens referred to the NVRL, these specimens are mainly from hospitals and some GPs and may include more than one specimen from each case.

### Mortality Data

No registered deaths have been attributed to influenza and reported to HPSC between weeks 36 and 39 2007.

### Weekly Influenza Notifications

There were no influenza notifications reported to HPSC during weeks 36-39 2007. Influenza cases notified to HPSC during the summer of 2006 and 2007 and during the 2006/2007 influenza season are shown in figure 3, and compared to ILI consultation rates.



**Figure 3:** Number of notifications\* of influenza (possible & confirmed) by type and by week of notification compared to sentinel GP ILI consultation rates per 100,000 population during the summer of 2006, 2006/2007 influenza season and summer 2007.

\*Notification data are provisional and were extracted from [CIDR](#) on the 10/10/2007 at 09:36 GMT.

**Further information on influenza can be found on the [HPSC website](#)**

#### Acknowledgements

HPSC, ICGP, NVRL and the Departments of Public Health wish to thank the sentinel GPs, hospitals and schools who have participated in this surveillance system and who have contributed towards this report.

**This report was produced by Dr. Lisa Domegan & Dr. Joan O'Donnell, HPSC**