

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

Influenza Weeks 24 & 25 2011 (13th – 26th June 2011)



During the summer period, a short summary report of influenza activity will be published every fortnight. In the event of influenza activity increasing a full report will be published on a weekly basis.

Summary

- All indicators of influenza activity in Ireland continue to remain at low levels.
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates remained low and below baseline levels during weeks 24 and 25 2011.
 - The ILI consultation rate was 5.2 per 100,000 population in week 24 2011 and 1.5 per 100,000 in week 25 2011.
 - ILI rates in all age groups were at low levels
- The proportion of influenza-related calls to GP Out-of-Hours services remained at low levels during weeks 24 and 25 2011.
- No positive influenza specimens were detected by the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) from sentinel or non-sentinel sources during weeks 24 and 25 2011.
- No confirmed influenza cases were admitted to hospital or ICU during weeks 24 and 25 2011.
- Since week 40 2010, 947 confirmed influenza cases have been hospitalised, 122 cases have been admitted to ICU and 34 deaths have been reported to HPSC.
- No new general outbreaks of influenza/ILI have been reported since week 5 2011.
- During weeks 24 and 25 2011, the NVRL tested 100 sentinel and non-sentinel respiratory specimens. One non-sentinel specimen was positive for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and five were positive for parainfluenza virus type-3 during this period.
- As of 1st July 2011, influenza activity in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere is at baseline inter-seasonal levels. Transmission in tropical areas is low overall with focal areas of transmission noted in a few countries of Central America and northern South America, western and eastern regions of sub-Saharan Africa, and tropical Asia. The influenza season has now started in South Africa and may be starting in Australia as well. South Africa has continued to report increasing numbers of both mild and severe cases, primarily related to influenza A (H1N1) 2009. Australia has noted a recent increase in emergency room visits due to ILI and significantly increased notifications of influenza activity in the states of South Australia and Queensland. <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/>

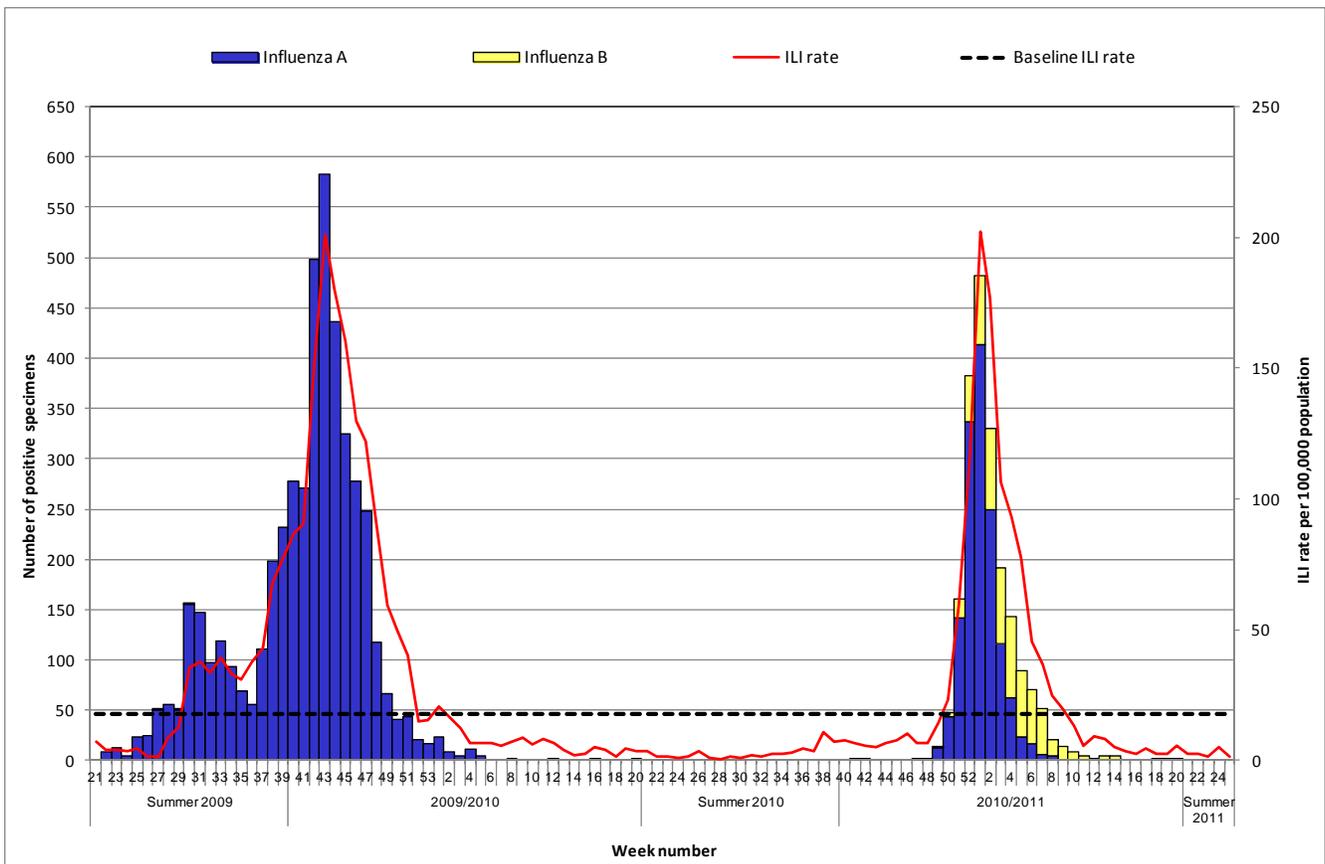


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.
 Source: Clinical ILI data from ICGP and virological data from the NVRL^{††}

Further information on influenza in Ireland and internationally can be found on the following websites:

- Ireland www.hpsc.ie
- Northern Ireland <http://www.cdscni.org.uk/>
- UK – HPA <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Influenza/>
- Europe – ECDC <http://ecdc.europa.eu/>
- Europe – EISN <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/activities/surveillance/EISN/Pages/home.aspx>

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* Please note that in addition to the NVRL, Cork University Hospital (CUH) and Galway University Hospital(s) (GUH) also tested for influenza A (H1N1 2009) during the pandemic period.
 † Sentinel GP consultations and virological data are updated on an ongoing basis, ILI rates and virological data are adjusted accordingly.