

# Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

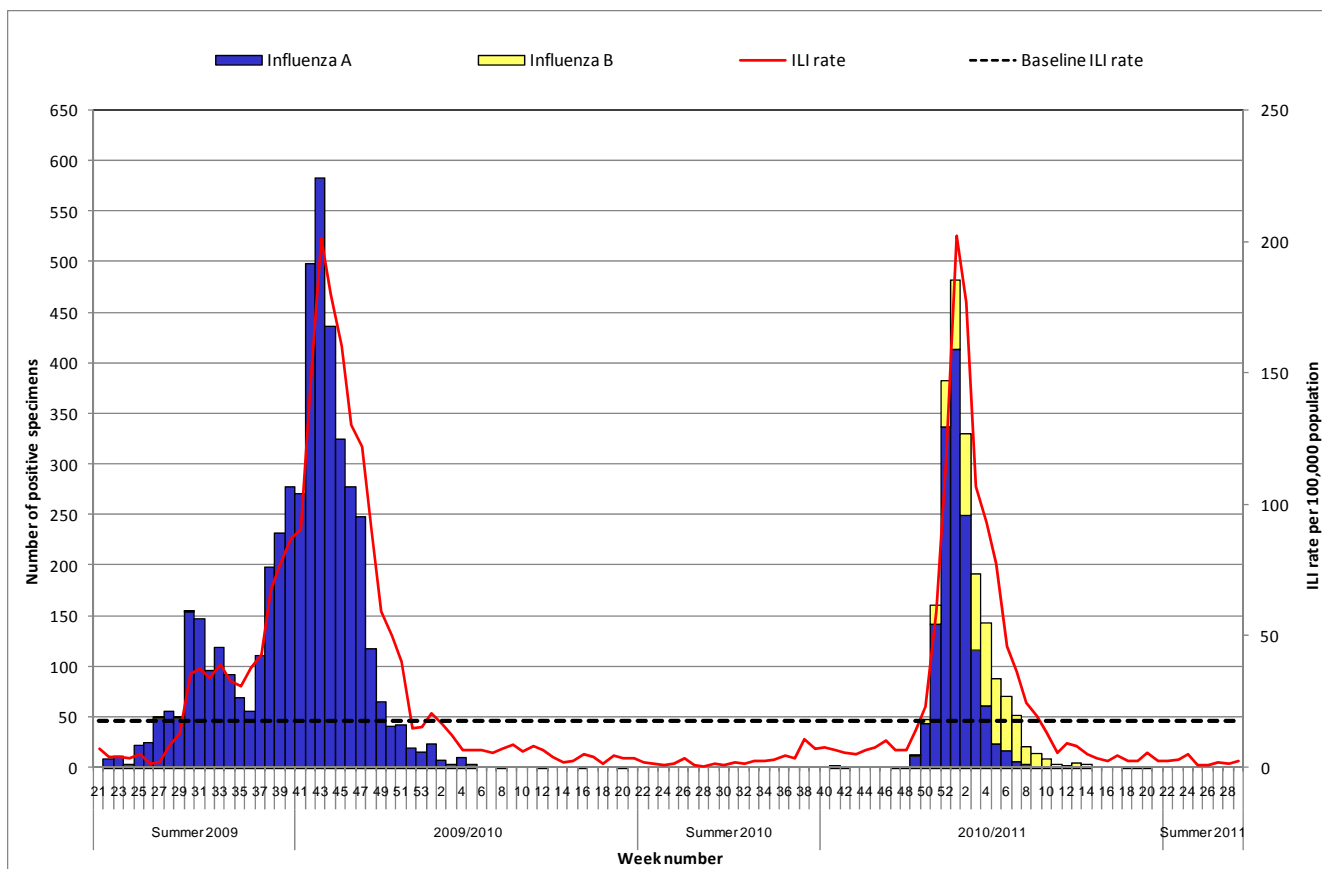
## Influenza Weeks 28 & 29 2011 (11<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011)



*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 28 and 29 2011.
  - The ILI consultation rate was 1.6 per 100,000 population in week 28 2011 and 2.5 per 100,000 in week 29 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 28 and 29 2011.
- No positive influenza specimens were detected by the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) from sentinel or non-sentinel sources during weeks 28 and 29 2011.
- No confirmed influenza cases were admitted to hospital or ICU during weeks 28 and 29 2011.
- Since week 40 2010, 947 confirmed influenza cases have been hospitalised, 122 cases have been admitted to ICU and 37 deaths have been reported to HPSC.
- No new general outbreaks of influenza/ILI have been reported since week 5 2011.
- During weeks 28 and 29 2011, the NVRL tested 77 sentinel and non-sentinel respiratory specimens. One non-sentinel specimen was positive for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and two were positive for parainfluenza virus type-3 (PIV-3) during this period.
- As of 15th July 2011, influenza activity in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere remains at baseline inter-seasonal levels. Countries in the tropical zone mostly report low influenza activity but with some transmission reported in countries of the Americas, western Africa, and southern Asia. The influenza season is ongoing in South Africa though it appears to have recently peaked. Some detailed preliminary information is now available for severe cases in South Africa. In Australia, the season appears to have started with notable increases in influenza-like illness (ILI) consultations and confirmed cases. The most common virus detected nationally in Australia is influenza A(H1N1)2009, though this is not consistent in every state. <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<sup>\*\*†</sup>

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

- Ireland [www.hpsc.ie](http://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>

### Acknowledgements

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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.