

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

Influenza Weeks 30 & 31 2011 (25th July – 7th August 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 30 and 31 2011.
 - The ILI consultation rate was 3.2 per 100,000 population in week 30 2011 and 1.9 per 100,000 in week 31 2011.
 - ILI rates in all age groups were at low levels
- The proportion of influenza-related calls to GP Out-of-Hours services has remained at low levels during the summer period.
- No positive influenza specimens were detected by the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) from sentinel or non-sentinel sources during weeks 30 and 31 2011.
- Since week 40 2010, 947 confirmed influenza cases have been hospitalised, 122 cases have been admitted to ICU and 38 deaths have been reported to HPSC. No confirmed influenza cases have been admitted to hospital or ICU during the summer period.
- No new general outbreaks of influenza/ILI have been reported since week 5 2011.
- During weeks 30 and 31 2011, the NVRL tested 77 sentinel and non-sentinel respiratory specimens. One non-sentinel specimen was positive for parainfluenza virus type-1 (PIV-1) and one was positive for PIV-3 during this period.
- As of 29th July 2011, influenza activity in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere remained low or undetectable. In the tropical zone, influenza transmission continued in a few countries of the Americas (Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Colombia), western Africa (Ghana and Cameroon), and parts of Asia (India, Bangladesh, and Singapore). Influenza transmission in South Africa has declined to low levels, with mainly influenza A (H1N1) 2009 detections. In Australia, ILI consultations and laboratory-confirmed cases continued to increase. ILI activity in New Zealand has returned to baseline levels. <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/>

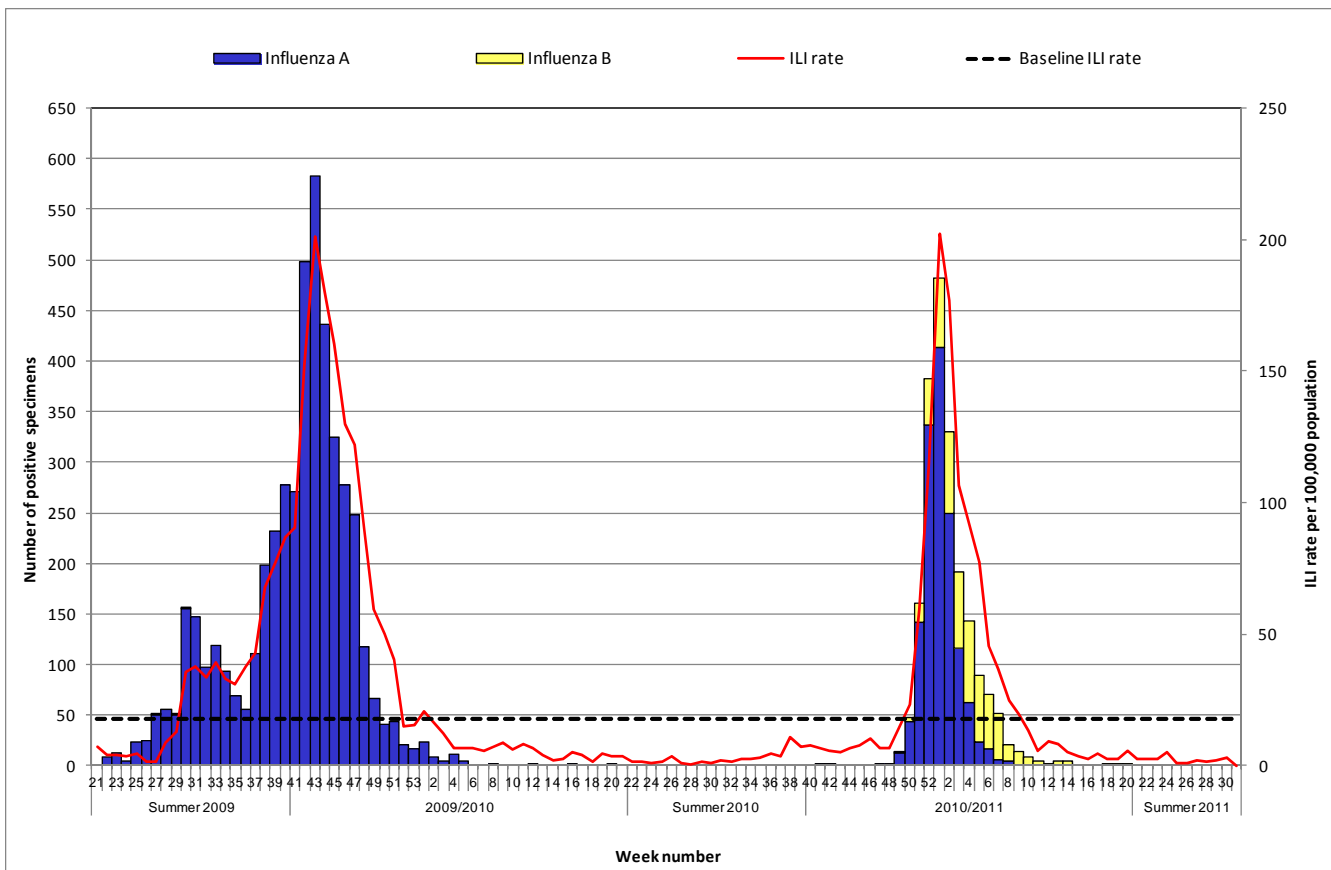


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.

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:

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| 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 |

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.