

# Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

## Influenza Weeks 27 & 28 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012)



*During the summer period, a short summary report of influenza activity will be published every fortnight.*

### Summary

- **Overall, influenza activity in Ireland remained at low levels during weeks 27 and 28 2012.**
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 3.6 per 100,000 population in week 27 2012 and 1.8 per 100,000 in week 28 2012, remaining low and stable compared to the updated rate of 1.6 per 100,000 during week 26 2012.
  - ♦ ILI rates are below the Irish baseline threshold (25.9 per 100,000 population).
  - ♦ Age specific ILI rates remained low in all age groups.
- The proportion of influenza-related calls to GP Out-of-Hours services remained at low levels.
- Two influenza B positive specimens were detected by the NVRL during weeks 27 and 28 2012.
- Five respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) positive detections were detected by the NVRL during weeks 27 and 28 2012. Seven RSV laboratory notifications were recorded on CIDR (Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System) during weeks 27 and 28 2012.\*
- Four adenovirus, seven parainfluenza virus type-3 (PIV-3) and three human metapneumovirus (hMPV) positive detections were reported by the NVRL during weeks 27 and 28 2012.
- No confirmed influenza cases were hospitalised during weeks 27 and 28 2012. During the 2012 summer period to date, six confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified to HPSC. Two influenza A cases were late notifications from April and May 2012 and four influenza B cases were associated with an influenza B hospital outbreak reported in week 23 2012.
- No confirmed influenza -associated deaths were reported to HPSC during weeks 27 and 28 2012.
- No influenza outbreaks were reported during weeks 27 and 28 2012. During the 2012 summer period to date, only one influenza outbreak has been reported.
- The influenza season is largely over in the temperate countries of the northern hemisphere. Some tropical countries are experiencing notable transmission of influenza viruses including countries in Central America, the Caribbean, South America and Sub-Saharan Africa. The influenza season has commenced in most temperate countries of the southern hemisphere for which there are data. In Argentina, however, influenza remains nearly undetectable and although New Zealand has reported persistent increases in influenza virus detections over the last three reporting weeks, influenza-like illness (ILI) reports remained below the national baseline. Influenza A (H3N2) viruses are the most commonly detected type/subtype in recent weeks in the Southern Hemisphere temperate region. However, significant numbers of influenza type B were also reported in South Africa and to a lesser extent, Australia.

[http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/updates/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/en/index.html)

\* RSV was made notifiable in Ireland on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Laboratory notifications of RSV are reported in more detail in the [Weekly Infectious Disease Report for Ireland](#).

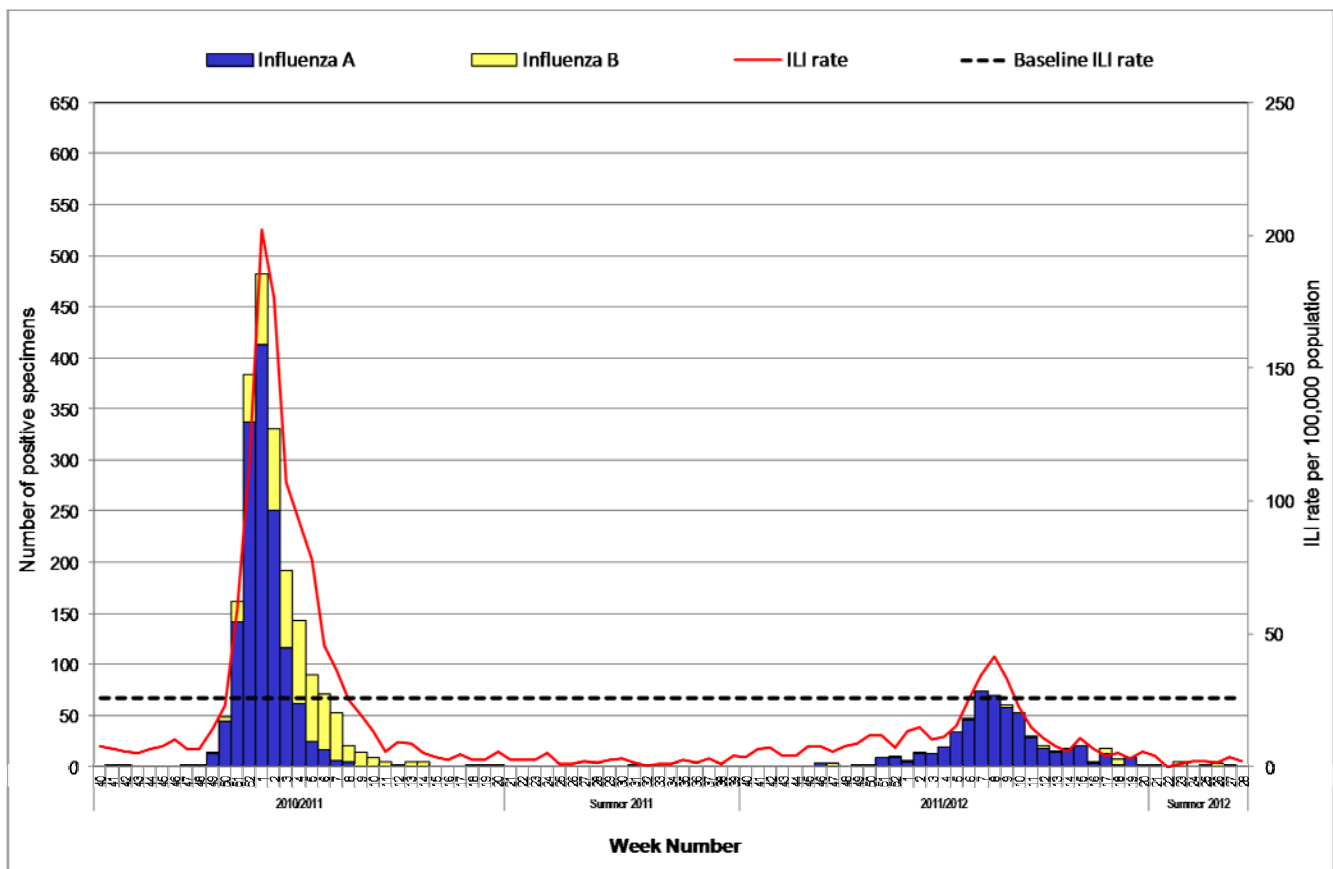


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.

Source: Clinical ILI data from ICGP and virological data from the NVRL

### Further information on influenza in Ireland and internationally

- Ireland [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)
- Northern Ireland <http://www.fluawareni.info/>
- Europe – ECDC <http://ecdc.europa.eu/>

This report was prepared by Sarah Jackson and Joan O’Donnell, HPSC.

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