

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

Influenza Weeks 25 & 26 2012 (18th June – 1st 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 25 and 26 2012.**
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 1.9 per 100,000 population in week 26 2012 and 2.5 per 100,000 in week 25 2012, remaining low and stable compared to the updated rate of 2.1 per 100,000 during week 24 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.
- Four influenza B positive specimens were detected by the NVRL during weeks 25 and 26 2012.
- No respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) positive detections were detected by the NVRL during weeks 25 and 26 2012. Seven RSV laboratory notifications were recorded on CIDR (Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System) during weeks 25 and 26 2012.*
- Two adenovirus, one parainfluenza virus type-3 (PIV-3) and four human metapneumovirus (hMPV) positive detections were reported by the NVRL during weeks 25 and 26 2012.
 - ♦ PIV-3 positivity decreased during weeks 25 and 26 2012 and remained within expected levels for this time of year.
- No confirmed influenza cases were hospitalised during weeks 25 and 26 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 25 and 26 2012.
- No influenza outbreaks were reported during weeks 25 and 26 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 with some persistent low level influenza transmission in Eastern Europe and northern China. Some tropical countries are experiencing increasing or stable transmission of influenza viruses including countries in Central America, the Caribbean, South America and Sub-Saharan Africa. The influenza season has not started yet in the temperate countries of the southern hemisphere, although several countries including Australia, Chile, Paraguay and South Africa have reported small but sustained increases in influenza virus detections. Influenza A (H3N2) viruses are the most commonly detected type/subtype in recent weeks in the Southern Hemisphere temperate region.

http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/en/index.html

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

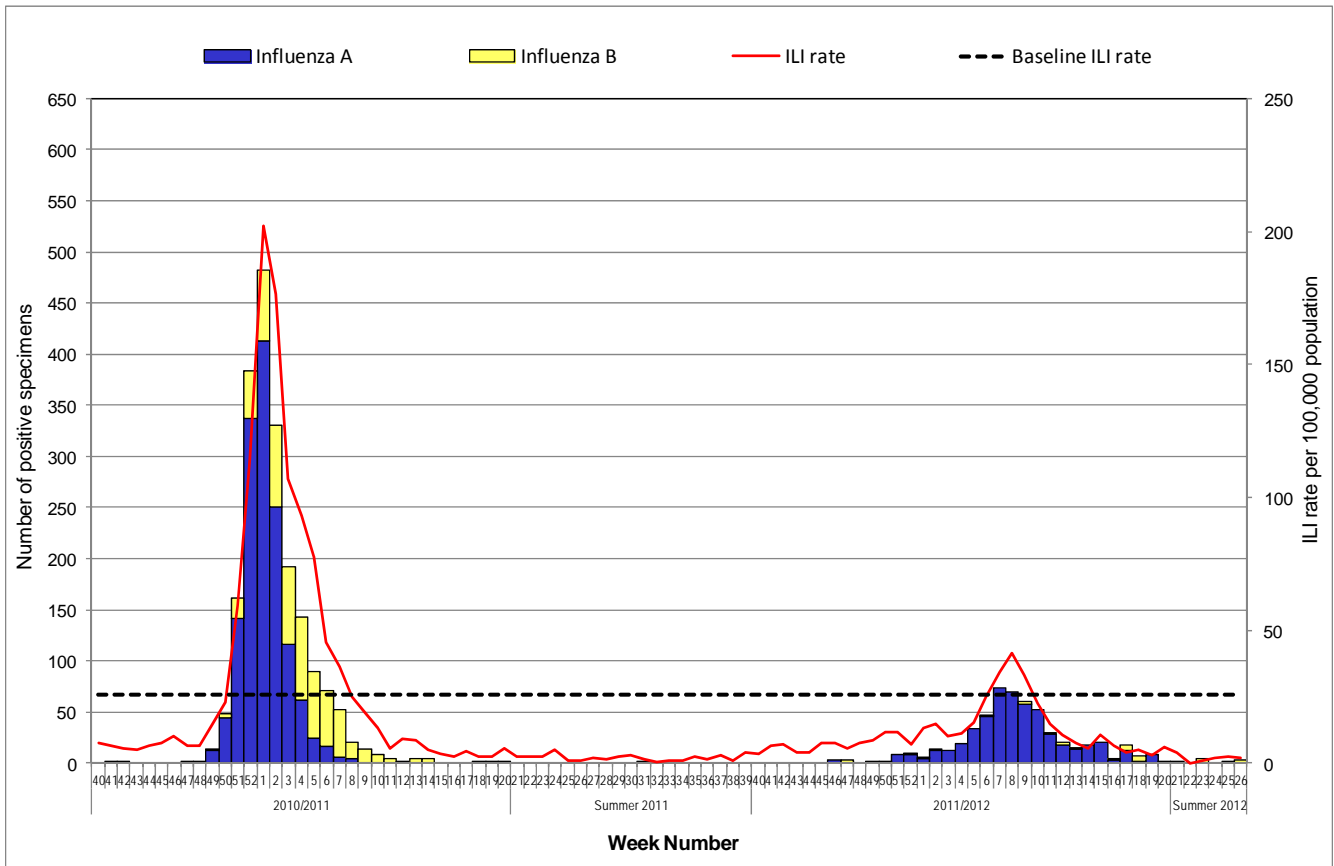


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.

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

Further information on influenza in Ireland and internationally

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

This report was prepared by Lisa Domegan and Joan O’Donnell, HPSC.

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