

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

Influenza Weeks 29 & 30 2012 (16th – 29th 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 29 and 30 2012.**
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 1.7 per 100,000 population in week 29 2012 and 1.8 per 100,000 in week 30 2012, remaining low and stable compared to the updated rate of 1.7 per 100,000 during week 28 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 29 and 30 2012.
- Two respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) positive detections were detected by the NVRL during weeks 29 and 30 2012. Seven RSV laboratory notifications were recorded on CIDR (Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System) during weeks 29 and 30 2012.*
- Six adenovirus, seven parainfluenza virus type-3 (PIV-3) and one human metapneumovirus (hMPV) positive detections were reported by the NVRL during weeks 29 and 30 2012.
- Three confirmed influenza cases were hospitalised during weeks 29 and 30 2012 (one influenza A and two influenza B). During the 2012 summer period to date, nine 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 29 and 30 2012.
- No influenza outbreaks were reported during weeks 29 and 30 2012. During the 2012 summer period to date, only one influenza outbreak has been reported. During week 30, two outbreaks of respiratory illness were reported but specimens were negative for influenza and no causative organism was identified.
- The influenza season is largely finished in the temperate countries of the northern hemisphere and most countries in the northern temperate zone have stopped weekly reporting or moved over to out of season surveillance schedules. In the tropical zone, the countries to report notable influenza activity are Bolivia, Brazil and Honduras in the Americas; Ghana in sub-Saharan Africa; southern China, including Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Viet Nam in Asia. The influenza season has commenced in most temperate countries of the southern hemisphere. In Argentina, however, influenza remains nearly undetectable. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were the most commonly reported type/sub-type in recent weeks in the Southern Hemisphere temperate region in Chile, South Africa and Australia; however, significant numbers of influenza type B were also reported in South Africa and to a lesser extent, Australia. Very few influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses have been reported with the exception of Paraguay and some countries in Central and tropical South America.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](#).

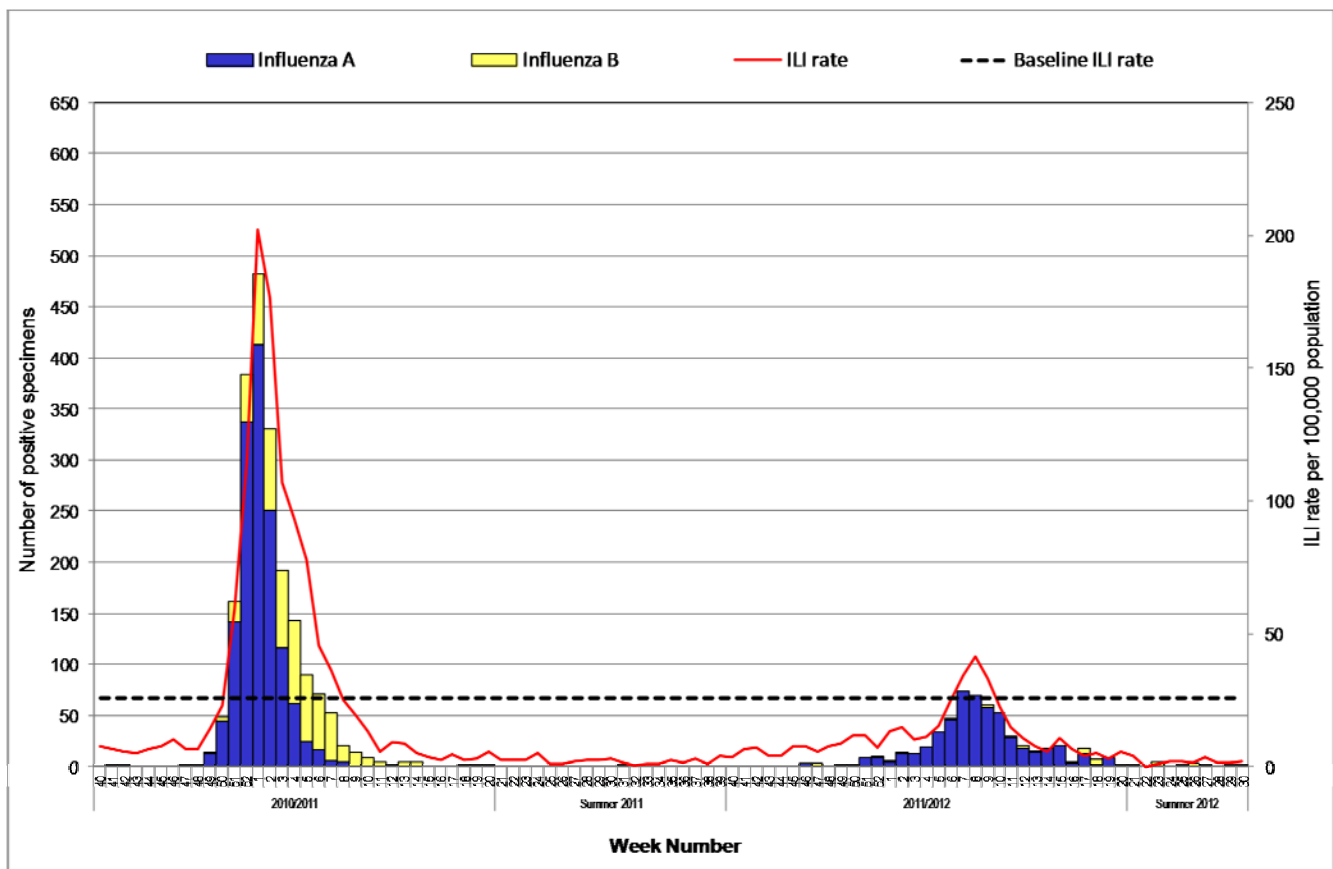


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.

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 Sarah Jackson and Joan O’Donnell, HPSC.

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