

# Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

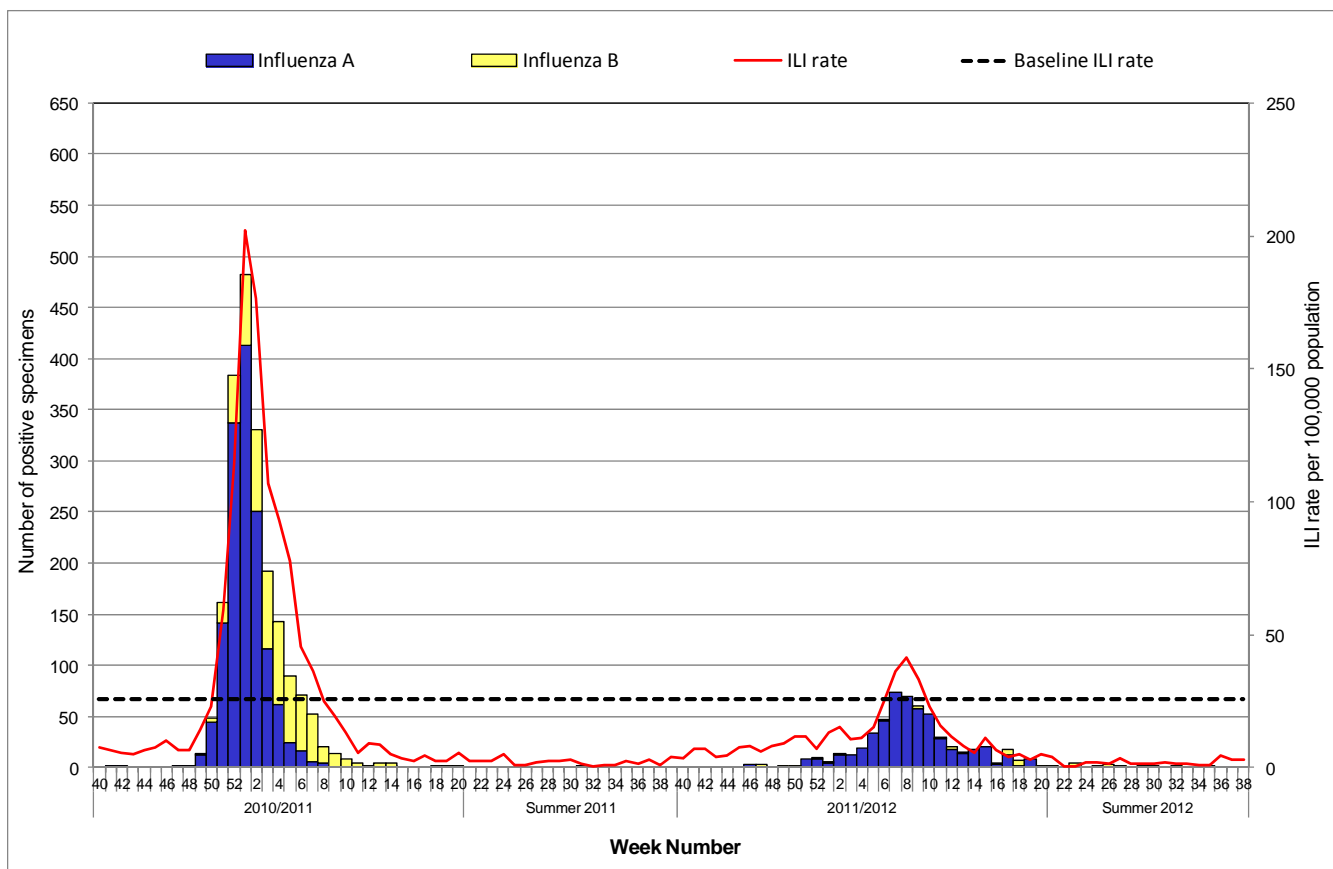
## Influenza Weeks 37 & 38 2012 (10<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012)



*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 37 and 38 2012.**
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 3.0 per 100,000 population in week 38 2012 and 3.2 per 100,000 in week 37 2012, remaining low and stable.
  - ♦ 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 showed a slight increase during weeks 37 & 38 2012. This slight increase in September was also noted in previous seasons.
- No positive influenza cases were detected by the NVRL during weeks 37 and 38 2012.
- Three respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) positive detections were reported by the NVRL during weeks 37 and 38 2012. 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](#).
- Three adenovirus and five parainfluenza virus type-3 positive detections were reported by the NVRL during weeks 37 and 38 2012.
- No confirmed influenza cases were hospitalised during weeks 37 and 38 2012. During the 2012 summer period to date, 11 confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified to HPSC.
- No confirmed influenza-associated deaths were reported to HPSC for the summer 2012 period.
- No influenza outbreaks were reported during weeks 37 and 38 2012. During the 2012 summer period to date, only one influenza outbreak (associated with influenza B) has been reported.
- **International surveillance:** Most countries in the northern temperate zone have not yet started seasonal reporting for the 2012/2013 influenza season. But from available data, seasonal influenza transmission has not been picked up yet in the northern temperate zone. The United States of America has continued to detect cases of influenza A (H3N2)v in humans and reported three human cases of influenza A (H1N2) variant virus infection. Investigation around these cases has indicated no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission. In the tropical areas, most countries reported low or decreasing trends of influenza detections. The exceptions were Nicaragua in the Americas where mainly influenza B was detected and in Asia, India and Thailand both reported influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and B circulation. Influenza activity decreased in most of the temperate countries of the southern hemisphere. Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Paraguay and South Africa, reported declines in influenza indicators. Argentina reported very low numbers of detections compared to previous seasons.
- For the WHO Recommendation on the Composition of Influenza Virus Vaccines for the Northern Hemisphere 2012-2013, see [here](#).



**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 in Ireland and internationally

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](#).

Ireland	<a href="http://www.hpsc.ie">www.hpsc.ie</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.fluawareni.info/">http://www.fluawareni.info/</a>
Europe – ECDC	<a href="http://ecdc.europa.eu/">http://ecdc.europa.eu/</a>

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

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