

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

Influenza Weeks 21 & 22 2013 (20th May – 2nd June 2013)



During the summer period, short summary reports of influenza activity will be published. www.hpsc.ie

Summary

- **Overall, influenza activity in Ireland remained at low levels during weeks 21 and 22 2013.**
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 1.0 per 100,000 population in week 22 2013 and 1.6 per 100,000 in week 21 2013, remaining low and stable compared to the updated rate of 0.8 per 100,000 during week 20 2013.
 - ♦ ILI rates were below the Irish baseline threshold (21.0 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 during weeks 21 and 22 2013.
- Influenza positivity reported from the NVRL remained at low levels, at 2.4% during week 22 2013 and 2.3% during week 21 2013.
 - One influenza A(H1)pdm09 positive sentinel GP specimen was detected during week 21 2012.
 - Six influenza positive non-sentinel specimens were detected during weeks 21 and 22 2013: 3 influenza A(H3) and 3 influenza B.
- Positivity levels for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human metapneumovirus, parainfluenza viruses and adenoviruses were low during weeks 21 and 22 2013.
- Two confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified during weeks 21 and 22 2013: one associated with influenza B and one with influenza A(H3).
- There were no reports of any confirmed influenza-associated deaths occurring during weeks 21 or 22 2013.
- Three new acute respiratory outbreaks were reported to HPSC during weeks 21 and 22 2013, one associated with influenza B and one with parainfluenza virus type 3 in HSE-E and one associated with human metapneumovirus in HSE-NW. All three outbreaks were in residential institutions/long stay units.
- Influenza activity in the northern hemisphere temperate zones decreased to low levels with some continued transmission in some areas including Canada and Egypt, see [here](#).
- For up to date information on human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus in China including the current case numbers and the WHO assessment of the situation please see [here](#). The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has published additional information including an updated rapid risk assessment of the situation, see [here](#).
- Further information on Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is available on the [WHO website](#) and [ECDC website](#).

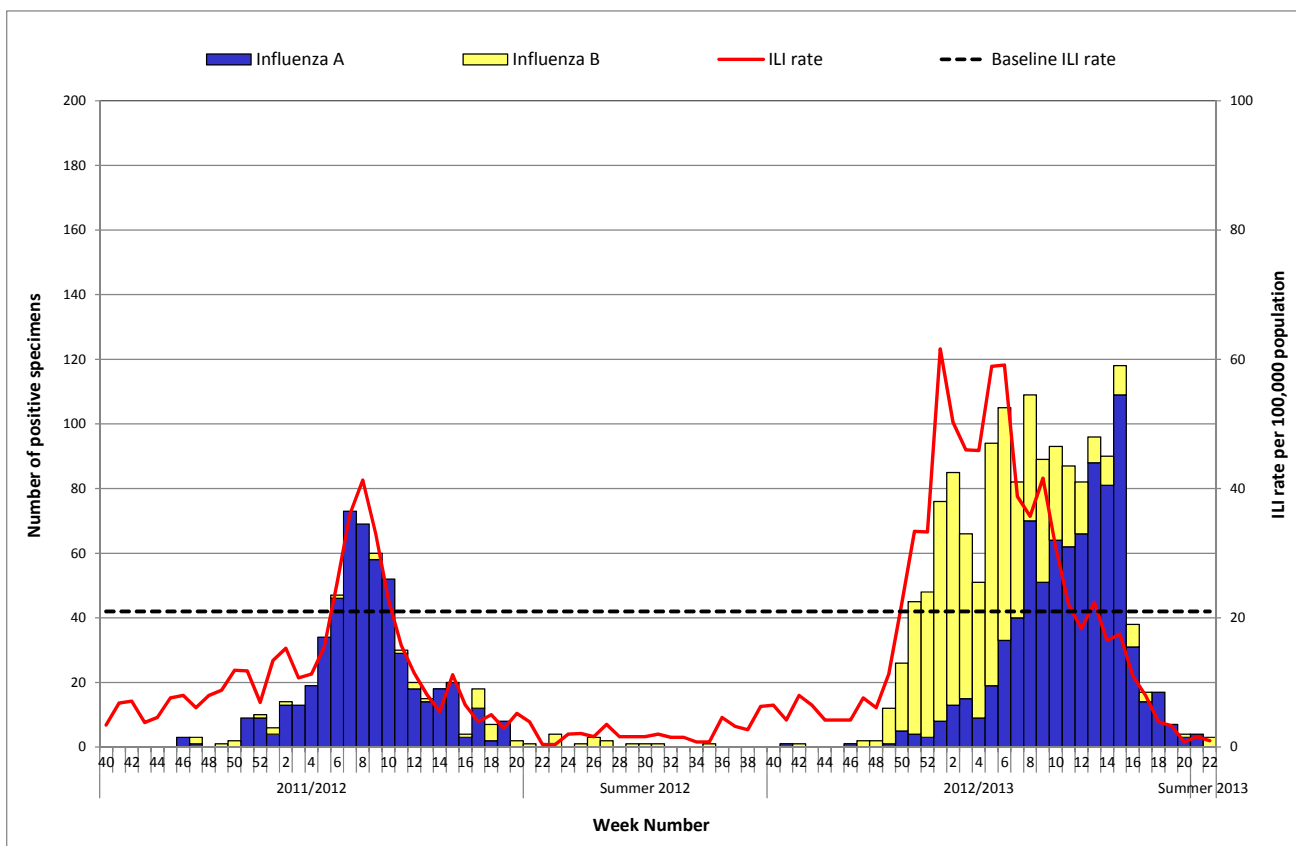


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.
 Source: Clinical ILI data from ICGP and virological data from the NVRL*

Further information on influenza in Ireland and internationally

- Ireland www.hpsc.ie
- Northern Ireland <http://www.fluawareni.info/>
- Europe – ECDC <http://ecdc.europa.eu/>
- Public Health England <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SeasonalInfluenza/>
- United States CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>
- Public Health Agency of Canada <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/12-13/index-eng.php>

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*Sentinel GP consultations and virological data are updated on an ongoing basis, ILI rates and virological data are adjusted accordingly.