

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summary Report

Influenza Weeks 33 & 34 2013 (12th – 25th August 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 33 and 34 2013.**
- The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was 0.4 per 100,000 population in week 34 2013, remaining low and stable compared to the updated rate of 3.0 per 100,000 during week 33 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.
- No influenza positive specimens were reported from the NVRL for weeks 33 or 34 2013.
- Positivity levels remained low for parainfluenza viruses, human metapneumovirus (hMPV), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and adenoviruses during weeks 33 and 34 2013.
- No confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified during weeks 33 and 34 2013.
- There have been no reports of any confirmed influenza-associated deaths occurring during the summer period to date (between weeks 21 and 34 2013).
- One acute respiratory outbreak in a residential institution in HSE-NW was reported to HPSC during week 33 2013. To date this summer, five acute respiratory outbreaks (two associated with parainfluenza virus type 3, one associated with influenza B, one with hMPV and one pathogen not identified) were reported, all in residential institutions/long stay units.
- The latest [WHO](#) and [ECDC](#) influenza surveillance reports are showing low levels of influenza transmission in the northern hemisphere temperate zones.
- 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](#).
- Information on Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), including the latest ECDC rapid risk assessment of 22nd July is available on the [ECDC website](#). Further information and guidance documents are also available on the [HPSC website](#).

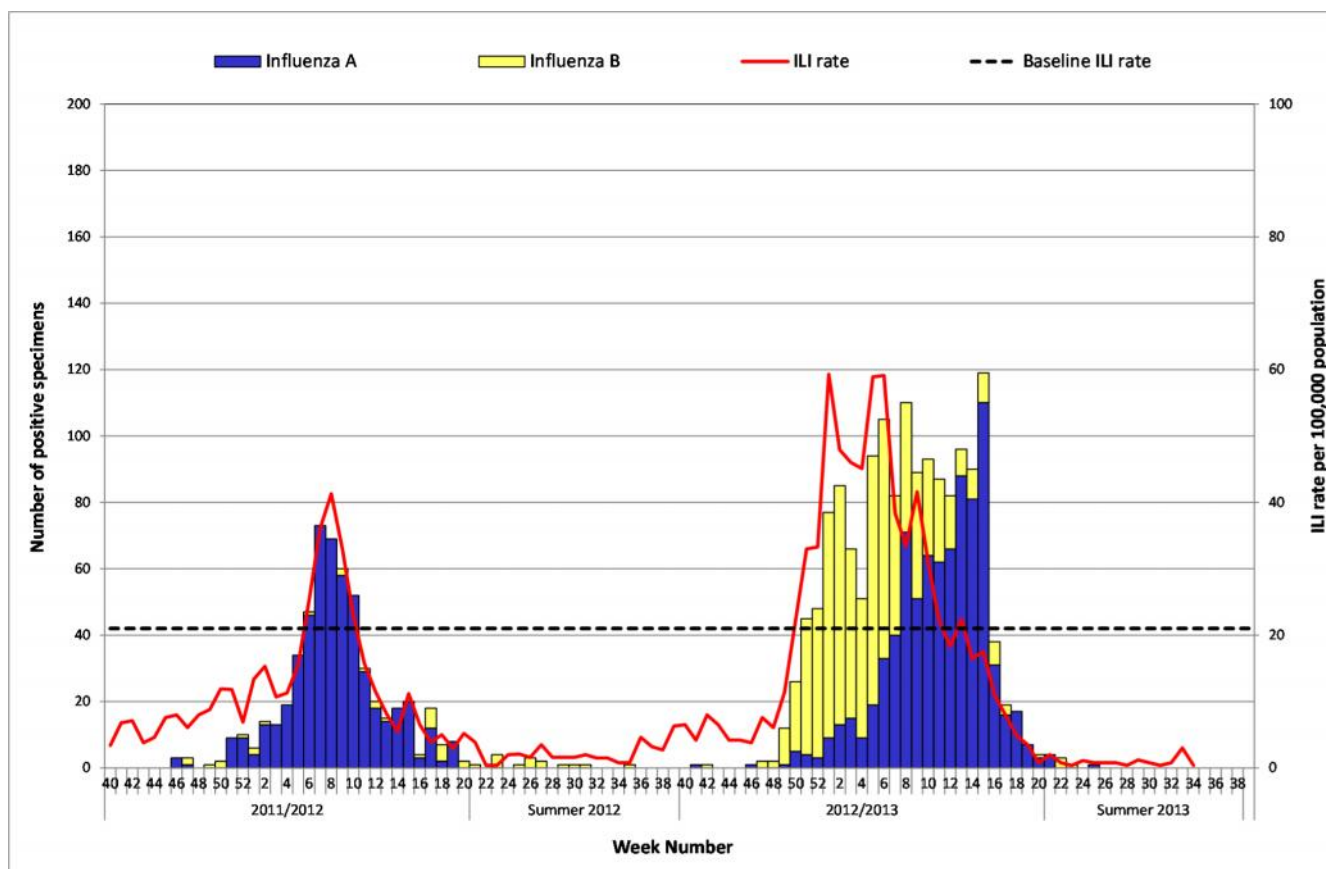


Figure 1. ILI sentinel GP consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold rate, and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season.

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>

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Lisa Domegan and Joan O'Donnell, HPSC. HPSC wishes to thank the sentinel GPs, the ICGP, NVRL, Departments of Public Health, ICSI and HSE-NE for providing data for this report.

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