

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summer Report

Weeks 21-26 2022 (23rd May – 3rd July 2022)



Summary

Most indicators of influenza activity were at low levels in Ireland during weeks 21-26 2022. Sporadic influenza cases have been detected during this time, the majority typed/subtyped as influenza A(H3). RSV notifications remain low, however are at higher levels than the same time period in 2021. HPSC will continue to actively monitor influenza and other respiratory virus activity during the summer period and publish reports on a monthly basis.

- **Influenza-like illness (ILI):** The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate remained low and below baseline levels during week 26 at a rate of 12.9/100,000 and ranging from 4.9/100,000 – 12.9/100,000 population during weeks 21-26 2022. The sentinel GP ILI consultation rate has been below the Irish baseline threshold level (18.1/100,000 population) for six consecutive weeks. Sentinel GP ILI consultations are currently reflecting circulation of SARS-CoV-2, influenza, and other respiratory viruses (ORVs). Sentinel GP ILI consultation rates were below age specific thresholds for all age groups during weeks 21-26 2022.
- **GP Out of Hours:** The proportion of self-reported 'flu' calls to GP Out-of-Hours services remained low and below baseline levels during weeks 21-26 2022, ranging from 0.4% - 0.6%. The proportion of cough calls remain elevated and above baseline levels (10.8%), ranging from 13.0% - 39.5% during weeks 21-26 2022.
- **National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL):** The influenza positivity rate reported by the NVRL for sentinel GP ILI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested was low, ranging from 0% - 1.7%, during weeks 21-26 2022. For weeks 21-26 2022, of 82 sentinel GP ILI specimens and 764 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested, 7 (0.8%) were positive for influenza: 3 A(H3), 3 A(H1)pdm09, and 1 influenza B.
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (n=5), Rhinovirus/enterovirus (n=214), human metapneumovirus (n=25), parainfluenza 3 virus (n=59) and ORV positive detections were reported from the NVRL during weeks 21-26.
- **Influenza and RSV notifications:** 84 laboratory confirmed influenza cases - 6 A(H3), 2 A(H1)pdm09, 73 A (not subtyped) and 3 influenza B were notified during weeks 21-26 2022. 51 RSV cases were notified during weeks 21-26 2022. Weekly notifications are reported in <https://www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases/weeklyreports/>
- **Hospitalisations:** 31 laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified during weeks 21-26 2022: 2 A(H3), 1 A(H1)pdm09, 27 influenza A (not subtyped) and 1 influenza B cases.
- **Critical care admissions:** No laboratory confirmed influenza cases were admitted to critical care units and reported to HPSC during weeks 21-26 2022.
- **Mortality:** No deaths occurred and were reported in notified influenza cases to HPSC during weeks 21-26 2022. No excess all-cause mortality was reported during weeks 21-25 2022; data reported with one-week time lag.
- **Outbreaks:** No acute respiratory infection (ARI) (SARS-CoV-2 negative), influenza or RSV outbreaks were notified to HPSC during weeks 21-26 2022.
- **International:** Overall influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in the European region. In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, overall influenza activity increased in recent weeks. Laboratory confirmed influenza notifications in Australia have exceeded the five-year average. Caution is advised comparing Australian data to previous seasons; due to changes to testing and surveillance systems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

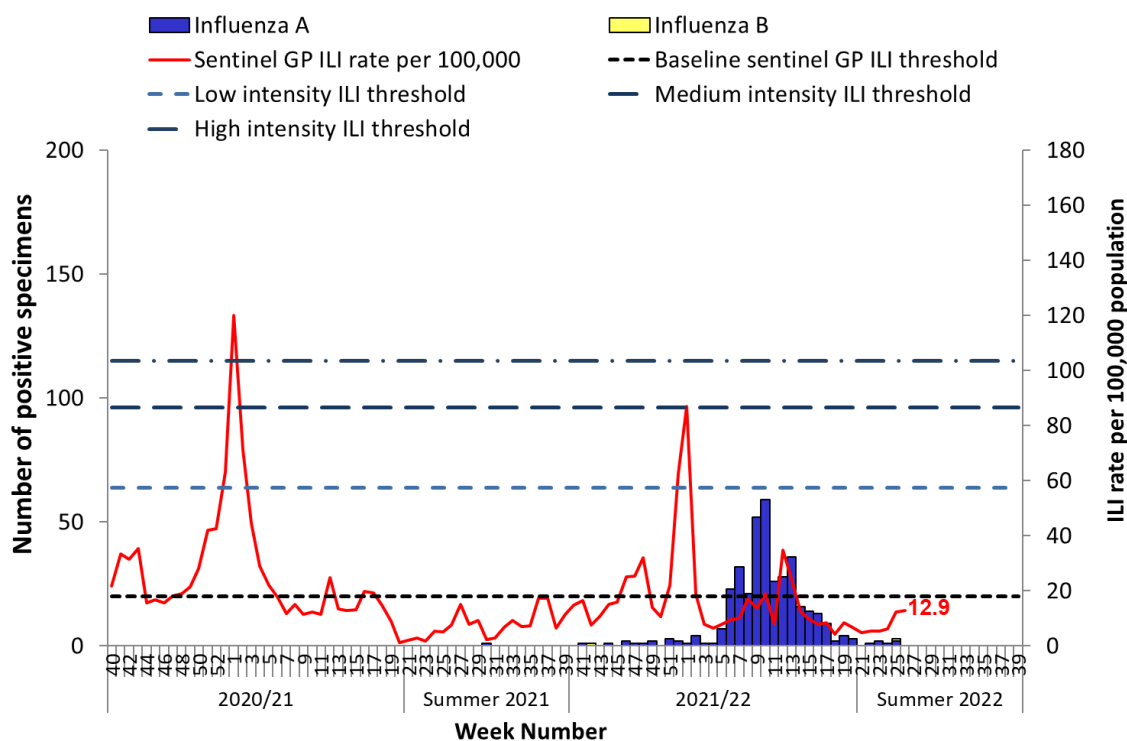


Figure 1: Sentinel GP Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold, medium and high intensity ILI thresholds and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. The current week sentinel GP ILI consultation rate per 100,000 population is highlighted in red text. *Source: ICGP and NVRL*

Further surveillance information is available on the following websites:

- HPSC <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/seasonalinfluenza/surveillance/influenzasurveillancereports/>
- Influenza case definition in Ireland <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/casedefinitions/>
- COVID-19 case definition in Ireland <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casedefinitions/>
- COVID-19 surveillance reports/dashboard on HPSC website <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/surveillance/>
- Public Health Agency Northern Ireland influenza surveillance <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/directorate-public-health/health-protection/seasonal-influenza>
- Europe – ECDC influenza surveillance reports <https://flunewseurope.org/>
- ECDC Avian influenza <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/avian-influenza>
- ECDC COVID-19 <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19>
- WHO influenza surveillance updates <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-updates/current-influenza-update>
- UK Health Security Agency influenza reports <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/weekly-national-flu-reports>
- United States CDC influenza reports <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>
- Public Health Agency of Canada influenza reports <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
- Australian influenza report <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-ozflu-2022.htm>
- WHO COVID-19 <https://covid19.who.int/>

Further information on influenza in Ireland is available at www.hpsc.ie

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