

# Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summer Report

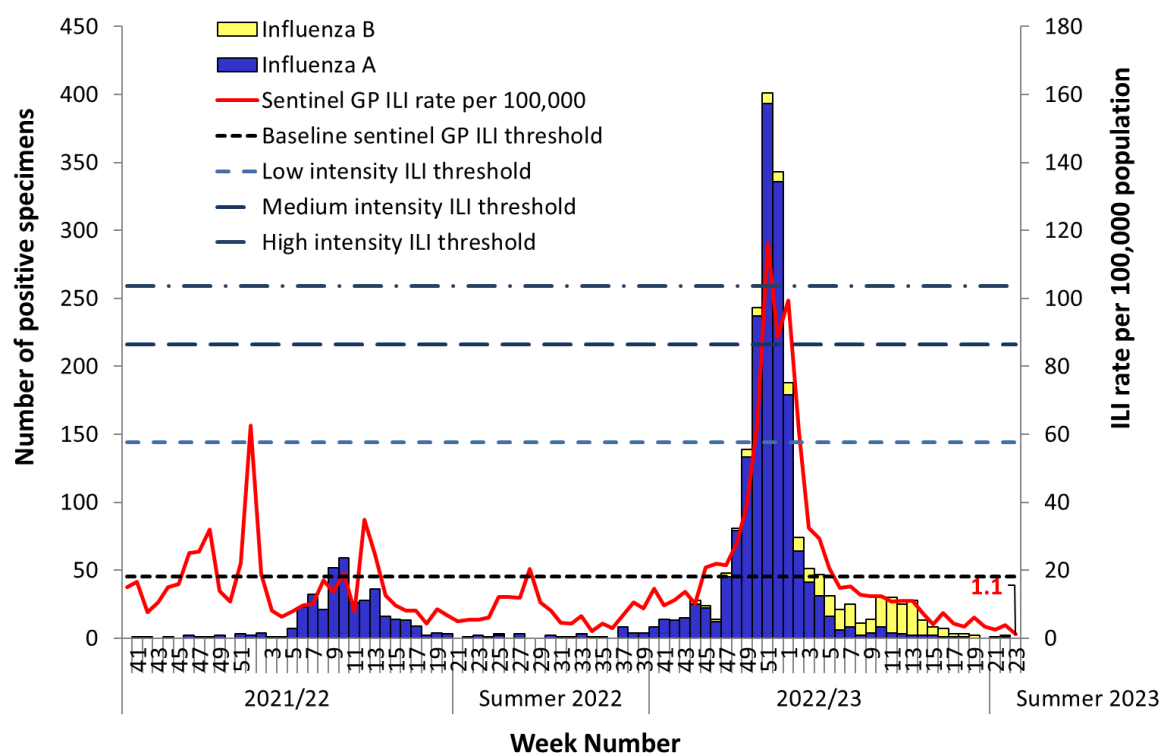
Weeks 21-24 2023 (22<sup>nd</sup> May – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023)



## Summary

**Most indicators of influenza activity were at low levels in Ireland during weeks 21-24 2023. Sporadic influenza cases have been detected during this time, the majority were influenza B. RSV notifications remain low. 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 24 at a rate of 1.1/100,000 and ranging from 0.6/100,000 to 2.6/100,000 population during weeks 21-24 2023. The sentinel GP ILI consultation rate has been below the Irish baseline threshold level (18.1/100,000 population) since week 6 2023. Sentinel GP ILI consultation rates were below age specific thresholds for all age groups during weeks 21-24 2023.
- **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 21-24 2023, ranging from 0.3% to 0.5%. The proportion of cough calls was above baseline levels (10.8%) in week 21 at 11.7% and below baseline levels for weeks 22-24, ranging from 7.7% to 9.8%. The exceedance in cough calls was driven by calls in those aged 0-4 and 5-14 years.
- **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% to 4.5% during weeks 21-24 2023. For weeks 21-24 2023, 4/132 (3.0%) of sentinel GP ILI specimens and 9/516 (1.7%) of non-sentinel respiratory specimens were positive for influenza including four A(H3), one A (not subtyped), and eight influenza B.
- During weeks 21-24, the NVRL reported the following positive respiratory virus detections: respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (n=1), rhinovirus/enterovirus (n=158), human metapneumovirus (n=5), parainfluenza 3 (PIV-3) virus (n=51) and other respiratory viruses (ORV) (n=34).
- **Influenza and RSV notifications:** 79 laboratory confirmed influenza cases - one A(H3), two A(H1)pdm09, 20 A (not subtyped) and 56 influenza B were notified during weeks 21-24 2023. Six RSV cases were notified during weeks 21-24 2023. Weekly notifications are reported in <https://www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases/weeklyidreports/>
- **Hospitalisations:** 18 laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified during weeks 21-24 2023: one A(H3), one A(H1)pdm09, three influenza A (not subtyped) and thirteen influenza B cases.
- **Critical care admissions:** One laboratory confirmed influenza A(H3) case was admitted to critical care units and reported to HPSC during weeks 21-24 2023.
- **Mortality:** One death in a notified influenza case was reported during week 24. No deaths occurred and were reported in notified influenza cases to HPSC during weeks 21-23 2023. No excess all-cause mortality was reported during weeks 21-23 2022; data reported with one-week time lag.
- **Outbreaks:** Two acute respiratory infection (ARI) outbreaks were reported during weeks 21-24 2023. No influenza or RSV outbreaks were notified to HPSC during weeks 21-24 2023.
- **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.



**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](http://www.hpsc.ie)

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