

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summer Report

Weeks 25 -29 2023 (19th June – 23rd July 2023)



Summary

All indicators of influenza activity were at low levels in Ireland during weeks 25-29 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 29 at a rate of 5.0/100,000 and ranged from 1.6/100,000 to 5.0/100,000 population during weeks 25-29 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 25-29 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 25-29 2023, ranging from 0.3% to 0.5%. The proportion of cough calls was below baseline levels for weeks 25-29, ranging from 6.6% to 7.9%.
- **National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL):** There were no influenza detections from 125 sentinel GP ILI specimens tested during weeks 25-29 2023. Of 499 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested during the reporting period, 3 (0.6%) were positive for influenza including one A(H3) and two A(H1)pdm09. The weekly influenza positivity rate from non-sentinel respiratory specimens ranged from 0 to 1.2% during the reporting period.
- During weeks 25-29, the NVRL reported the following positive respiratory virus detections: respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (n=1), rhinovirus/enterovirus (n=89), human metapneumovirus (n=4), parainfluenza 3 (PIV-3) virus (n=32) and other respiratory viruses (ORV) (n=33).
- **Influenza and RSV notifications:** 49 laboratory confirmed influenza cases – four A(H1)pdm09, 19 A (not subtyped) and 26 influenza B were notified during weeks 25-29 2023. Twenty-five RSV cases were notified during weeks 25-29 2023. Weekly notifications are reported in <https://www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases/weeklyidreports/>
- **Hospitalisations:** 15 laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified during weeks 25-29 2023: two A(H1)pdm09, six influenza A (not subtyped) and seven influenza B cases.
- **Intensive care admissions:** No laboratory confirmed influenza case was admitted to an intensive care unit and reported to HPSC during weeks 25-29 2023.
- **Mortality:** There were no deaths in influenza cases notified to HPSC during weeks 25-29 2023. No excess all-cause mortality was reported during weeks 25-28 2022; data reported with one-week time lag.
- **Outbreaks:** One acute respiratory infection (ARI) outbreak was reported during weeks 25-29 2023. No influenza or RSV outbreaks were notified to HPSC during weeks 25-29 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.

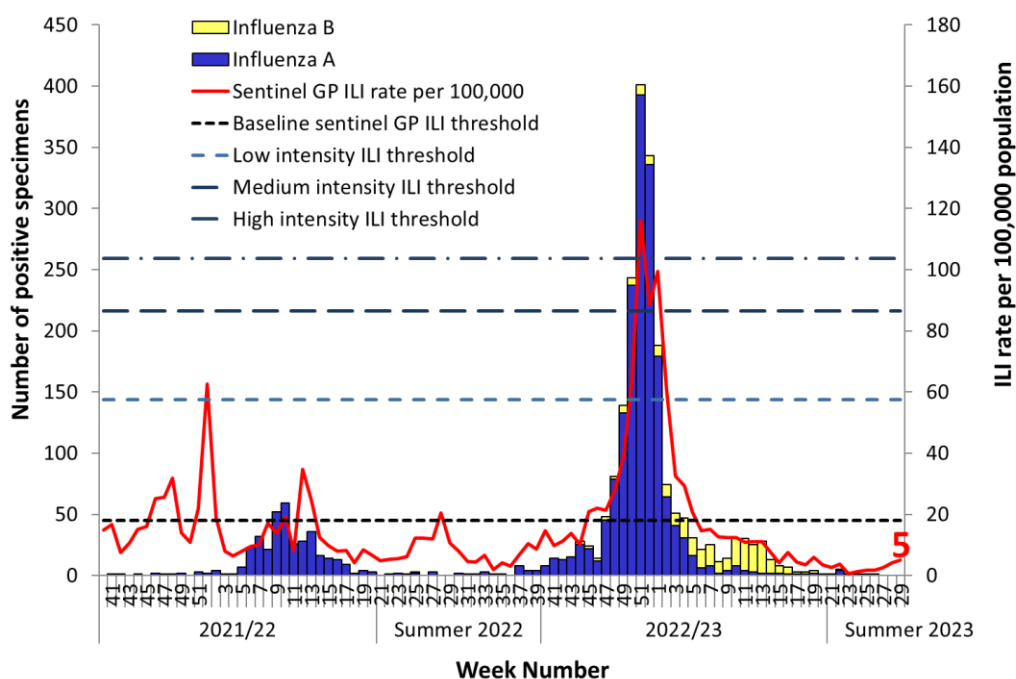


Figure 1: Sentinel GP Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold, medium and high intensity ILI thresholds and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. The current week sentinel GP ILI consultation 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/influenzasurveillance-reports/>
- 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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