

Influenza Surveillance in Ireland – Summer Report

Weeks 31-35 2022 (1st August – 4th September 2022)



Intensive Care Society of Ireland



Summary

Most indicators of influenza activity were at low levels in Ireland during weeks 31-35 2022 (1st August-4th September 2022). Sporadic influenza cases have been detected during this time; influenza A(H3), A(H1)pdm09 and influenza B cases were all notified. **RSV notifications increased during week 35 2022, and are at higher levels than the same time period in 2021; this may be an indicator of an early RSV season.** HPSC will continue to actively monitor influenza, RSV and other respiratory virus activity during the summer period.

- **Influenza-like illness (ILI):** The sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate remained low and below baseline levels during week 35 2022 at a rate of 4.3/100,000 and ranging from 2/100,000 – 6.6/100,000 population during weeks 31-35 2022. The sentinel GP ILI consultation rate remained below the Irish baseline threshold level (18.1/100,000 population) for weeks 31 to 35 2022. Sentinel GP ILI consultation rates were below age specific thresholds for those aged <15 years during weeks 31-35 2022. Sentinel GP ILI consultations are currently reflecting circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses (ORVs).
- **GP Out of Hours:** The proportion of self-reported ‘flu’ calls to GP Out-of-Hours services remained low and below baseline levels (2.3%), during weeks 31-35 2022, ranging from 0.2% - 0.3%. The proportion of cough calls fell below baseline threshold levels (10.8%), to 7.1% during week 31, then rose above baseline levels (10.8%) during weeks 32-35 2022 ranging from 33.8% - 43.7%.
- **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 0.9% - 3.1%, during weeks 31-35 2022. For weeks 21-35 2022, of 135 sentinel GP ILI specimens and 1828 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested, 19 (1%) were positive for influenza: 11 A(H3), 6 A(H1N1), 1 A(not sub typed) and 1 influenza B.
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (n=9), Rhinovirus/enterovirus (n=46), human metapneumovirus (n=9), parainfluenza 3 virus (n=12) and ORV positive detections were reported from the NVRL during weeks 31-35
- **Influenza and RSV notifications:** 130 laboratory confirmed influenza cases - 106 A (not subtyped), 6 A(H3), 8 A(H1)pdm09 and 10 influenza B were notified during weeks 31-35 2022. 151 RSV cases were notified during weeks 31-35 2022, of which 50 were notified during week 35 2022 (the majority in the 0-4-year age group). Weekly notifications are reported in <https://www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases/weeklyidreports/>
- **Hospitalisations:** 26 laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalised cases were notified during weeks 31-35 2022: 23 influenza A (not subtyped), 1 A(H3), 1 A(H1)pdm09, and 1 influenza B.
- **Critical care admissions:** Two laboratory confirmed influenza cases (1 A(H3) and 1 A (not subtyped)) were admitted to critical care units and reported to HPSC during weeks 31-32 2022. No confirmed influenza cases were admitted to critical care units and reported to HPSC during weeks 33-35 2022.
- **Mortality:** One death occurred and was reported to HPSC in a notified influenza A(H3) case during week 31 2022. There were no deaths notified to HPSC during weeks 32-35 2022. No excess all-cause mortality was reported during weeks 31-34 2022; data are reported with a one-week time lag.
- **Outbreaks:** One RSV outbreak involving paediatric cases occurred in a hospital setting during week 34 2022. One influenza outbreak occurred in a private household during week 33 2022. No other acute respiratory infection (ARI) (SARS-CoV-2 negative) outbreaks were notified to HPSC during weeks 31-35 2022.
- **International:** Overall influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in the European region during the summer period (latest WHO publication 21/08/2022). In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, overall influenza activity decreased in recent weeks.

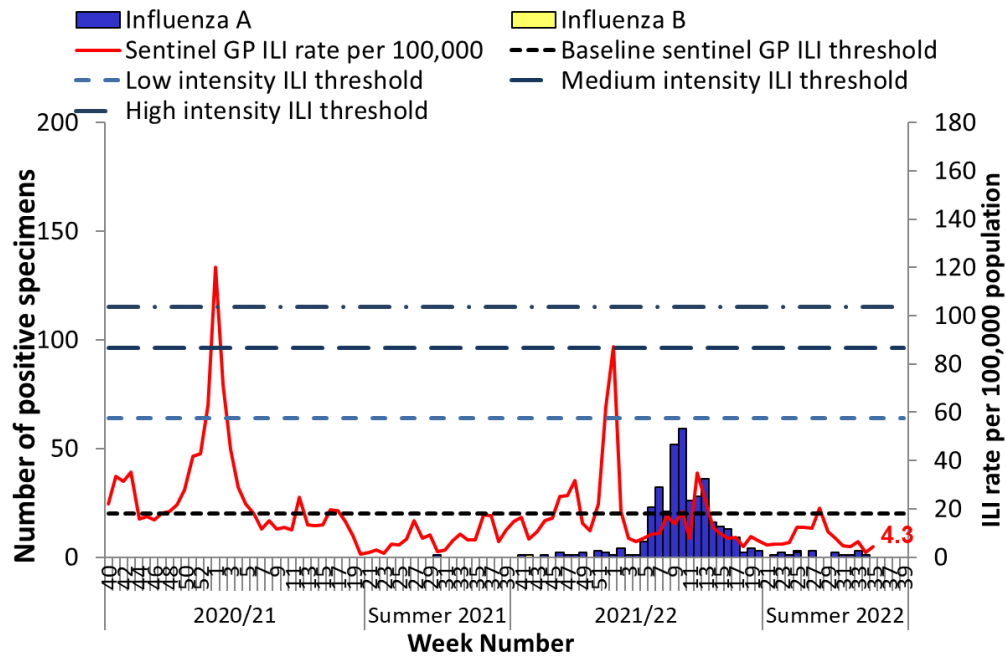


Figure 1: Sentinel GP Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline ILI threshold, medium and high intensity ILI thresholds and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. The current week sentinel GP ILI consultation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

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