

Summary

- Influenza activity in Northern Ireland remains low and stable.
- GP consultation rates for confirmed Influenza decreased from 25.4 in week 2 to 18.6 in week 3 (population in week 4. There is a trend to a low activity level from the same weeks last year and remain well below the Northern Ireland threshold (21.5/1000 population)).
- Out of hours call rates for Influenza remained stable over the two week period at 3.8 per 100,000 population.
- There were two influenza A(H3N2) isolations in weeks 3 and 4, 2012.
- There were 11 H5N1 isolations in weeks 3 and 4, 2012.
- There have been no reports of any patients admitted to critical care units with confirmed influenza for the 2011/12 influenza season to date.
- There have been no reports of any influenza-associated deaths in ICU patients with confirmed influenza this season.

Introduction

In order to monitor influenza activity in Northern Ireland a number of surveillance systems are in place. It has been determined that winter will be a surveillance of critical care patients in hospitals with confirmed influenza.

Additional surveillance systems are:

- GP out-of-hours surveillance representing 11.7% of Northern Ireland population.
- GP out-of-hours surveillance system.
- Virological results from the Regional Virus Laboratory (RVL).
- Weekly data from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).



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The Influenza Weekly Surveillance Bulletin is produced by the PHA and covers statistics for Northern Ireland. The bulletin is produced during the flu season.

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