



# PHE Weekly National Influenza Report

Summary of UK surveillance of influenza and other seasonal respiratory illnesses

19 June 2014 – Week 25 report (up to week 24 data)

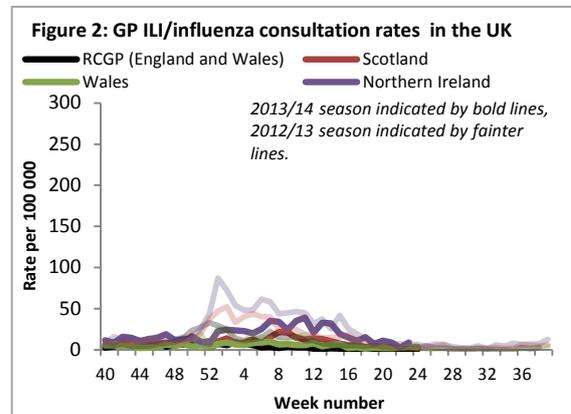
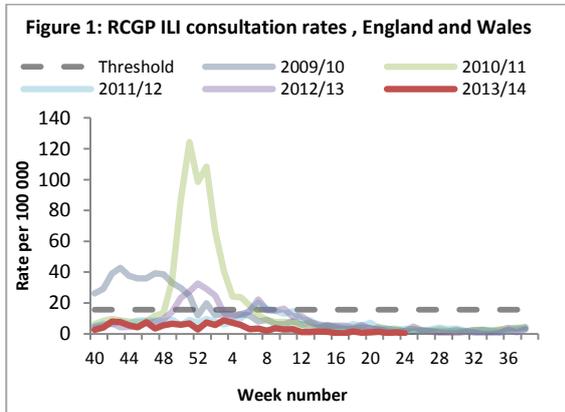
This report is published [online](#). A summary report is being published once a fortnight while influenza activity is low. For further information on the surveillance schemes mentioned in this report, please see information available [online](#).

Indicators of influenza show very low levels of activity.

## Community surveillance

- GP consultation rates for influenza-like illness remain low in all schemes in the UK (Figures 1 and 2).

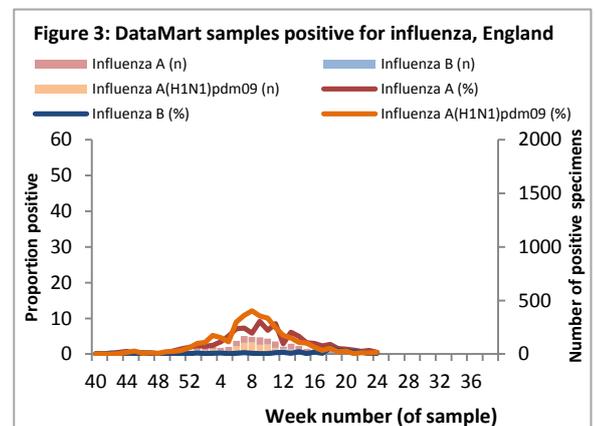
Scheme	GP ILI consultation rate per 100,000			Peak age group
	Week 24	Week 23		
RCGP (England and Wales)	0.4	0.9	↔	5-14yrs
Scotland	2.1	3.0	↔	15-44yrs
Northern Ireland	Not available	8.7		
Wales	3.6	3.1	↔	75+yrs



- The overall weekly consultation rate for acute bronchitis in England and Wales through the RCGP scheme decreased from 37.8 per 100,000 in week 23 to 34.1 per 100,000 in week 24 2014. 75+ year olds had the highest rate followed by 65-74 year olds.
- Syndromic surveillance
  - Syndromic surveillance indicators for influenza remained low in week 24 2014.
  - For further information, please see the Syndromic surveillance [webpage](#).

## Virological surveillance

- English Respiratory Data Mart system
  - In week 24 2014, five (1.3%) of the 394 respiratory specimens tested were positive for influenza (two A(H1N1)pdm09, one A(H3), one A(not subtyped) and one B, Figure 3).
  - Positivity remained stable for rhinovirus (18.3%), adenovirus (6.1%), parainfluenza (5.1%), hMPV (2.6%) and RSV (0.2%).
- UK GP-based sentinel schemes
  - Through the GP-based sentinel schemes across the UK, no samples were positive for influenza in week 24 2014.

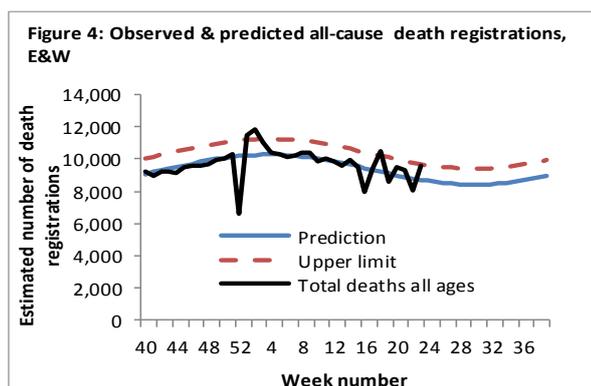


## Outbreak Reporting

- During weeks 23 and 24 2014 no new acute respiratory outbreaks have been reported.
- Outbreaks should be reported to the local Health Protection Unit and [Respscidsc@phe.gov.uk](mailto:Respscidsc@phe.gov.uk).

## All-cause mortality surveillance

- In week 23 2014, an estimated 9,557 all-cause deaths were registered in England and Wales (source: Office for National Statistics). This is more than the 8,034 estimated death registrations in week 22 and is just below the 95% upper limit of expected death registrations for this time of year as calculated by PHE (Figure 4). The sharp drops in number of deaths correspond to weeks when there were bank holidays, such as week 22, and fewer days when deaths were registered, and so are likely to be artificial and result in subsequent increases in following weeks.
- In week 21 2014, no significant excess was reported overall, by age group or by region in England after correcting ONS disaggregate data for reporting delay with the standardised EuroMOMO algorithm (Table 1). This data is provisional due to the time delay in registration and so numbers may vary from week to week.



**Table 1: Excess mortality by age group, England\***

Age group (years)	Excess detected in week 21 2014	Weeks with excess in summer 2014
<5	x	NA
5-14	x	NA
15-64	x	NA
65+	x	NA

\* Excess mortality is calculated through the EuroMOMO algorithm as the observed minus the expected number of deaths that week for those weeks where the observed exceeds the upper threshold

## International Surveillance

- Influenza
  - Globally influenza activity was low.
  - In North America and Europe, overall influenza activity was at inter-seasonal levels.
  - In eastern Asia, influenza activity approached inter-seasonal levels in most countries with influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B virus predominating.
  - In southern and south-eastern Asia, influenza activity continued to decline.
  - In northern Africa and western Asia, influenza activity remained low.
  - In the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained low, although some countries in the temperate zone of South America showed increases in ILI activity with slight increase in influenza detections.
  - Based on FluNet reporting, during weeks 21 to 22 (18 May 2014 to 31 May 2014), National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 76 countries, areas or territories reported data. The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 30,179 specimens. 1,919 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 1,198 (62.4%) were typed as influenza A and 721 (37.6%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 188 (21.3%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 694 (78.7%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 36 (80%) belong to the B-Yamagata lineage and 9 (20%) to the B-Victoria lineage.
  - For further information, please see the [WHO website](#).
- MERS-CoV
  - Up to 16 June 2014, a total of four cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus, MERS-CoV, (two imported and two linked cases) have been confirmed in England. On-going surveillance has identified 198 suspect cases in the UK that have been investigated for MERS-CoV and tested negative. A further 697 confirmed cases have been reported internationally. This results in a current global total of [701 cases](#).
  - Further information on management and guidance of possible cases is available [online](#).
- Influenza A(H7N9)
  - In the past week, no new hospitalised cases of human infection with influenza A(H7N9) in China have been reported by [WHO](#). The source of infection is still under investigation. So far, there is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission. WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry with regard to this event, nor does it currently recommend any travel or trade restrictions.
  - For further updates please see the WHO website and for advice on clinical management please see information available [online](#).