

Summary

- **Combined GP consultation rates for 'flu/ FLI continue to increase and are higher than expected.**
- **Four swine influenza detections in Wk 28.**
- **Fifty pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases to noon July 15th 2009 in Northern Ireland**
- **OOH calls for 'flu/ FLI have increased in Wk28 for the fifth consecutive week accounting for 1.5% of all calls.**
- **Mortality indices have fallen. No deaths due to Swine 'flu.**

Sentinel GP Clinical Consultation Data

Figure 1. Consultation rates and virology for Influenza and Influenza-Like Illness

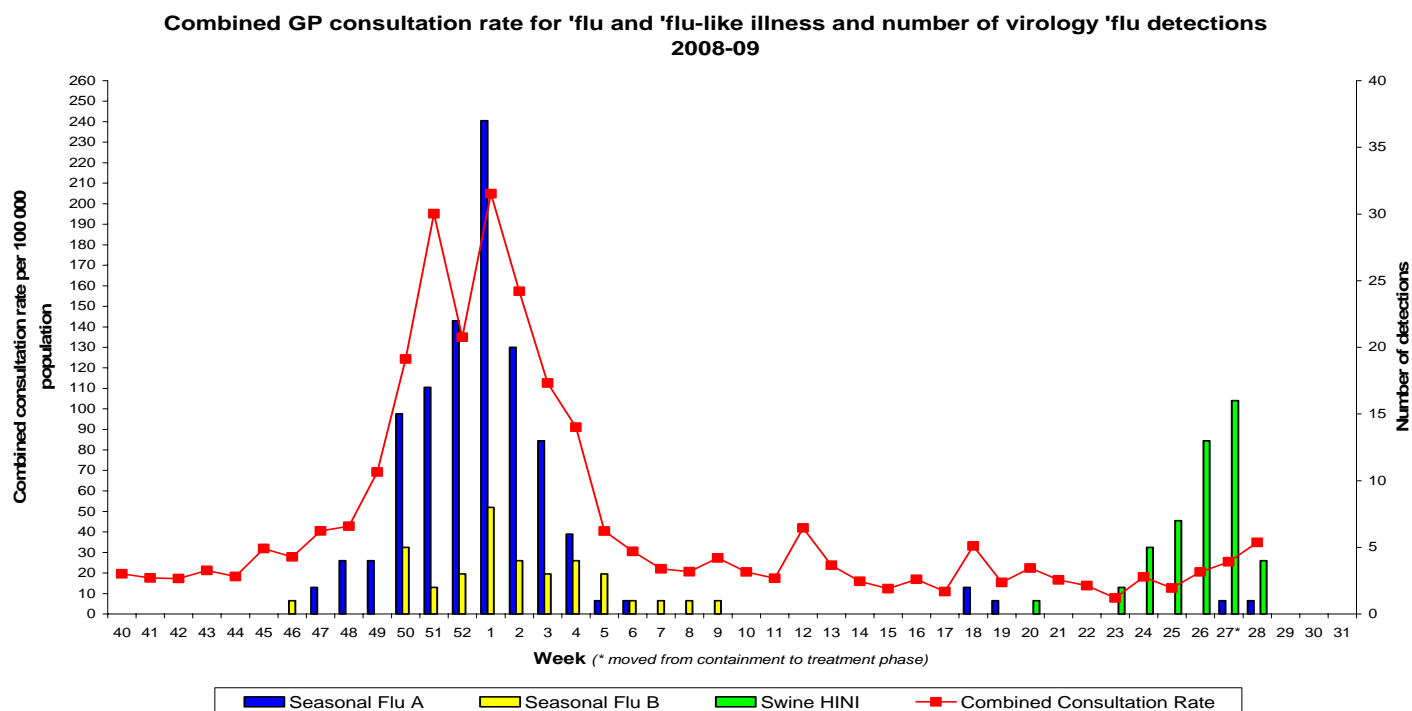


Figure 2. Consultation rates for Influenza and Influenza-Like Illness by year

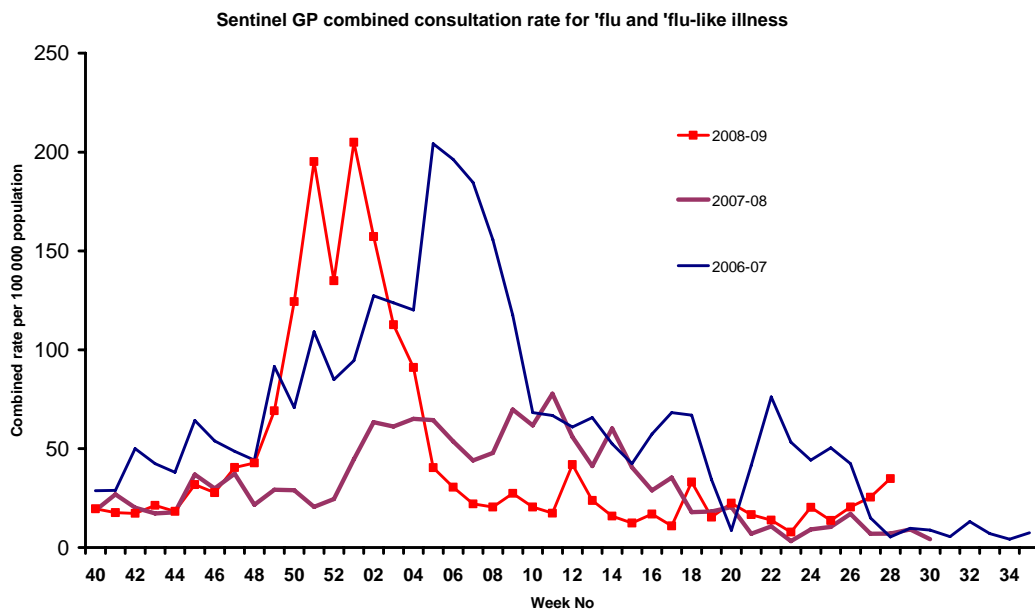
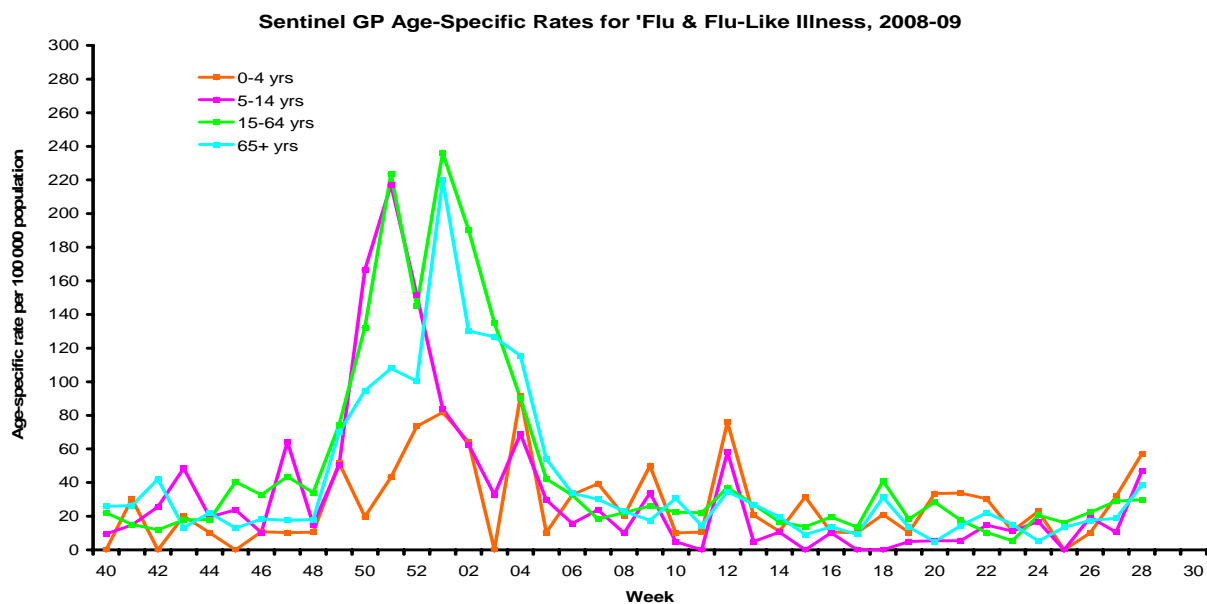
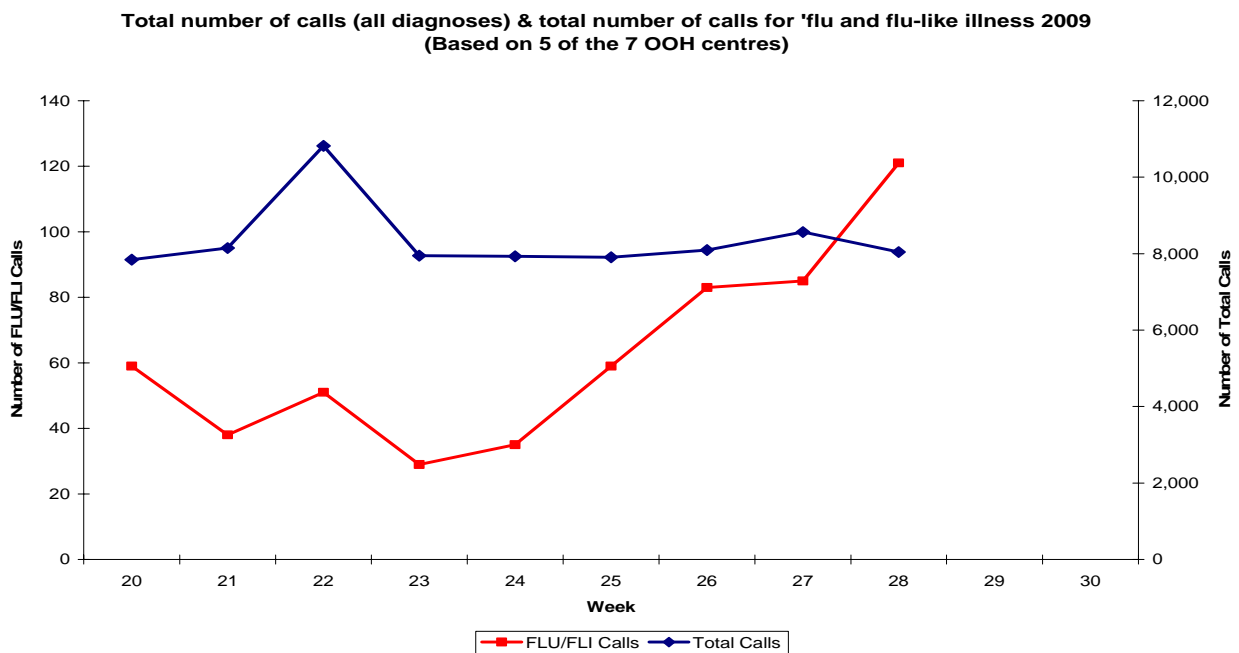


Figure 3. Weekly consultation rate for combined influenza and influenza-like illness in Northern Ireland by age-group.



Comments: In Wk 28, the GP combined consultation rate per 100,000 population has risen from 25.5 in Wk 27 to 34.9 per 100,000 population. This is the third consecutive week the consultation rate has risen and this trend will remain under close scrutiny as the current rate is significantly higher than those noted in previous years. In Wk 28 rates have increased in all age groups, with rates highest in the 0-4 years, 5-14 years and 65+ age groups.

Figure 4. Weekly OOH total calls and estimated call numbers for influenza and influenza-like illness.



Comments: Calls for 'flu/FLI increased from 83 in Wk 26 to 85 in Wk 27. In Wk 28 calls have increased yet again to 121 for 'flu/FLI. This represents 1.5% of all calls. From Wk 40 calls relating to 'flu/FLI have been consistently highest in the 15-44 age group.

Virological Data

Table 1. Virus activity in Northern Ireland for Week 28

| Week Number | Source | Specimens Tested | Influenza A | | Influenza B | RSV | Total influenza Positive | % Influenza Positive |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | Seasonal | Swine | | | | |
| 28 | Sentinel | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | NT | 1 | 25 |
| | Non-sentinel | 52 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| | Total | 56 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 9 |

NB: All virology data is provisional. Specimens tested refer to the date of laboratory reports and not the date the specimen was received by the laboratory. * NT = not tested

Table 2. Cumulative virus activity by age-group for NI 2009

| Cumulative Total Wk 40 - Wk 28 | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| AGE | FluA | | FluB | RSV | Total |
| | Seasonal | Swine | | | |
| 0-4 | 43 | 2 | 12 | 361 | 418 |
| 5-14 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 29 |
| 15-64 | 65 | 40 | 16 | 9 | 130 |
| 65+ | 24 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 39 |
| Unknown | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| All ages | 150 | 48 | 39 | 387 | 624 |

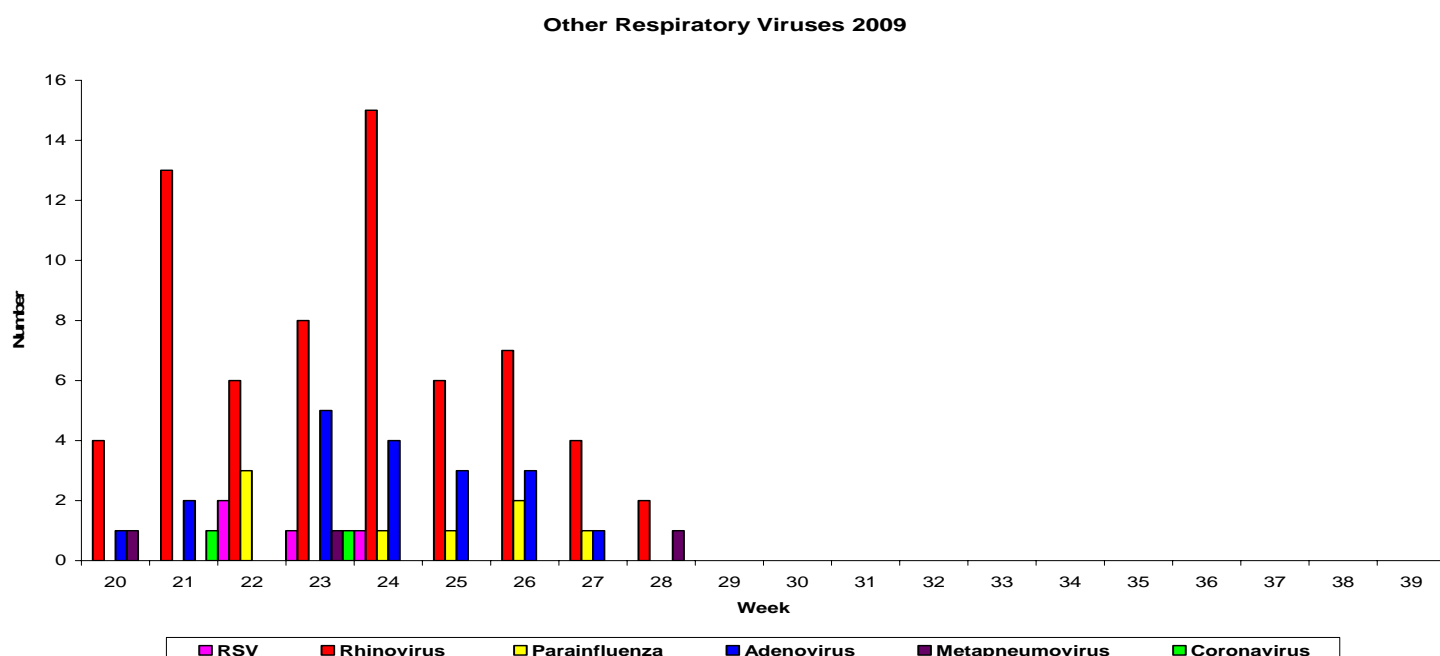
The first Swine flu pandemic (H1N1) 2009 detection was reported in Wk 20 (Mid May). By noon 15th July 2009, there have been 50 detections in Northern Ireland (this total includes provisional data for Wk 29). Of the 50 cases recorded, 33 cases are male and 17 female (mean age 28 years, median 23 years).

Positive influenza detections remain low with 5/56(9%) of specimens positive for swine or seasonal flu last week

During Wk 28 a total of 56 specimens were tested by the Regional Virus Laboratory (52 non-sentinel and 4 sentinel). There were 4 swine Influenza detections and one seasonal flu detection during Wk 28.

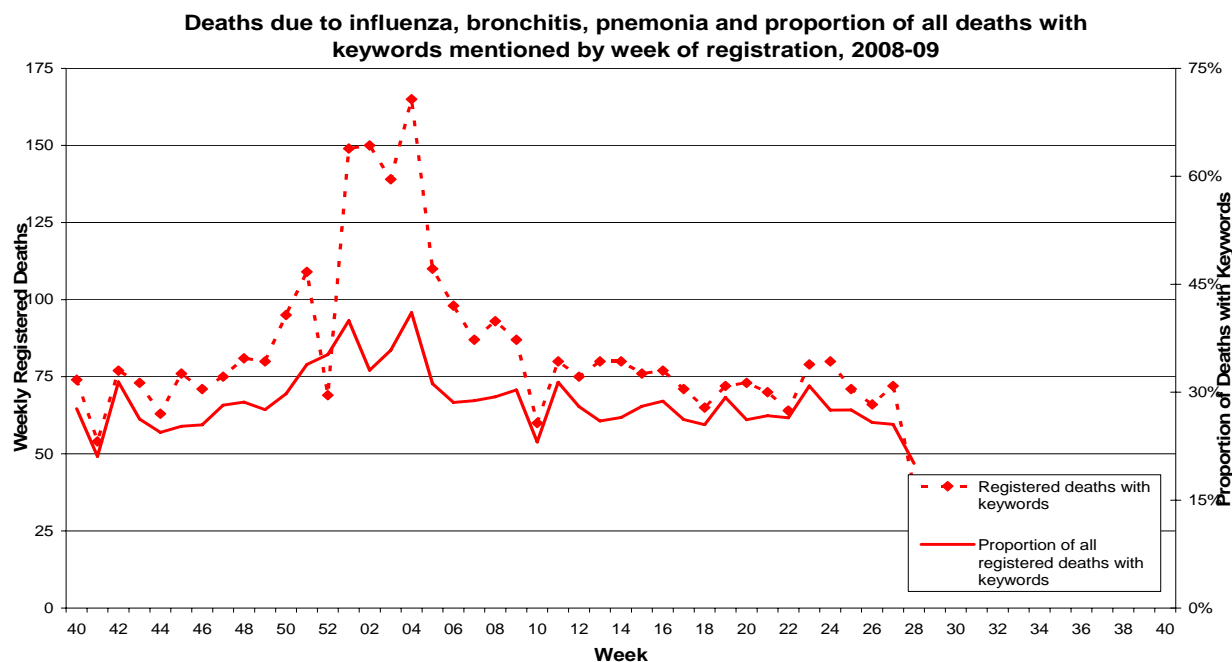
Other Respiratory Viruses

Figure 4. Weekly cases of other respiratory viruses



Comments From Wk 20 CDSC (NI) has been receiving information on other respiratory virus detections. In Wk 28 there were 2 rhinovirus and 1 metapneumonovirus detections.

Daily mortality data is provided from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The data relates to the number of deaths from selected respiratory infections (some of which may be attributable to influenza, and other respiratory infections or complications thereof) registered each week in Northern Ireland. This is not necessarily the same as the number of deaths occurring in that period. Searches of the medical certificates of the cause of death are performed using a number of keywords that could be associated with influenza (bronchiolitis, bronchitis, influenza and pneumonia). Death registrations containing these keywords are presented as a proportion of all registered deaths.



Comments: In Wk 28, there were 194 registered deaths of which 39 (20%) related to these specific respiratory infections.

Further information

Further information on pandemic (H1N1) 2009 is available at the following websites:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk>

<http://www.publichealth.hscni.net>

<http://www.who.int>

<http://ecdc.europa.eu>

<http://euroflu.org>

Detailed Influenza weekly reports can be found at the following websites:

England, Scotland and Wales:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/seasonal/activity0809/flureport.htm

Republic of Ireland:

<http://www.ndsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/Respiratory/Influenza/Publications/20082009Season/>

For further information on the Enhanced Surveillance of Influenza in Northern Ireland scheme or to be added to the circulation list for this bulletin please contact:

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This report was compiled by Cathriona Kearns, Eileen Morelli, and Dr. Brian Smyth, with data input assistance from Gillian Smyth and Joy Miskimmons.

Appendix (1)

| 2008 -2009 Season | Total cases FLI | Total cases 'Flu | Proportion due to clinical 'flu | Combined Rate for 'Flu and FLI (per 100 000 population) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Week No | | | | |
| Wk 40 | 29 | 3 | 9% | 19.6 |
| Wk 41 | 22 | 6 | 21% | 17.6 |
| Wk 42 | 24 | 2 | 8% | 17.3 |
| Wk 43 | 29 | 5 | 15% | 21.3 |
| Wk 44 | 29 | 0 | - | 17.8 |
| Wk 45 | 46 | 6 | 12% | 31.8 |
| Wk 46 | 40 | 3 | 7% | 27.8 |
| Wk 47 | 51 | 13 | 20% | 40.5 |
| Wk 48 | 61 | 8 | 12% | 42.8 |
| Wk 49 | 92 | 14 | 13% | 69.2 |
| Wk 50 | 174 | 29 | 13% | 124.3 |
| Wk 51 | 234 | 55 | 19% | 195.2 |
| Wk 52 | 153 | 46 | 23% | 134.9 |
| Wk 01 | 221 | 71 | 24% | 204.9 |
| Wk 02 | 186 | 47 | 20% | 157.3 |
| Wk 03 | 141 | 23 | 14% | 112.6 |
| Wk 04 | 131 | 13 | 9% | 91.1 |
| Wk 05 | 49 | 14 | 22% | 40.4 |
| Wk 06 | 40 | 5 | 11% | 30.5 |
| Wk 07 | 34 | 2 | 6% | 22.1 |
| Wk 08 | 26 | 6 | 19% | 20.5 |
| Wk 09 | 15 | 34 | 31% | 27.4 |
| Wk 10 | 29 | 4 | 12% | 20.5 |
| Wk 11 | 19 | 7 | 27% | 17.4 |
| Wk 12 | 20 | 41 | 67% | 42.0 |
| Wk 13 | 29 | 8 | 22% | 23.8 |
| Wk 14 | 23 | 0 | - | 15.9 |
| Wk 15 | 17 | 2 | 11% | 12.4 |
| Wk 16 | 20 | 6 | 23% | 17.0 |
| Wk 17 | 12 | 5 | 29% | 10.9 |
| Wk 18 | 38 | 13 | 25% | 33.1 |
| Wk 19 | 21 | 3 | 13% | 15.4 |
| Wk 20 | 25 | 7 | 22% | 22.4 |
| Wk 21 | 22 | 2 | 8% | 17.5 |
| Wk 22 | 21 | 1 | 5% | 14.5 |
| Wk 23 | 10 | 1 | 9% | 7.9 |
| Wk 24 | 25 | 6 | 19% | 20.3 |
| Wk 25 | 20 | 2 | 9% | 13.7 |
| Wk 26 | 30 | 3 | 9% | 20.5 |
| Wk27 | 31 | 6 | 16% | 25.5 |
| Wk28 | 24 | 6 | 20% | 34.9 |