

Influenza, RSV and Other Respiratory Viruses Surveillance Report

Week 43 2023 (23rd – 29th October 2023)



This report presents data on the epidemiology of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and other respiratory viruses (ORVs). For further information on the epidemiology of COVID-19, please refer to COVID-19 surveillance [reports](#).

Summary

Influenza activity increased slightly although remains at low levels in Ireland during week 43 2023. Sporadic detections of influenza A (H1)pdm09, A(H3) and influenza B have been reported this season to date. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) hospitalised cases continue to increase with the highest rates in those aged less than one year old, followed by the 1-4 year age group. Rhino/enteroviruses have been circulating at high levels in recent weeks.

- **Influenza-like illness (ILI):** The sentinel GP ILI consultation rate was 3.8 per 100,000 population during week 43 2023, stable compared to the updated rate of 3.1/100,000 in week 42. ILI consultation rates have been below the Irish baseline threshold (18.1/100,000 population) for the season to date (weeks 40- 43 2023). Sentinel GP ILI age specific rates were below age specific baseline thresholds in all age groups during week 43.
- **National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL):** During week 43 2023, of 135 sentinel GP ARI specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, two (1.5%) were positive for influenza (two influenza A(H3)), eight (5.9%) for SARS-CoV-2, seven (5.2%) for RSV and 28 (20.7%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- Of 99 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested and reported by the NVRL during week 43 2023, two (2%) were positive for influenza (one influenza A(H1)pdm09 and one influenza A (H3)) and five (5.1%) for RSV. Rhino/enterovirus positivity remained high at 16.2% (16/99) during week 43 compared to 27% (40/148) during week 42.
- Of the 21 respiratory specimens (including both sentinel GP ARI specimens and non-sentinel specimens) testing positive for influenza and reported by the NVRL to date during the 2023/2024 season, four (19%) were coinfecting with rhino/enteroviruses and SARS-CoV-2
- **GP Out of hours (OOHs):** Cough calls comprised 16.4% (1,645/10,042) of all reported GP OOHs calls during week 43 2023, which is above the baseline threshold of 10.8%.
- **Influenza notifications:** 46 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were notified during week 43 2023: four influenza A (H3), two A(H1)pdm09, 29 influenza A (not subtyped) and 11 influenza B. This is an increase compared to 29 cases notified during week 42 2023. Age-specific rates were low in all age groups during week 42 although 30% (14/46) of the cases were in the 5–14-year age group.
- **RSV notifications:** 198 RSV cases were notified during week 43 2023, an increase compared to 120 cases notified during week 42 2023.
- **Hospitalisations:** Notified influenza hospitalised cases increased to 20 cases during week 43, compared to 11 in week 42. These included 14 influenza A (not subtyped) and six influenza B hospitalised cases. 98 RSV hospitalised cases were notified during week 43 2023, 88% (86/98) were aged 0-4 years.
- **Intensive care admissions:** No laboratory confirmed influenza cases were admitted to intensive care units and notified to HPSC during week 43 2023 or for the 2023/2024 season to date.
- **Mortality:** No deaths in notified influenza cases were reported to HPSC during week 43 2023 or for the season to date. No excess all-cause mortality has been reported since week 2 2023.
- **Outbreaks:** During week 43 2023, one RSV outbreak in a childcare facility and one acute respiratory infection (ARI) outbreak in a school for which the pathogen was mycoplasma pneumoniae were reported to HPSC.
- **International:** In the European region during week 42 2023, influenza activity remained at low levels, RSV activity continued to increase and SARS-CoV-2 activity remained elevated. Rates of ILI and/or ARI were elevated above baseline levels in 5 of 50 countries or areas of the WHO European Region reporting data.

1. GP sentinel surveillance system - Clinical Data

- During week 43 2023, 25 sentinel GP influenza-like illness (ILI) consultations were reported from the Irish sentinel GP network, corresponding to an ILI consultation rate of 3.8 per 100,000 population, compared to an updated rate of 3.1 per 100,000 population during week 42 2023 (Figure 1).
- The sentinel GP ILI consultation rates have been below the Irish sentinel GP ILI baseline threshold (18.1/100,000 population) for 37 consecutive weeks since week 6 2023.
- Age specific ILI consultation rates were below age specific baseline thresholds in all age groups during week 43 and the 2023/2024 season to date (weeks 40-43 2023) (Figure 2, Table 1).
- The Irish sentinel baseline ILI threshold for the 2023/2024 influenza season is 18.1 per 100,000 population. ILI rates above this baseline threshold combined with sentinel GP influenza positivity >10% indicate the likelihood that influenza is circulating in the community. The Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) is used to calculate thresholds for GP ILI consultations in a standardised approach across Europe. The baseline ILI threshold (18.1/100,000 population), low (57.5/100,000 population), medium (86.5/100,000 population) and high (103.6/100,000 population) intensity ILI thresholds are shown in Figure 1.

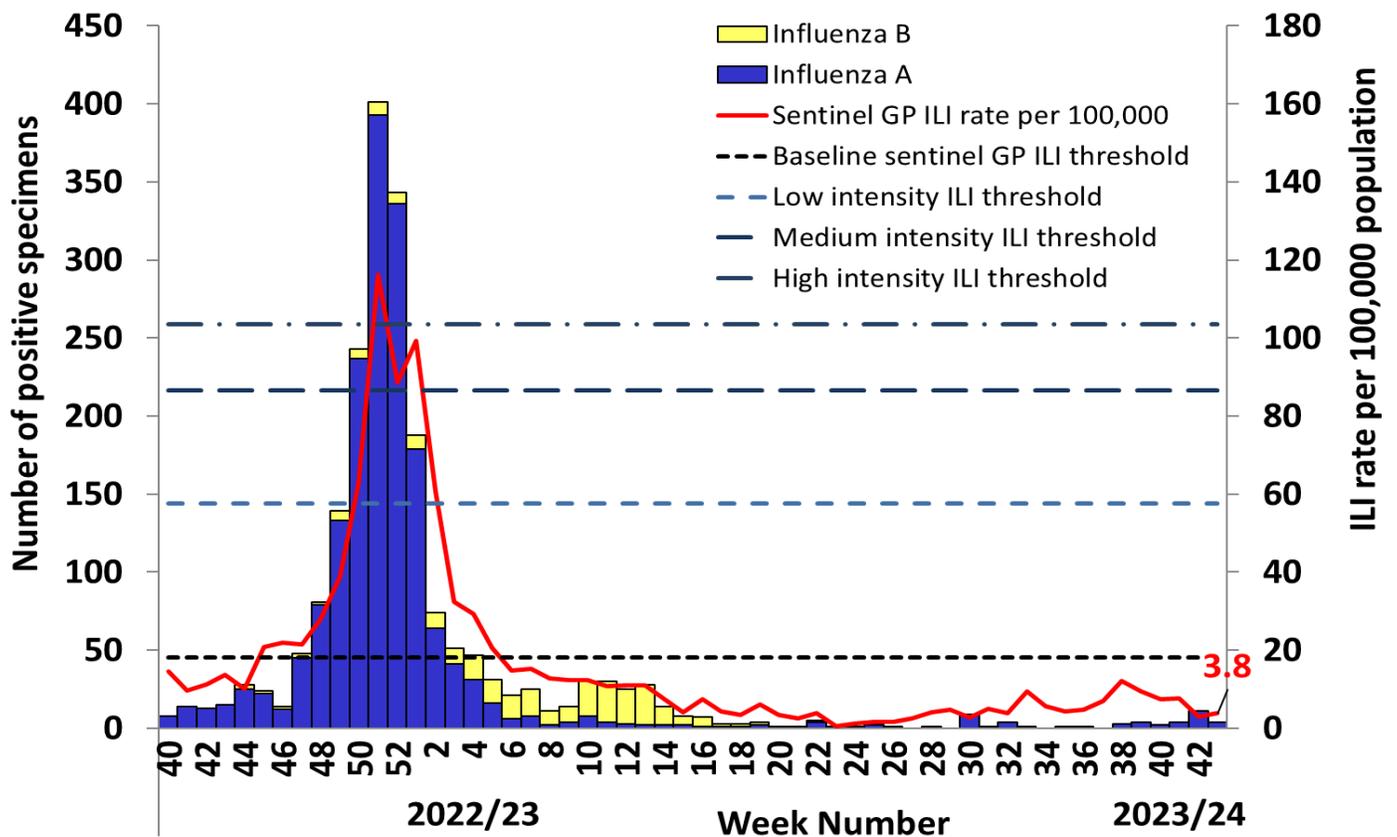


Figure 1: Sentinel GP Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates per 100,000 population, baseline, low, medium and high intensity ILI thresholds and number of positive influenza A and B specimens tested by the NVRL, by influenza week and season. *Source: ICGP and NVRL*

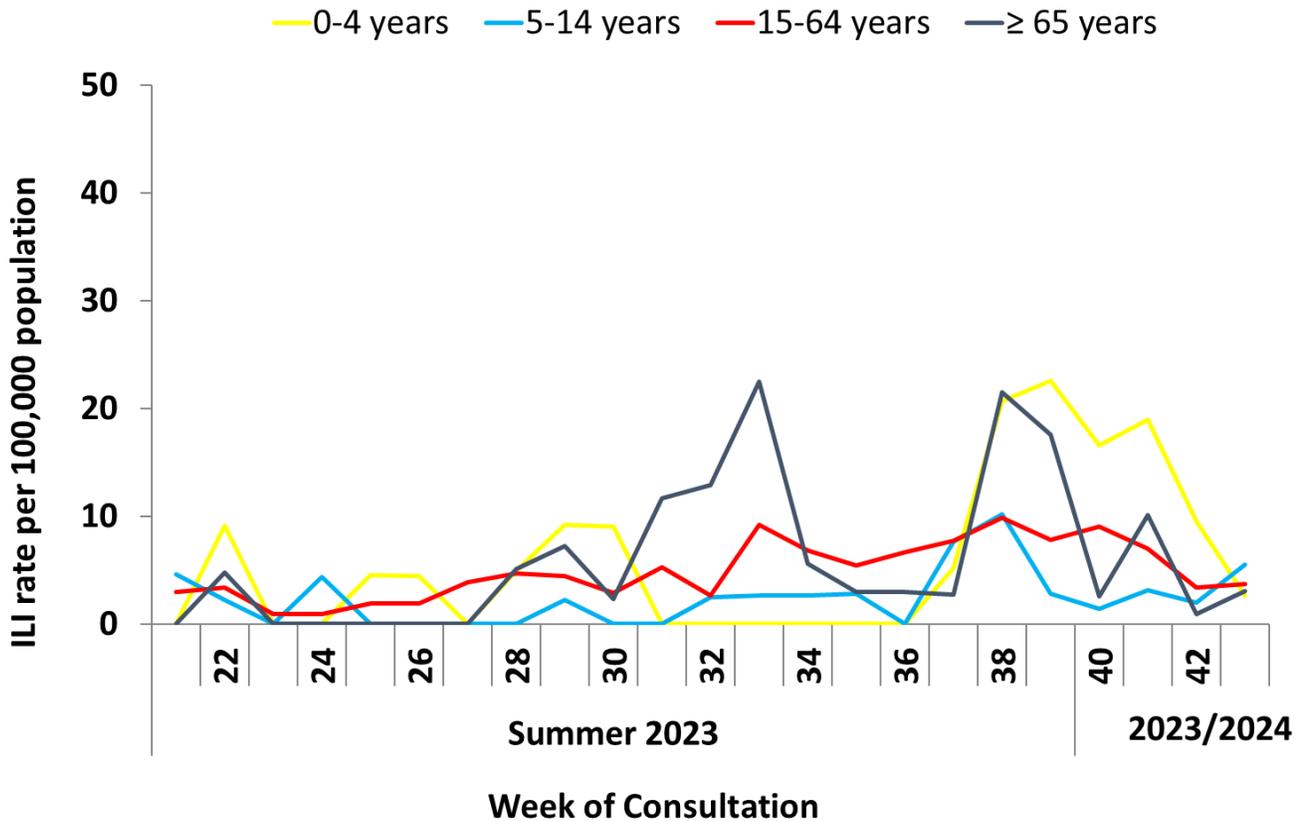


Figure 2: Age specific sentinel GP **ILI consultation** rate per 100,000 population by week (weeks 21-43 2023). *Source: ICGP.*

Table 1: Age specific sentinel GP **ILI consultation** rate per 100,000 population by week (weeks 40-43 2023), colour coded by sentinel GP ILI age specific Moving Epidemic Method (MEM) threshold levels. *Source: ICGP.*

MEM Threshold Levels	Below Baseline	Low	Moderate	High	Extraordinary
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	2023/2024			
Age group (years)	40	41	42	43
All Ages	7.4	7.6	3.1	3.8
<15 yrs	5.4	7.2	3.9	4.3
15-64 yrs	9.0	7.0	3.3	3.7
≥65 yrs	2.5	10.1	0.9	3.0
Reporting practices (N=83)	59	57	83	72

2. Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Detections - NVRL

The data reported in this section for the 2023/2024 influenza season refers to sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens routinely tested for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), adenovirus, parainfluenza virus types 1-4 (PIV-1-4), human metapneumovirus (hMPV) and rhino/enteroviruses by the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) (Tables 2 & 3, Figure 3a, 3b, 4W).

- A lag time with testing and reporting is noted for the most recent surveillance week.
- During week 43 2023, of 135 sentinel GP ARI specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, two (1.5%) were positive for influenza (two influenza A(H3)), 8 (5.9 %) for SARS-CoV-2, seven (5.2%) for RSV and 28 (20.7%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- In comparison during week 42 2023, of 141 sentinel GP ARI specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, seven (5%) were positive for influenza (including three influenza A(H3) and four influenza A(H1)pdm09), 19 (13.5%) for SARS-CoV-2, five (3.5%) for RSV and 33 (23.4%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- During week 43 2023, of 99 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested and reported by the NVRL, two (2%) were positive for influenza, (one influenza A (H3) and one influenza A(H1)pdm09), five (5.1%) for RSV and 16 (16.2%) for rhino/enterovirus.
- During week 42 2023, of 148 non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested, four (2.7%) were positive for influenza, six (4.1%) for RSV, and 40 (27%) for rhino/enterovirus (Figure 3b).
- Other respiratory viruses (ORVs) are being detected at lower levels (Figure 3a and 3b).
- Of 21 sentinel GP ARI specimens and non-sentinel respiratory specimens positive for influenza and reported by the NVRL during the 2023/2024 season, four (19%) were coinfecting with rhino/enteroviruses and SARS-CoV-2.

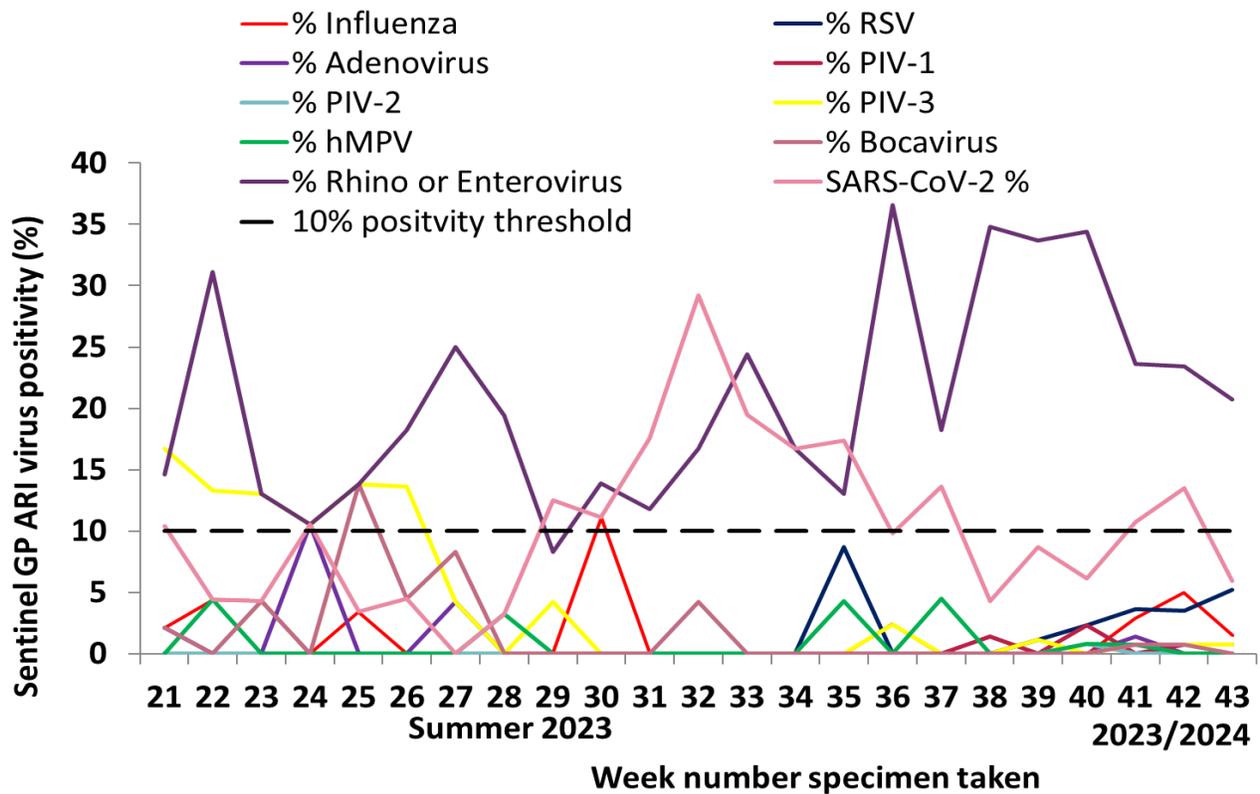


Figure 3a: Percentage positive results for **sentinel GP ARI** specimens tested by the NVRL for influenza, SARS-CoV-2, RSV and other respiratory viruses by week specimen was taken, weeks 21-43 2023. *Source: NVRL*

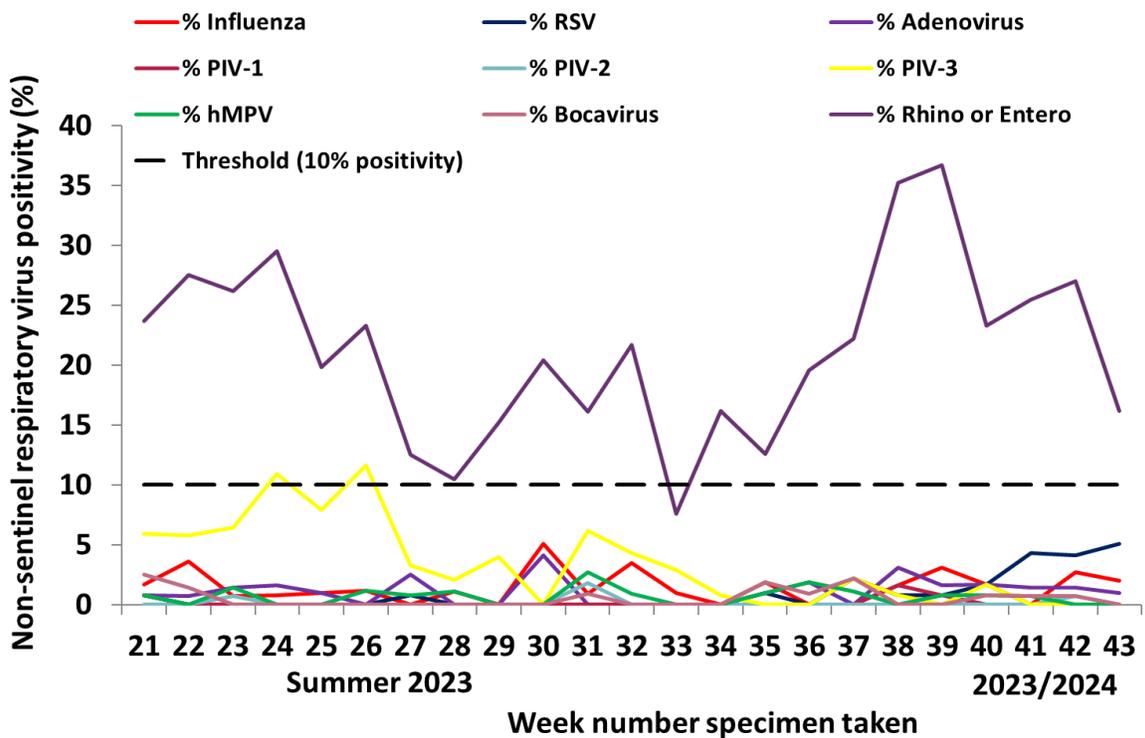


Figure 3b: Percentage positive results for **non-sentinel respiratory** specimens tested by the NVRL for influenza, RSV and other respiratory viruses by week specimen was taken, weeks 21-43 2023. *Source: NVRL*

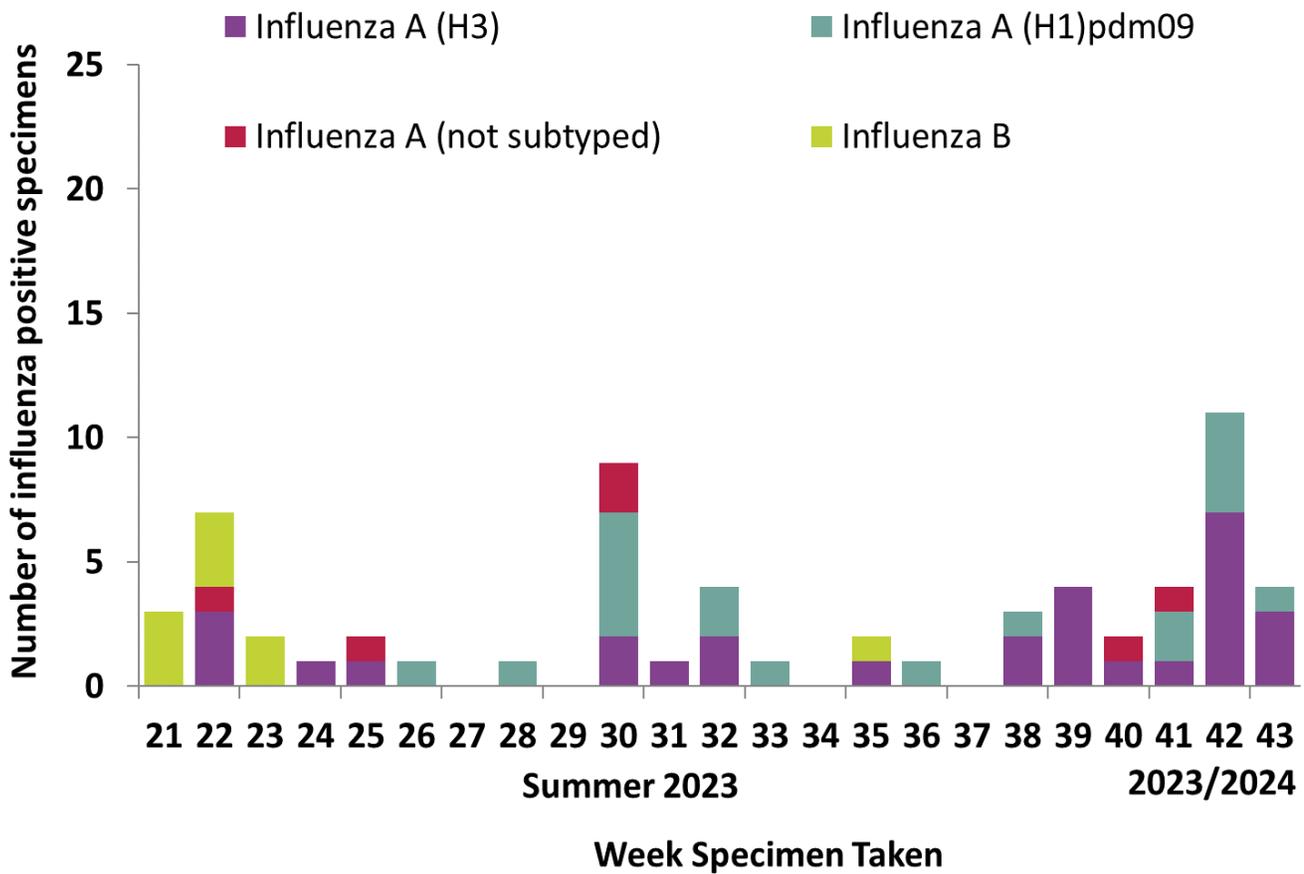


Figure 4: Number of positive influenza specimens (from sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory sources) tested by the NVRL by influenza type/subtype and by week specimen was taken, weeks 21-43 2023. *Source: NVRL*

Table 2: Number of sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL and positive **influenza** results, overall and by influenza type and subtype, for weeks 42 and 43 2023 and the 2023/2024 Season. *Source: NVRL*

Surveillance period	Specimen type	Total tested	Number influenza	% Influenza positive	Influenza A				Influenza B			
					A(H1)pdm09	A(H3)	A (not subtyped)	Total	B	B Victoria	B Yamagata	Total
Week 43 2023	Sentinel GP ARI	135	2	1.5	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel respiratory	99	2	2.0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Total	234	4	1.7	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0
Week 42 2023	Sentinel GP ARI	141	7	5.0	4	3	0	7	0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel respiratory	148	4	2.7	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
	Total	289	11	3.8	4	7	0	11	0	0	0	0
2023/2024	Sentinel GP ARI	547	13	2.4	6	6	1	13	0	0	0	0
	Non-sentinel respiratory	508	8	1.6	1	6	1	8	0	0	0	0
	Total	1055	21	2.0	7	12	2	21	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Number of sentinel GP ARI and non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL and positive **RSV** results, overall and by RSV type, for weeks 42 and 43 2023 and the 2023/2024 Season. *Source: NVRL*

Surveillance period	Specimen type	Total tested	Number RSV positive	% RSV positive	RSV A	RSV B	RSV (unspecified)
Week 43 2023	Sentinel GP ARI	135	7	5.2	4	3	0
	Non-sentinel	99	5	5.1	3	2	0
	Total	234	12	5.1	7	5	0
Week 42 2023	Sentinel GP ARI	141	5	3.5	4	1	0
	Non-sentinel	148	6	4.1	4	2	0
	Total	289	11	3.8	8	3	0
2023/2024	Sentinel GP ILI/ARI	547	20	3.7	13	7	0
	Non-sentinel	508	19	3.7	14	5	0
	Total	1055	39	3.7	27	12	0

Table 4: Number and percentage positive sentinel GP ARI specimens tested by the NVRL by **respiratory virus**, weeks 42 and 43 2023, and the 2023/2024 season. *Source: NVRL*

Virus	Week 43 2023 (N=135)		Week 42 2023 (N=141)		2023/2024 (N=547)	
	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive
Influenza	2	1.5	7	5.0	13	2.4
SARS-CoV-2	8	5.9	19	13.5	50	9.1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	7	5.2	5	3.5	20	3.7
Rhino/enterovirus	28	20.7	33	23.4	139	25.4
Adenovirus	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
Bocavirus	0	0.0	1	0.7	2	0.4
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
Parainfluenza virus type 1 (PIV-1)	1	0.7	1	0.7	5	0.9
Parainfluenza virus type 2 (PIV-2)	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV-3)	1	0.7	1	0.7	3	0.5
Parainfluenza virus type 4 (PIV-4)	2	1.5	3	2.1	16	2.9

Table 5: Number and percentage positive non-sentinel respiratory specimens tested by the NVRL, by **respiratory virus**, weeks 42 and 43 2023, and the 2023/2024 season. *Source: NVRL*

Virus	Week 43 2023 (N=99)		Week 42 2023 (N=148)		2023/2024 (N=508)	
	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive	Total positive	% positive
Influenza	2	2.0	4	2.7	8	1.6
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	5	5.1	6	4.1	19	3.7
Rhino/enterovirus	16	16.2	40	27.0	120	23.6
Adenovirus	1	1.0	2	1.4	7	1.4
Bocavirus	0	0.0	1	0.7	3	0.6
Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
Parainfluenza virus type 1 (PIV-1)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Parainfluenza virus type 2 (PIV-2)	0	0.0	1	0.7	1	0.2
Parainfluenza virus type 3 (PIV-3)	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
Parainfluenza virus type 4 (PIV-4)	3	3.0	5	3.4	13	2.6

3. GP Out-Of-Hours services surveillance

National data on calls to GP Out-of-Hours services in Ireland are collated by HPSC. Five out of 14 Out-of-Hours GP services currently participate in this programme. Records of calls with clinical symptoms self-reported as ‘flu’ or ‘cough’ are included in the analysis. This information may act as an early indicator of circulation of influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2, or other respiratory viruses.

- Four GP OOH services provided data for week 43 2023.
- Out of a total of 10,042 calls made to the participating GP OOHs in week 43:
 - 1,645 (16.4%) were for self-reported ‘cough’, which is above the baseline threshold of 10.8% for cough calls (Figure 5 and 6).
 - 104 (1.0%) were for self-reported ‘flu’, which is below the baseline threshold for ‘flu’ calls of 2.3% (Figure 7 and 8).
- 35.6% of cough calls was in those aged 0-4 years.

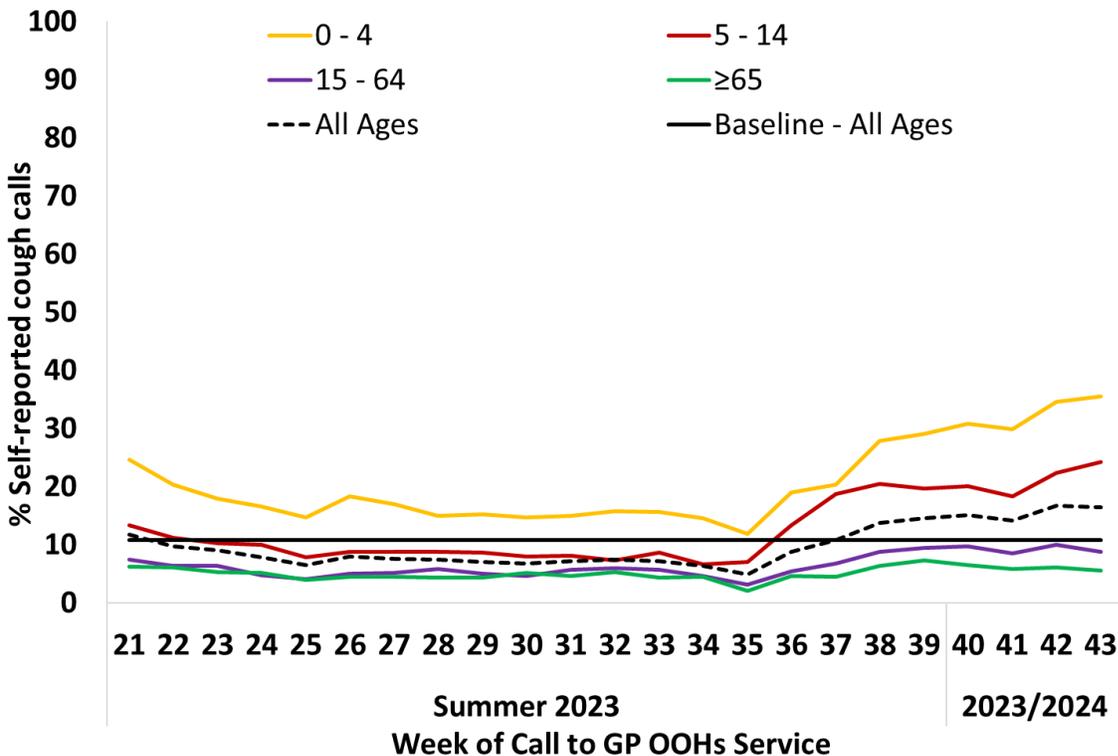


Figure 5: Percentage of self-reported **COUGH** calls for all ages and by age group as a proportion of total calls to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, summer 2023 and the 2023/2024 season. The baseline % cough calls for all ages calculated using the MEM method on historic data is shown. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP).*

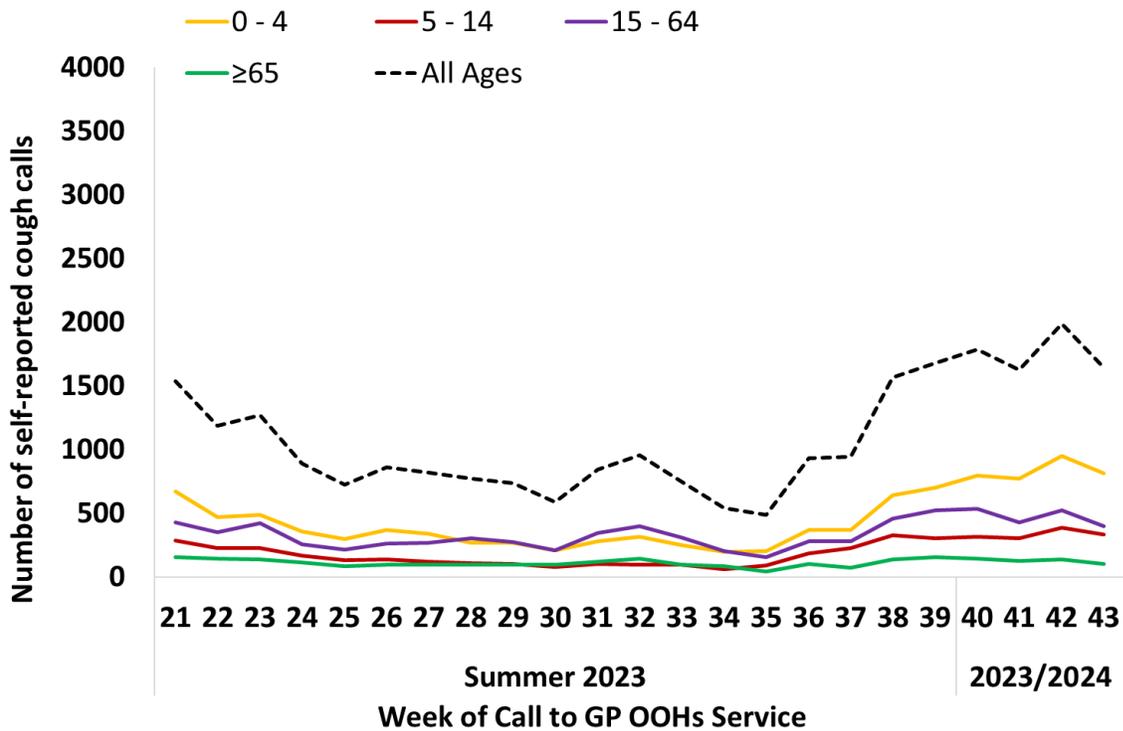


Figure 6: Number of self-reported **COUGH** calls for all ages and by age group to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP).*

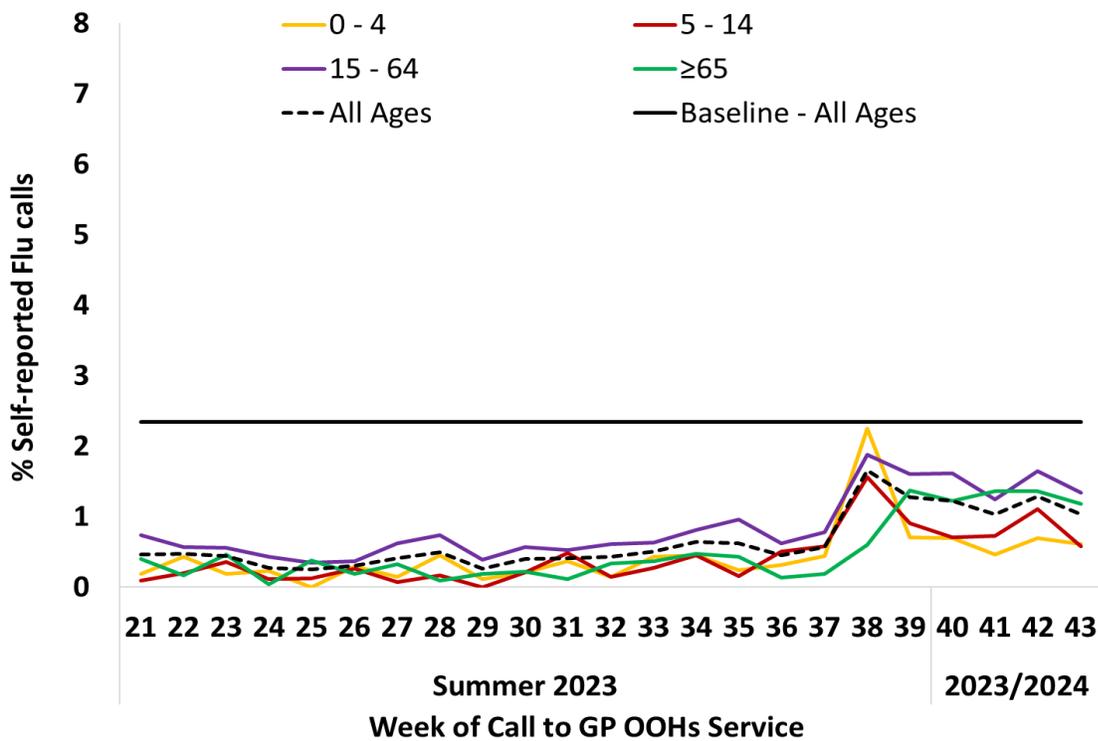


Figure 7: Percentage of self-reported **FLU** calls for all ages and by age group as a proportion of total calls to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. The baseline % flu calls for all ages calculated using the MEM method on historic data is shown. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP)*

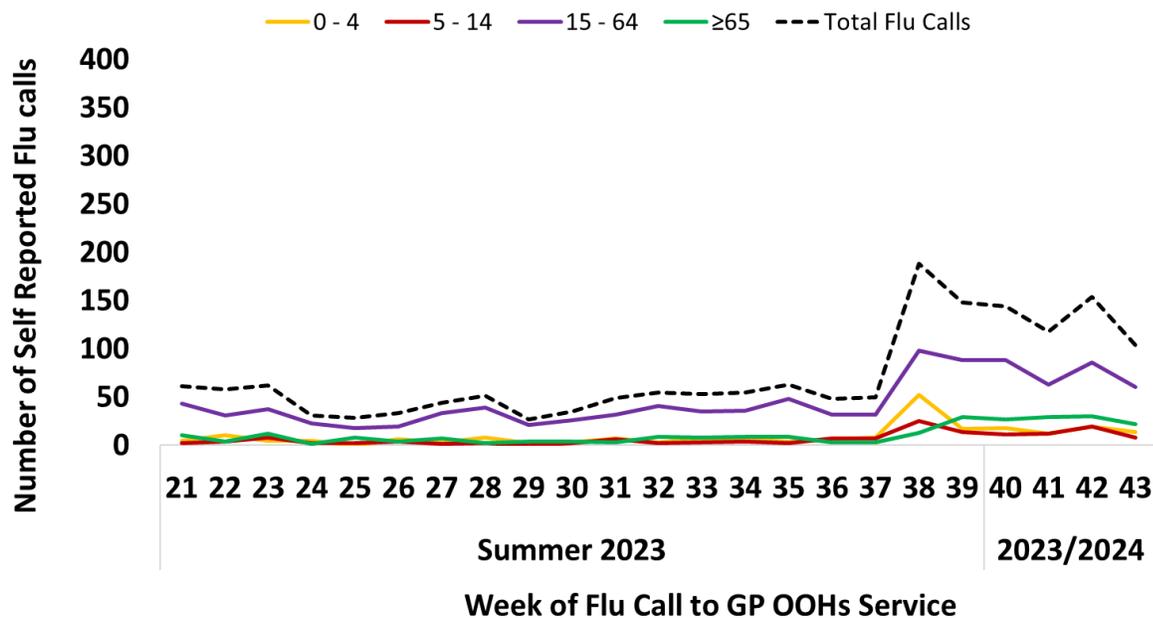


Figure 8: Number of self-reported **FLU** calls for all ages and by age group to GP Out-of-Hours services by week of call, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: GP Out-Of-Hours services in Ireland (collated by HSE & ICGP).*

4. Influenza & RSV notifications

Influenza and RSV case notifications are reported on Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR), including all laboratory-confirmed influenza/RSV specimens reported from all laboratories testing for influenza/RSV.

Influenza and RSV notifications are reported in the [Weekly Infectious Disease Report for Ireland](#).

- 46 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were notified during week 43 2023 (Table 6): four influenza A (H3), two A(H1)pdm09, 29 influenza A (not subtyped) and 11 influenza B. This is an increase compared to 29 cases notified during week 42 2023 (Figure 9).
- Age specific rates in notified laboratory confirmed influenza cases were low in all age groups during week 43 2023, although 30% (14/46) of the cases were in the 5-14 year age group (Figure 10).
- Laboratory confirmed influenza notified cases by HSE Health Region, are reported in Table 6.
- 198 RSV cases were notified during week 43 2023, an increase compared to 120 cases notified during week 42 2023 (Figure 11).
- Age specific notification rates for RSV were highest in those aged less than one year old (Figure 12), at 114.0 /100 000 population, followed by the 1–4-year age group at 32.7/100,000.

Table 6: Number of laboratory confirmed **influenza** notifications by HSE Health Region for week 43 2023 and the 2023/2024 season to date. *Source: CIDR*

HSE Health Region	Week 43 2023	2023/2024 season (Week 40- 43 2023)
Dublin and North East	8	30
Dublin and Midlands	10	18
Dublin and South East	7	16
South West	10	26
Mid West	4	6
North and North West	7	22
Total	46	118

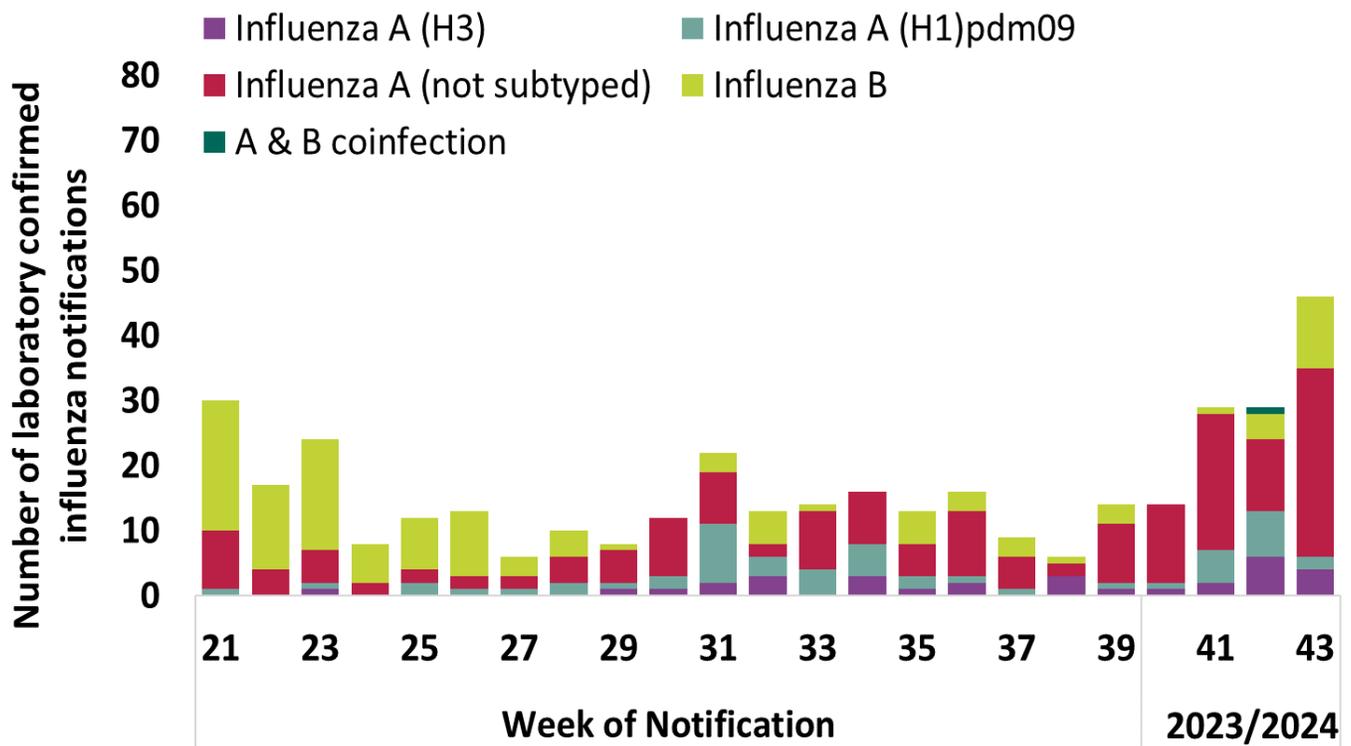


Figure 9: Number of laboratory confirmed **influenza** notifications by influenza type/subtype and week, summer 2023 and 2023/2024 season. *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System*

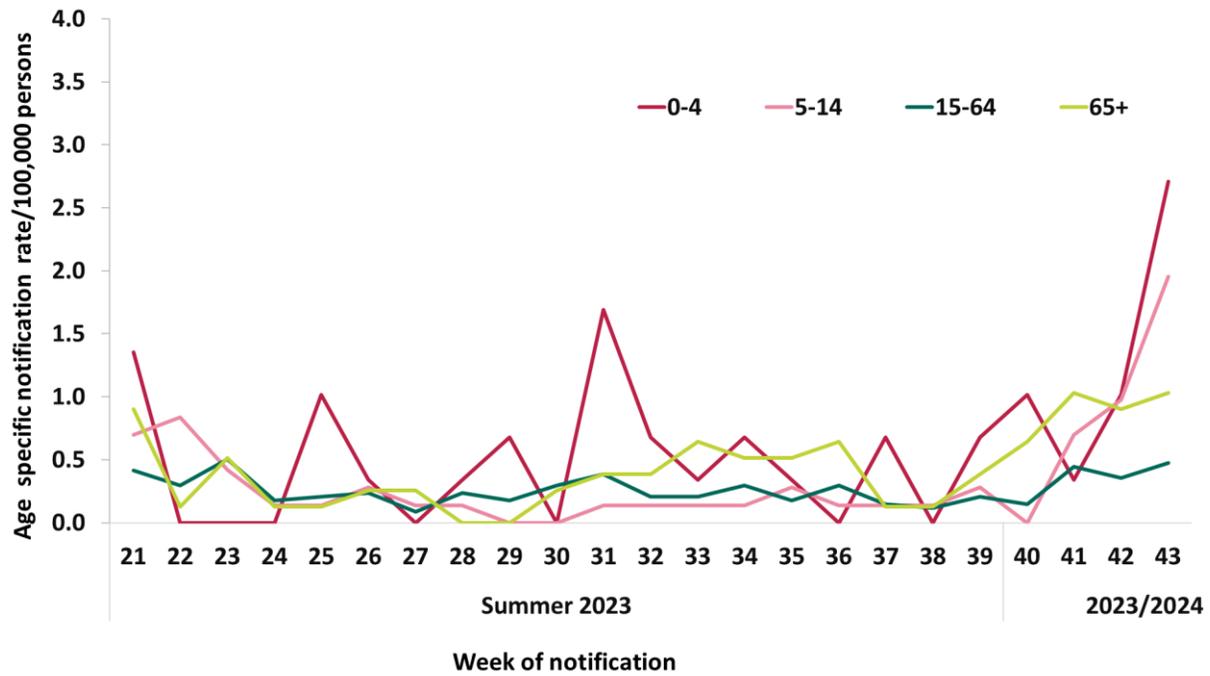


Figure 10: Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed **influenza** notifications to HPSC by week of notification and season, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

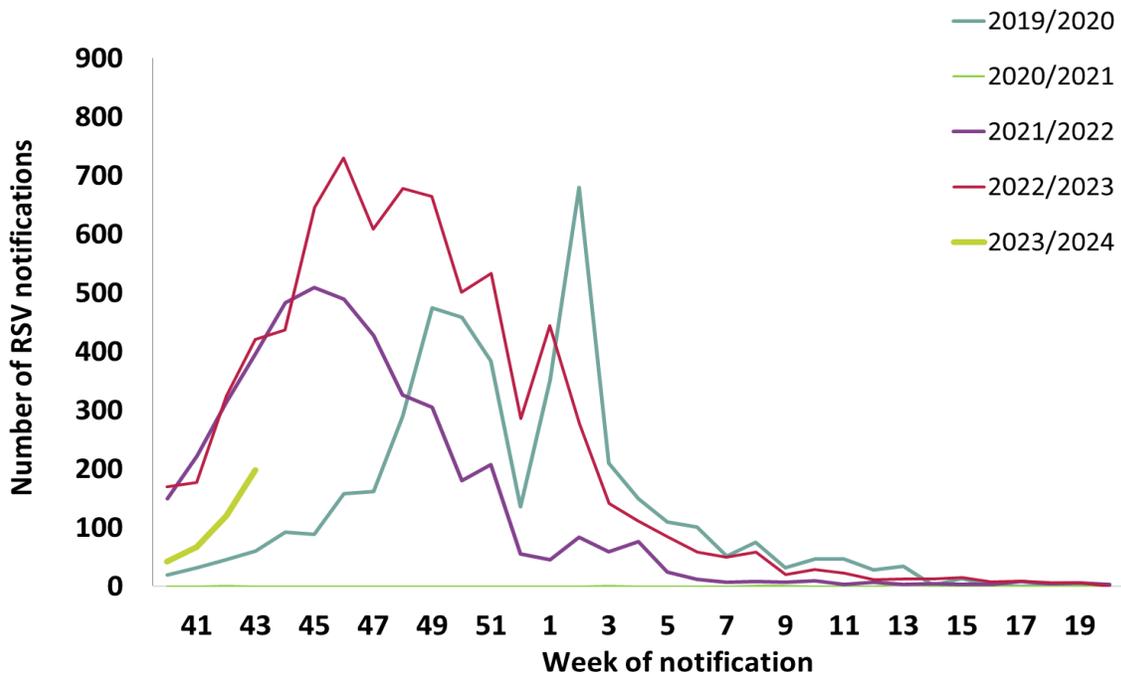


Figure 11: Number of laboratory confirmed **RSV** notifications to HPSC by week of notification, 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 seasons. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

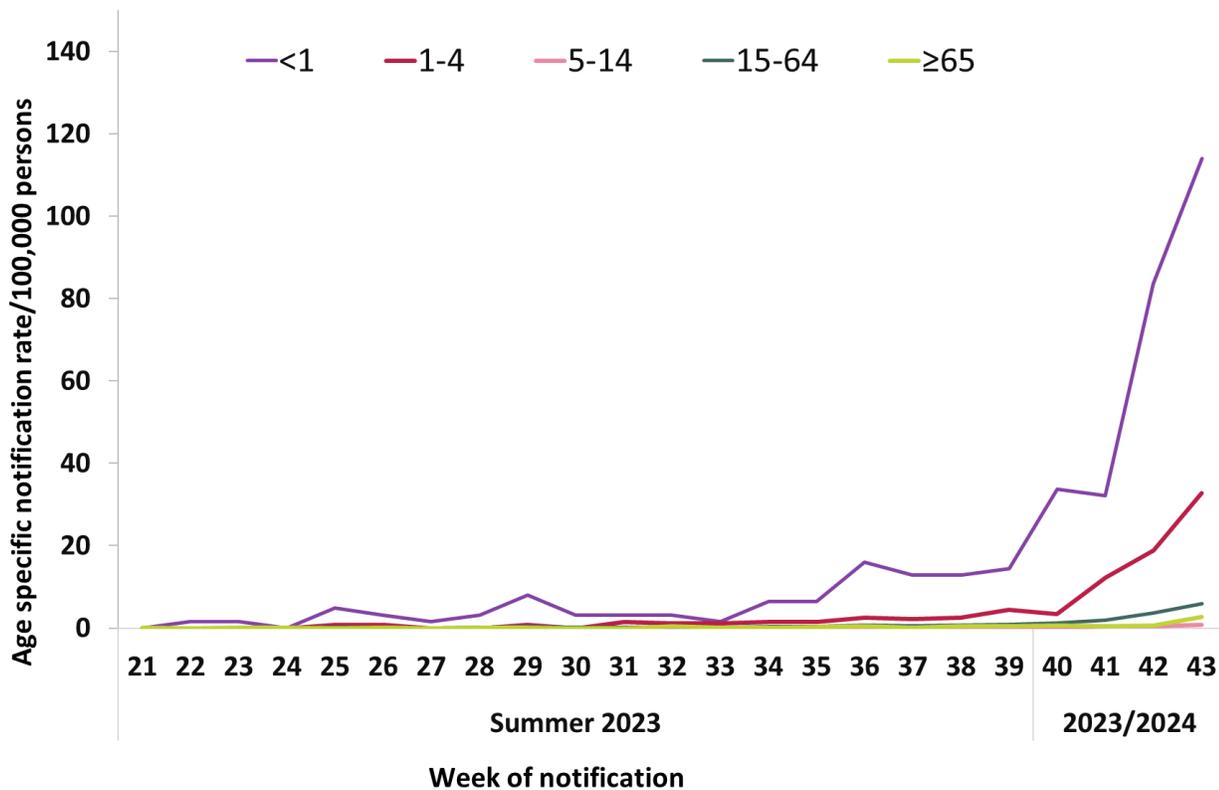


Figure 12: Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed RSV notifications to HPSC by week of notification-weeks 21-43, 2023. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

5. Hospitalisations

- During week 43 2023, the number of notified laboratory confirmed influenza hospital inpatients increased with 20 cases notified compared to 11 in week 42. Fourteen of the hospitalised cases were influenza A (not subtyped), and six influenza B (Figure 13).
- During week 43 2023, age specific notification rates for laboratory confirmed influenza hospital inpatients were low in all age groups, although they have increased slightly in recent weeks (Figure 14).
- During week 43 2023, 98 laboratory confirmed RSV hospital inpatients were notified, an increase from 62 cases in week 42 2023 (Figure 13).
- The age specific rate for RSV hospitalisation was highest for those aged less than one year old (65.7/100000 population) and those aged 1-4 years (20.2/100,000 population).
- The number of laboratory confirmed influenza and RSV notifications by patient type and week for the 2023/2024 season are reported in Tables 7 and 8.

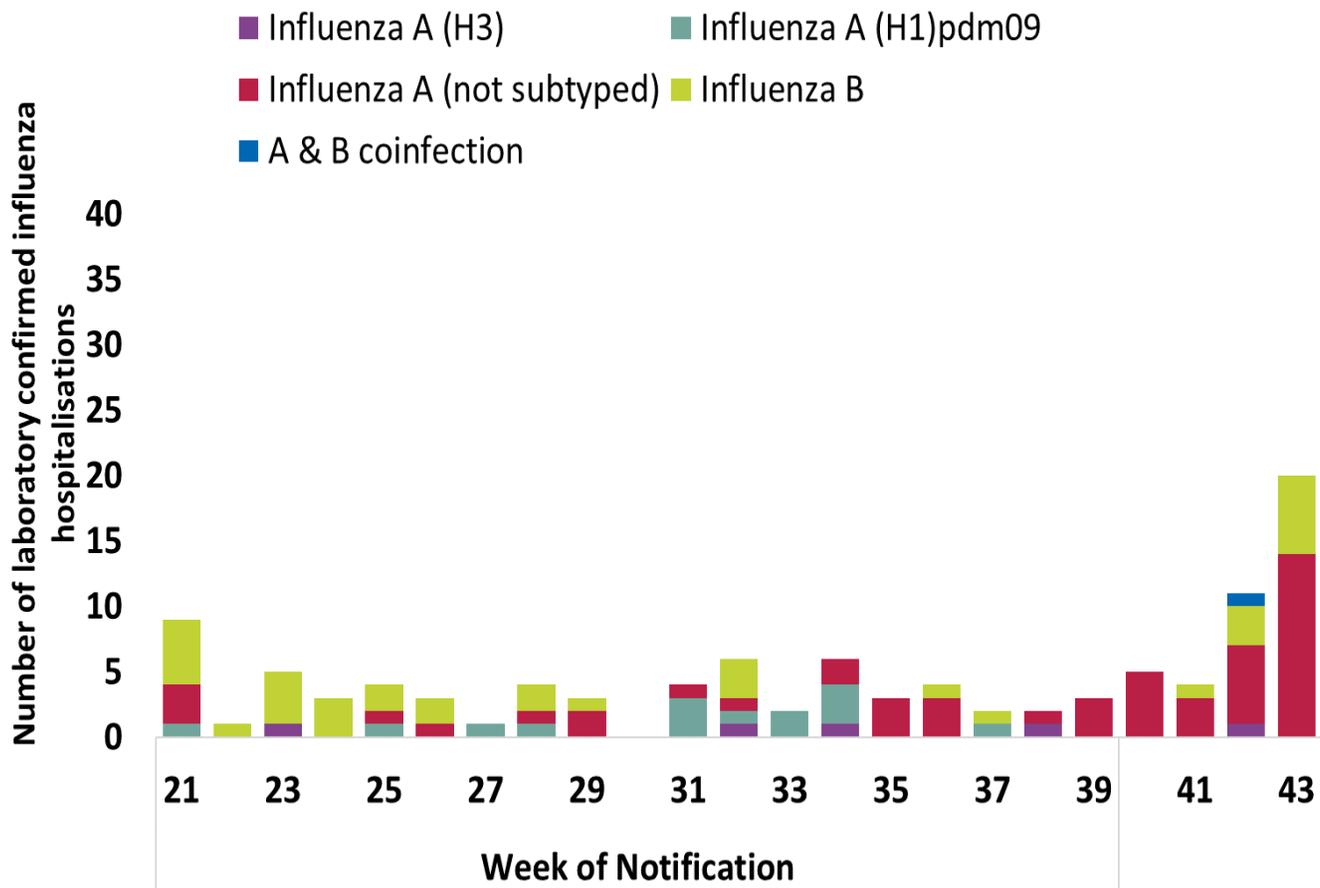


Figure 13: Number of notified laboratory-confirmed **influenza** hospital inpatients by influenza type/subtype by week, summer 2023 and 2023/2024 season. *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

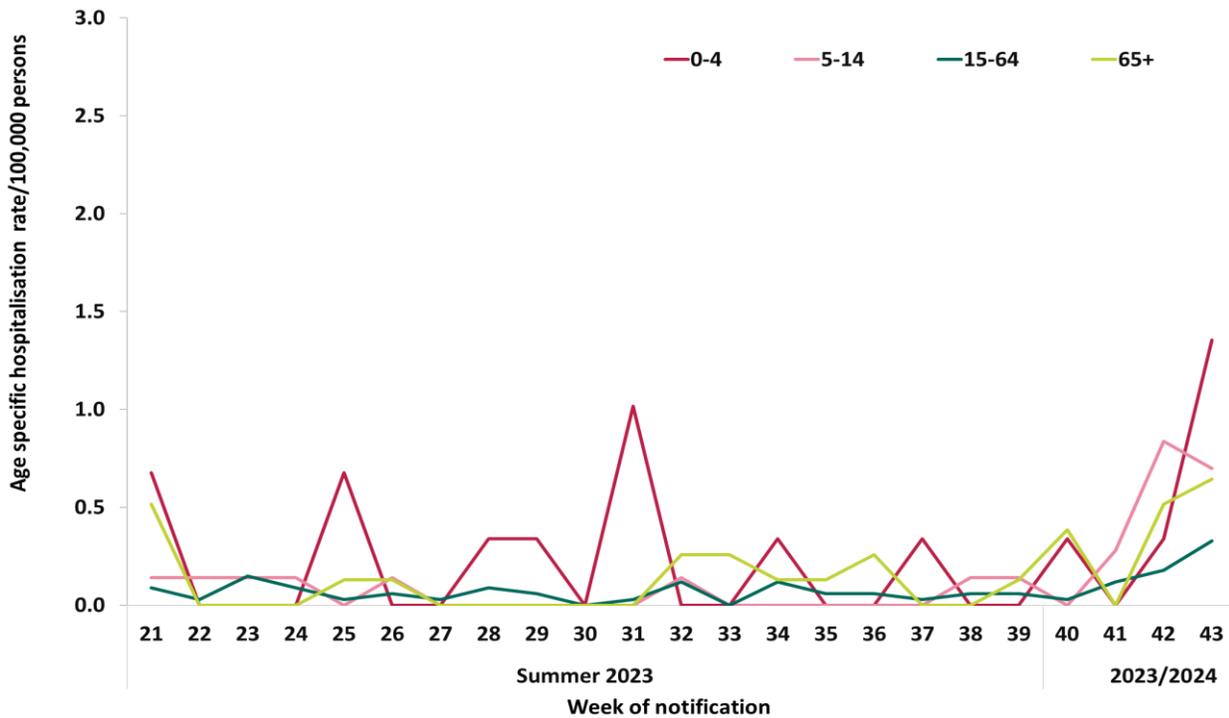


Figure 14: Age specific rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed **influenza** cases reported as **hospital inpatients** by week of notification and season, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

Table 7: Number of notified laboratory-confirmed **influenza** cases by patient type and week of notification 2023/2024 season (week 40 2023 onwards). *Source: Ireland’s Computerised infectious Disease Reporting System*

	Patient Type							Total
	GP Patient	ED patient	Hospital Inpatient	Hospital Day Patient	Hospital Outpatient	Other	Unknown	
Week 43	7	17	20	0	0	0	2	46
Week 42	5	8	11	0	1	0	4	29
Week 41	3	14	4	0	3	0	5	29
Week 40	0	6	5	0	3	0	0	14
Total	15	45	40	0	7	0	11	118

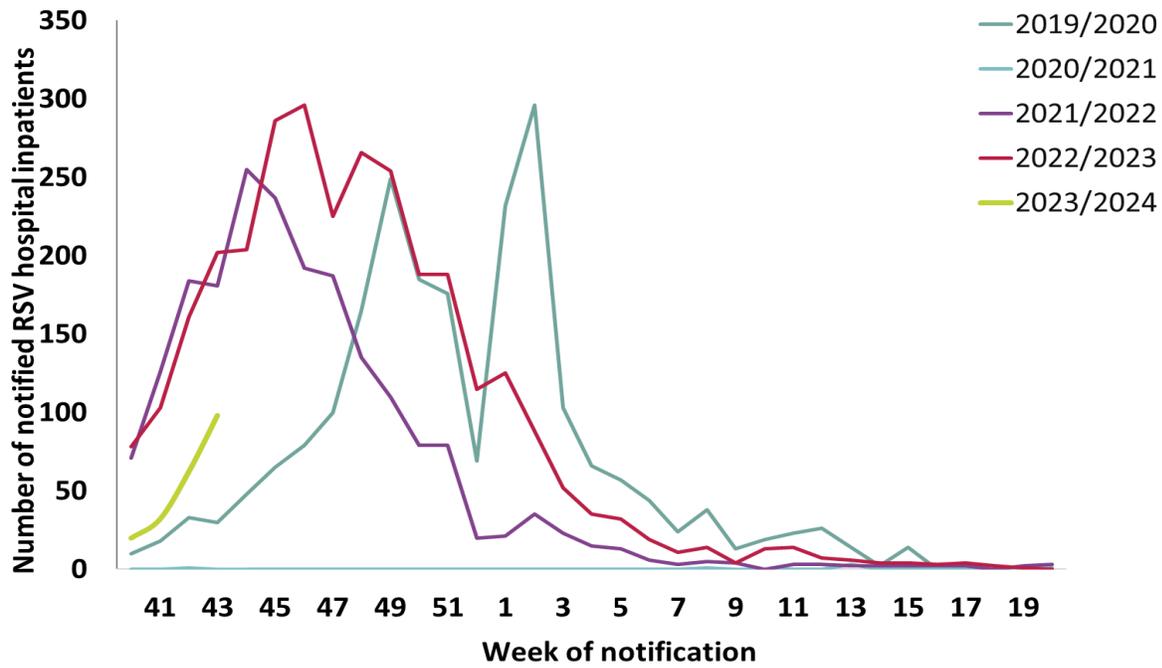


Figure 15: Number of notified **RSV** hospital inpatients, by week of notification and season, for the 2019/2020 to 2023/2024 seasons. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System.*

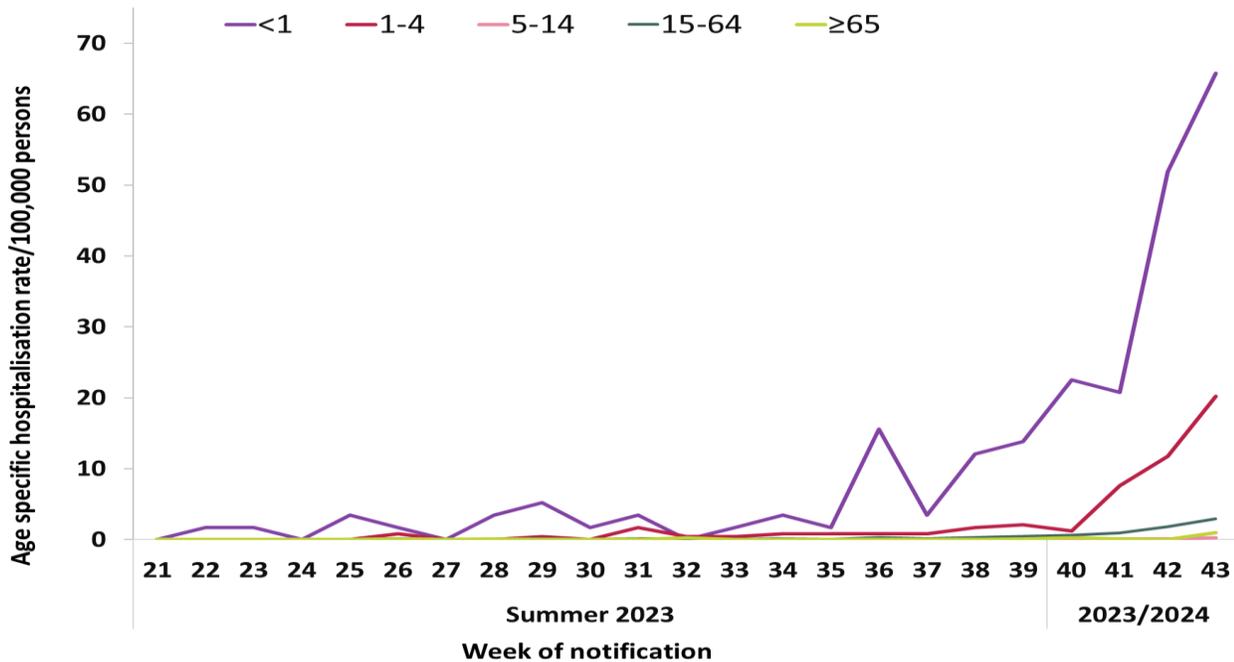


Figure 16: Age specific notification rates per 100,000 population for laboratory confirmed **RSV** hospital inpatients by week of notification and season, Summer 2023 and 2023/2024. *Source: Ireland’s Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System*

Table 8: Number of notified laboratory confirmed RSV cases by patient type and week of notification, 2023/2024 season (week 40 2023 onwards). *Source: Ireland's Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System*

	Patient Type							Total
	GP Patient	ED patient	Hospital Inpatient	Hospital Day Patient	Hospital Outpatient	Other	Unknown	
Week 43	1	66	98	0	8	2	23	198
Week 42	2	33	61	0	9	6	9	120
Week 41	1	23	33	1	1	1	7	67
Week 40	0	16	20	1	2	3	1	43
Total	4	138	212	2	20	12	40	428

6. Intensive Care Surveillance

The Intensive Care Society of Ireland (ICSI) and the HSE Critical Care Programme conducts enhanced surveillance (established during the 2009 pandemic), on all intensive care patients with laboratory confirmed influenza. HPSC processes and reports on this information on behalf of the regional Directors of Public Health/Medical Officers of Health.

- No laboratory confirmed influenza cases were admitted to intensive care and notified to HPSC during week 43 2023 or for the season to date.

7. Mortality Surveillance

Influenza deaths include all deaths in notified influenza cases. HPSC receives daily mortality data from the General Register Office (GRO) on all deaths from all causes registered in Ireland. These data have been used to monitor excess all-cause and influenza and pneumonia mortality as part of the influenza surveillance system and the European Mortality Monitoring Project. Excess mortality analyses are corrected for reporting delays with the standardised EuroMOMO algorithm. Due to delays in death registrations in Ireland, excess mortality data included in this report are reported with a one-week lag time. These data are provisional due to the time delay in deaths' registration in Ireland. <http://www.euromomo.eu/>

- There were no deaths in notified influenza cases reported to HPSC during week 43 2023 or for the season to date.
- There was no excess mortality reported for week 42 2023.

8. Outbreak Surveillance

In this surveillance report, ARI outbreaks refer to outbreaks of acute respiratory infection caused by pathogens other than influenza, SARS-CoV-2 or RSV. COVID-19 outbreaks are not included in this report; surveillance data on COVID-19 outbreaks are detailed on the HPSC website. <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/casesinireland/>

- During week 43 2023, one RSV outbreak in a childcare facility and one ARI outbreak in a school (for which the identified pathogen was mycoplasma pneumoniae) were reported to HPSC (Tables 9 & 10).

Table 9: Summary of influenza, RSV and ARI (influenza/RSV/SARS-CoV-2 negative) outbreaks by HSE Area during week 43 2023 and the 2023/2024 season (weeks 40-43 2023) *Source: CIDR*

HSE Health Region	Influenza		RSV		ARI		Total	
	Week 43	2023/2024	Week 43	2023/2024	Week 43	2023/2024	Week 43	2023/2024
Dublin and North East	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Dublin and Midlands	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2
Dubin and South East	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	3
South West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid West	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North and Nort West	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1	2	1	5	2	8

Table 10: Summary of influenza, RSV and ARI (influenza/RSV/SARS-CoV-2 negative) outbreaks by outbreak setting during week 43 2023 and the 2023/2024 season (weeks 40-43 2023). *Source: CIDR*

Setting	Influenza		RSV		ARI		Total	
	Week 43	2023/2024	Week 43	2023/2024	Week 43	2023/2024	Week 43	2023/2024
Community hospital/Long-stay unit	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Nursing Home	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Hospital	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Residential Institution	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Childcare facility	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Family Outbreaks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other settings	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	0	1	1	2	1	5	2	8

9. International Summary

According to European respiratory virus surveillance, during week 42 2023 (including data up to 22/10/2023), for all sentinel primary care specimens; influenza activity remained below the 10% epidemic threshold, SARS-CoV-2 remained stable and elevated at 12% compared to the week prior and RSV remained stable at 4%. Of 36 reporting countries or areas reporting influenza intensity, 15 reported sporadic and 3 (Slovakia, Spain and United Kingdom (Scotland)) reported local spread influenza activity. Five countries reported an increasing trend of RSV positivity with the Netherlands reaching 11% and France 7%.

Seasonal influenza and RSV detections in non-sentinel data were low compared to the same time last year, although RSV detections have been increasing steadily for the past seven weeks. Early signs of increase in RSV activity have also been reported in parts of the European region and the United States of America.

As of 15th October 2023, WHO has reported that globally influenza detections remained low. In the temperate zones of the Northern hemisphere influenza activity was reported at low levels.

See [ECDC](#) and [WHO](#) influenza surveillance reports for further information.

- Further information on influenza is available on the following websites:
 - Europe – ECDC <http://ecdc.europa.eu/>
 - Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/weekly-national-flu-reports>
 - United States CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>
 - Public Health Agency of Canada <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
- 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/>
- Avian influenza overview May – August 2020 <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/avian-influenza-overview-may-august-2020>
- Avian influenza: EU on alert for new outbreaks <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/avian-influenza-eu-alert-new-outbreaks>
- Information on COVID-19 in Ireland is available on the HPSC website <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- The WHO categorised COVID-19 as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. For more information about the situation in the WHO European Region visit:
 - WHO website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
 - ECDC website: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

11. WHO recommendations on the composition of influenza virus vaccines

The WHO vaccine strain selection committee recommends that quadrivalent egg-based vaccines for use in the 2023/2024 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:

- an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus; and
- a B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/Yamagata lineage)-like virus.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/24-02-2023-recommendations-announced-for-influenza-vaccine-composition-for-the-2023-2024-northern-hemisphere-influenza-season>

Further information on influenza in Ireland is available at www.hpsc.ie

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