

# Weekly influenza surveillance overview

12 October 2012

## Main surveillance developments in week 40/2012 (01-07 Oct 2012)

This first page contains the main developments for this week and can be printed separately or together with the more detailed information that follows.

Week 40/2012 was the first week of the influenza surveillance season and ECDC will be producing the WISO on its weekly schedule.

- During week 40/2012, of 25 reporting countries, 24 countries experienced low intensity of clinical influenza activity, 22 countries no geographic spread and 19 countries stable or decreasing trends (all at the lowest categories)
- No sentinel specimen was tested positive for influenza. From non-sentinel sources, 11 influenza A viruses and four influenza B viruses were detected.
- No severe hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza case was reported.

During the first week of the 2012–2013 influenza season, there was no evidence of significant influenza activity in Europe.

**Sentinel surveillance of influenza-like illness (ILI)/ acute respiratory infection (ARI):** Low intensity of clinical influenza activity was reported by all 25 countries reporting, apart from Lithuania which reported medium activity. For more information, [click here](#).

**Virological surveillance:** No sentinel specimen was tested positive for influenza. Of 15 viruses from non-sentinel sources, 73.3% were influenza A viruses and 26.7% were influenza B viruses. For more information, [click here](#).

**Hospital surveillance of influenza laboratory-confirmed cases:** In week 40/2012, no severe hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza case was reported. For more information, [click here](#).

# Sentinel surveillance (ILI/ARI)

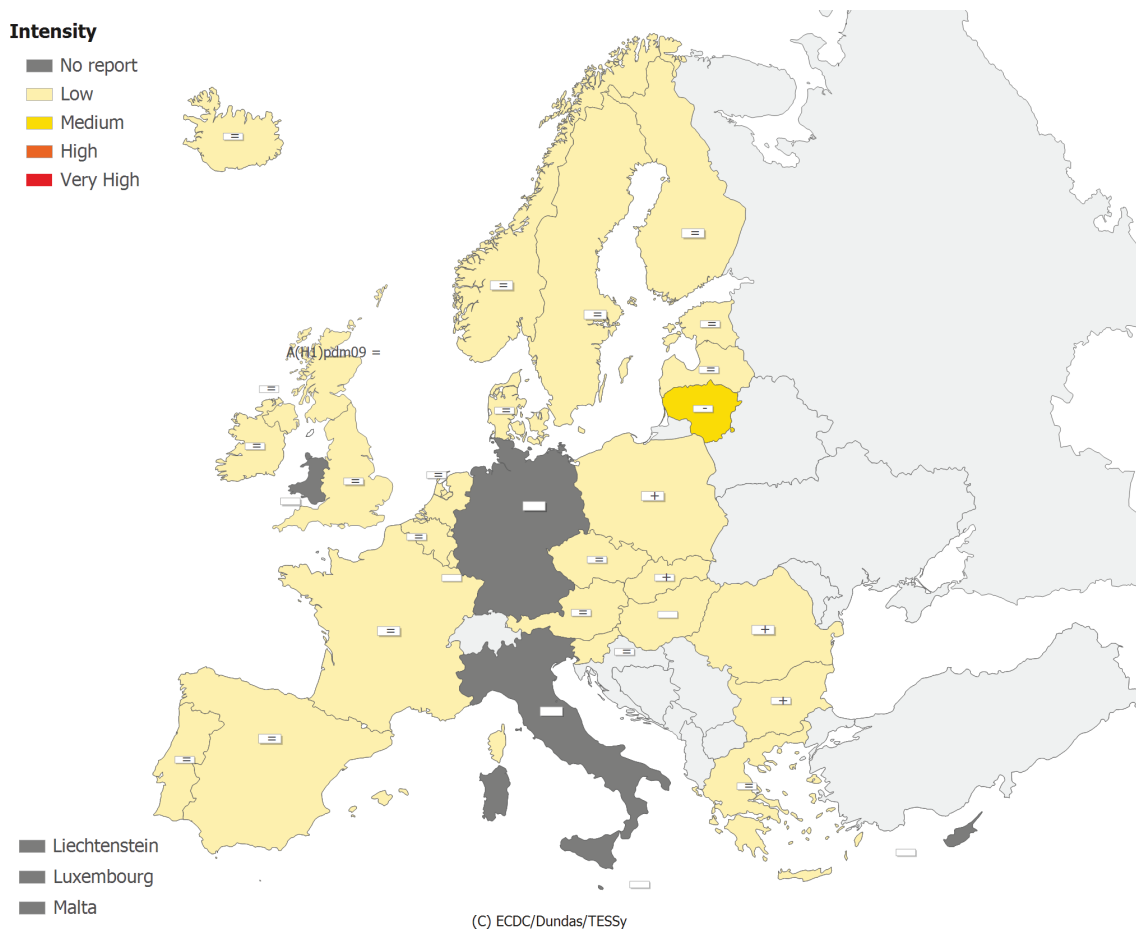
## Weekly analysis – epidemiology

During week 40/2012, twenty-five countries reported clinical data. All reporting countries experienced low intensity of clinical influenza activity, apart from Lithuania which reported medium activity (Table 1, Map 1).

Twenty countries and the UK (England and Northern Ireland) reported no geographic spread, while sporadic activity was reported by four countries (France, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden) and the UK (Scotland) (Table 1, Map 2).

Stable trends were reported by 18 countries while increasing trends were reported by Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. A decreasing trend was reported by Lithuania (Table 1, Map 2).

**Map 1. Intensity for week 40/2012**



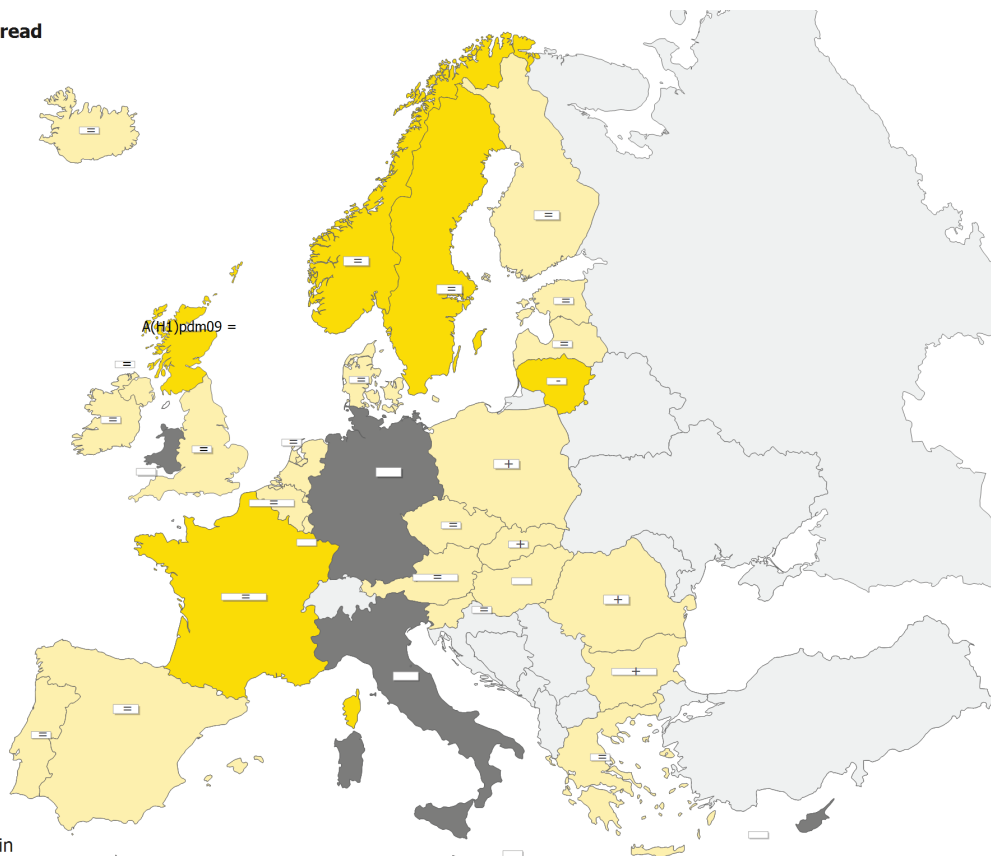
\* A type/subtype is reported as dominant when at least ten samples have been detected as influenza positive in the country and of those > 40 % are positive for the type/subtype.  
 Legend:

<b>No report</b>	Intensity level was not reported	+	Increasing clinical activity
<b>Low</b>	No influenza activity or influenza at baseline levels	-	Decreasing clinical activity
<b>Medium</b>	Usual levels of influenza activity	=	Stable clinical activity
<b>High</b>	Higher than usual levels of influenza activity	<b>A(H1)pdm09</b>	Type A, Subtype (H1)pdm09
<b>Very high</b>	Particularly severe levels of influenza activity		

**Map 2. Geographic spread for week 40/2012**

**Geographic spread**

- No Report
- No Activity
- Sporadic
- Local
- Regional
- Widespread



- Liechtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Malta

(C) ECDC/Dundas/TESSy

\* A type/subtype is reported as dominant when at least ten samples have been detected as influenza positive in the country and of those > 40 % are positive for the type/subtype.

Legend:

<b>No report</b>	Activity level was not reported	+	Increasing clinical activity
<b>No activity</b>	No evidence of influenza virus activity (clinical activity remains at baseline levels)	-	Decreasing clinical activity
<b>Sporadic</b>	Isolated cases of laboratory confirmed influenza infection	=	Stable clinical activity
<b>Local outbreak</b>	Increased influenza activity in local areas (e.g. a city) within a region, or outbreaks in two or more institutions (e.g. schools) within a region (laboratory confirmed)	<b>A(H1)pdm09</b>	Type A, Subtype (H1)pdm09
<b>Regional activity</b>	Influenza activity above baseline levels in one or more regions with a population comprising less than 50% of the country's total population (laboratory confirmed)		
<b>Widespread</b>	Influenza activity above baseline levels in one or more regions with a population comprising 50% or more of the country's population (laboratory confirmed)		

**Table 1. Epidemiological and virological overview by country, week 40/2012**

Country	Intensity	Geographic spread	Trend	No. of sentinel swabs	Dominant type	Percentage positive	ILI per 100 000	ARI per 100 000	Epidemiological overview	Virological overview
Austria	Low	No activity	Stable	0	None	0.0	8.2	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Belgium	Low	No activity	Stable	17	-	0.0	56.4	2021.3	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Bulgaria	Low	No activity	Increasing	0	None	0.0	-	446.8	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Cyprus				-	-	0.0	-	-		
Czech Republic	Low	No activity	Stable	-	-	0.0	17.3	742.9	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Denmark	Low	No activity	Stable	1	-	0.0	9.4	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Estonia	Low	No activity	Stable	2	None	0.0	4.1	236.9	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Finland	Low	No activity	Stable	23	None	0.0	-	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
France	Low	Sporadic	Stable	-	-	0.0	-	1672.9	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Germany				10	None	0.0	-	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Greece	Low	No activity	Stable	0	-	0.0	36.0	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Hungary	Low	No activity	No information available	-	None	0.0	42.1	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Iceland	Low	No activity	Stable	-	-	0.0	2.5	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Ireland	Low	No activity	Stable	5	None	0.0	7.3	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Italy				-	-	0.0	-	-		
Latvia	Low	No activity	Stable	0	None	0.0	0.0	1188.0	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Lithuania	Medium	Sporadic	Decreasing	0	None	0.0	0.6	503.1	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Luxembourg	Low	No activity	No information available	0	-	0.0	-*	-*	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Malta				0	None	0.0	-*	-*	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Netherlands	Low	No activity	Stable	13	None	0.0	30.2	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Norway	Low	Sporadic	Stable	0	None	0.0	21.4	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Poland	Low	No activity	Increasing	5	None	0.0	116.1	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Portugal	Low	No activity	Stable	0	None	0.0	0.0	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Romania	Low	No activity	Increasing	-	-	0.0	0.0	611.5	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Slovakia	Low	No activity	Increasing	0	None	0.0	138.1	1518.1	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Slovenia	Low	No activity	Stable	3	None	0.0	0.0	962.1	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Spain	Low	No activity	Stable	40	None	0.0	9.2	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
Sweden	Low	Sporadic	Stable	5	-	0.0	1.5	-	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
UK - England	Low	No activity	Stable	2	None	0.0	4.4	303.3	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
UK - Northern Ireland	Low	No activity	Stable	1	-	0.0	8.8	333.2	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
UK - Scotland	Low	Sporadic	Stable	-	None	0.0	10.5	385.7	<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Graphs</a>
UK - Wales				-	-	0.0	-	-		
<b>Europe</b>				<b>127</b>		<b>0.0</b>			<b><a href="#">Graphs</a></b>	

\*Incidence per 100 000 is not calculated for these countries as no population denominator is provided.

Liechtenstein does not report to the European Influenza Surveillance Network.

## Description of the system

Surveillance is based on nationally organised sentinel networks of physicians, mostly general practitioners (GPs), covering at least 1 to 5% of the population in their countries. All EU/EEA Member States (except Liechtenstein) participate. Depending on their country's choice, each sentinel physician reports the weekly number of patients seen with influenza-like illness (ILI), acute respiratory infection (ARI), or both to a national focal point. From the national level, both numerator and denominator data are then reported to the European Surveillance System (TESSy) database. Additional semi-quantitative indicators of intensity, geographic spread, and trend of influenza activity at the national level are also reported.

# Virological surveillance

## Weekly analysis – virology

In week 40/2012, 23 countries reported virological data. Of 127 sentinel specimens tested, none was positive for influenza virus (Table 1). Fifteen non-sentinel source specimens, e.g. specimens collected for diagnostic purposes in hospitals, were found to be positive for influenza virus.

Of the 15 influenza viruses detected from non-sentinel sources during week 40/2012, 11 (73.3%) were type A, and four (26.7%) were type B. Of five subtyped influenza viruses, four (80%) were A(H1)pdm09 and one (20%) was an A(H3) virus. The lineage of the four detected influenza B viruses was not known (Table 1).

No data on antigenic or genetic characterisations and on sensitivity to antiviral drugs were reported in week 40/2012.

More details on viruses that circulated during the previous season (from 1 January 2012) can be found in the [September](#) report prepared by the Community Network of Reference Laboratories (CNRL) coordination team.

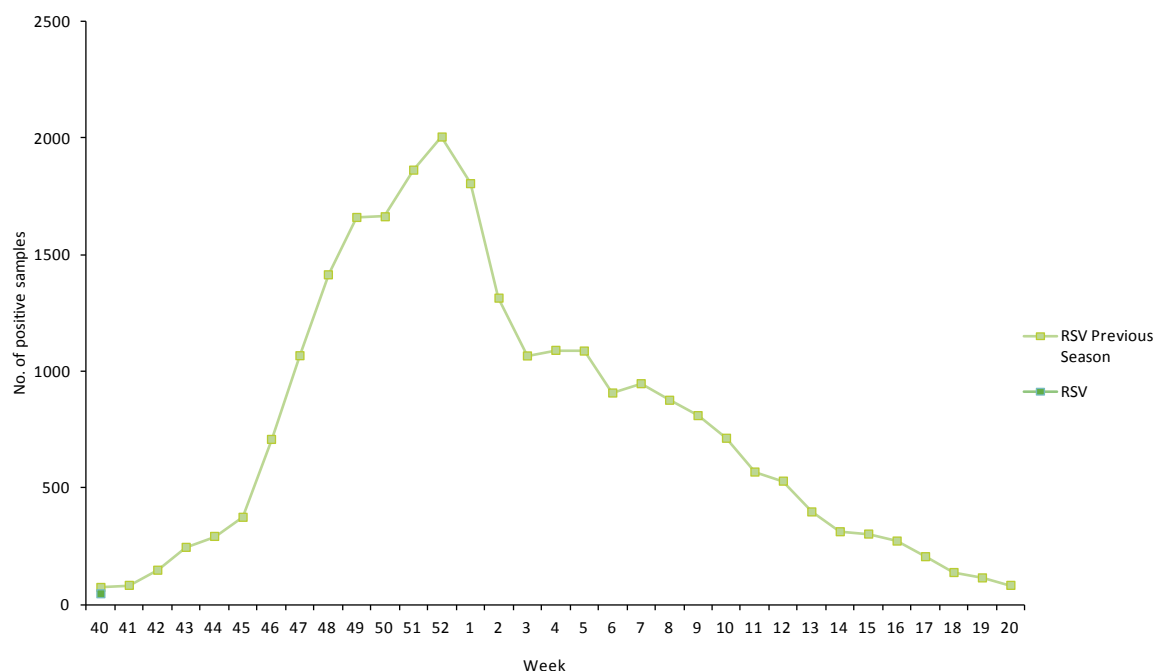
In week 40/2012, seven countries reported 46 respiratory syncytial virus detections (Figure 1).

**Table 2. Weekly and cumulative influenza virus detections by type, subtype and surveillance system, week 40/2012**

Virus type/subtype	Current period Sentinel	Current period Non-sentinel	Season Sentinel	Season Non-sentinel
Influenza A	0	11	0	11
A(H1)pdm09	0	4	0	4
A(H3)	0	1	0	1
A(sub-type unknown)	0	6	0	6
Influenza B	0	4	0	4
B(Vic) lineage	0	0	0	0
B(Yam) lineage	0	0	0	0
Unknown lineage	0	4	0	4
<b>Total influenza</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>

Note: A(H1)pdm09 and A(H3) include both N-subtyped and non-N-subtyped viruses

**Figure 1. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections, sentinel and non-sentinel, week 40/2012**



## Country comments

**Latvia:** In week 40/2012, the first influenza A case was imported by a traveller.

## Description of the system

According to the nationally defined sampling strategy, sentinel physicians take nasal or pharyngeal swabs from patients with influenza-like illness (ILI), acute respiratory infection (ARI), or both and send the specimens to influenza-specific reference laboratories for virus detection, (sub-)typing, antigenic or genetic characterisation and antiviral susceptibility testing.

For details on the current virus strains recommended by WHO for vaccine preparation [click here](#).

# Hospital surveillance – severe influenza disease

## Weekly analysis of hospitalised influenza laboratory-confirmed cases

In week 40/2012, no severe hospitalised laboratory-confirmed influenza case was reported.

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*This report was written by an editorial team at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC): Eeva Broberg, Flaviu Plata, Julien Beauté and René Snacken. The bulletin text was reviewed by the Community Network of Reference Laboratories for Human Influenza in Europe (CNRL) coordination team: Adam Meijer, Rod Daniels, John McCauley and Maria Zambon. On behalf of the EISN members, the bulletin text was reviewed by Amparo Larrauri Cámara (Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain), Vincent Enouf (Institut Pasteur, France) and Anne Mazick (Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen).*

*In addition, the report is reviewed by experts of WHO Regional Office for Europe.*

*Maps and commentary published in this Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview (WISO) do not represent a statement on the part of ECDC or its partners on the legal or border status of the countries and territories shown.*

*All data published in the WISO are up-to-date on the day of publication. Past this date, however, published data should not be used for longitudinal comparisons as countries tend to retrospectively update their database.*

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