



Protecting and improving the nation's health

# **Influenza & Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance**

## **West Midlands Winter Bulletin 2017/2018**

Winter Pressures

Report Week 52

(week ending 31 December 2017)

Number 12

## KEY POINTS

Data within this bulletin covers influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity within the West Midlands. The data covers laboratory reports of respiratory viruses and syndromic surveillance from a number of sources (see page 7 for details). **Please note that this report must not be published in the public domain.**

**Overall: influenza activity continues to increase, with co-circulation of influenza A and B activity. Overall activity is broadly within seasonally expected levels.**

- **GP consultation rates for ILI in the PHE Syndromic Surveillance GP in-hour system increased in week 52 and is above the baseline season threshold level and approaching the 'medium' threshold level. The highest rates were in adults (over 15 years of age).**
- **Rates in the RCGP primary care surveillance systems have also increased in week 52** (*note: unlike the PHE Syndromic Surveillance GP in-hours system, RCGP rates are not corrected for the effect of the 2 Bank Holidays in week 52*). **Activity in this system is also above the baseline season threshold level and approaching the 'medium' threshold level. Current rates are higher than in 2016-17 and 2015-16, but lower than in 2013-14 and similar to 2014-15.**
- **Laboratory reports of influenza virus continued to increase for influenza A(H3) and influenza B. Influenza B activity is now higher than influenza A and has started earlier than usual. RSV activity has passed its peak activity and has started to decrease.**
- **There were three new outbreaks of influenza reported in the West Midlands in Week 52; two of the outbreaks were laboratory confirmed as influenza B, reported in a care home and a short term nursing facility, and one influenza A outbreak was reported at a hospital. Outbreaks have increased nationally.**
- **Influenza A virus characterised so far this season look to be similar to current vaccine strains. The predominant B strain so far looks to be similar to a strain in the current quadrivalent vaccine and the other B strain identified is similar to a strain in both the trivalent and quadrivalent vaccine.**
- **Almost all influenza A strains tested this year are susceptible to both oseltamivir and zanamivir; all influenza B strains so far tested are susceptible to oseltamivir. Antiviral prescribing in primary care has now been approved as detailed in the [CAS alert](#).**

*Due to the Christmas bank holidays in week 52, GP surgeries were only open for three days – data should therefore be interpreted with caution.*

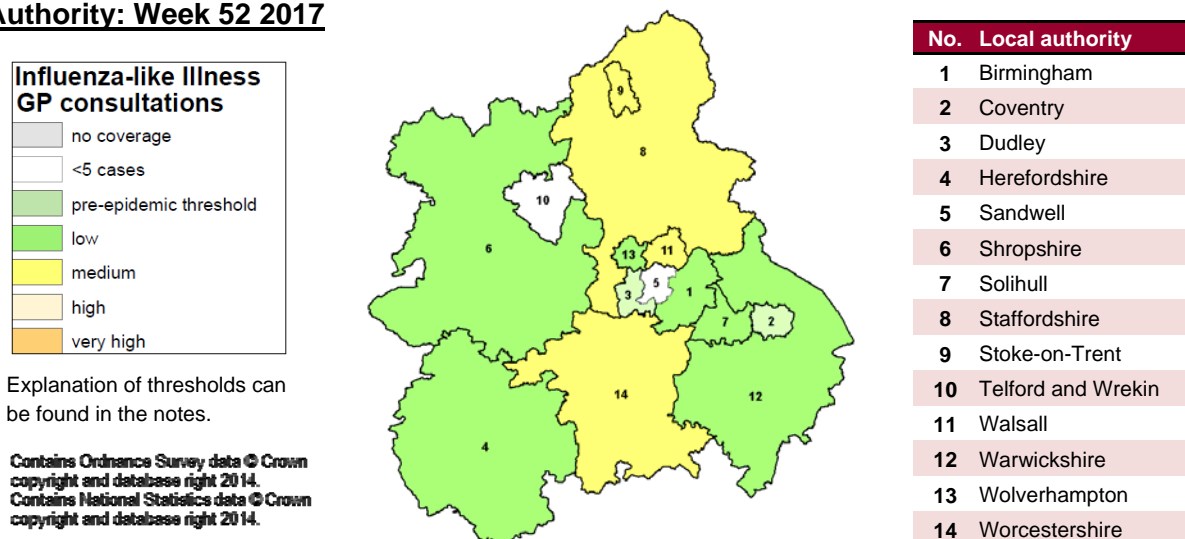
### Quick Overview (Rate per 100,000 population) of GP consultations for influenza-like illness and number of laboratory reports for influenza A and B and RSV

			Week 51	Week 52	
			Rate	Rate	Direction
Syndromic Surveillance	GP In Hours consultations for ILI	West Midlands	11.5	22.6	⬆️
		Midlands and East Region	9.2	18.0	⬆️
		England	13.3	22.6	⬆️
			Number of cases	Number of cases	Direction
West Midlands Laboratory Reports	Influenza A		71	62	⬇️
	Influenza B		54	91	⬆️
	RSV		76	51	⬇️
			Rate	Rate	Direction
RCGP Consultation Rates	Influenza-like illness: National		18.9	21.0	⬆️

## REGIONAL

### GP IN-HOURS SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

**Figure 1: GP in-hours Syndromic Surveillance: GP consultations for ILI per 100,000 by Upper-Tier Local Authority: Week 52 2017**

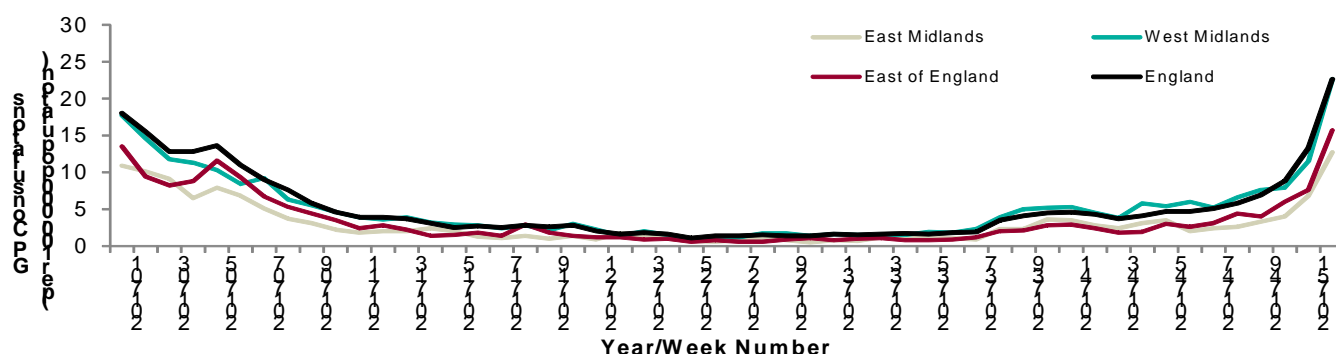


**Table 1: GP in-hours Syndromic Surveillance: ILI consultations per 100,000 population, by Upper-Tier Local Authorities and NHS England Area Teams, West Midlands**

Local Authority / Area Team	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52
<b>Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>20.4</b>
Birmingham	11.4	12.3	21.3
Solihull	0.0	*	22.2
Dudley	5.4	8.0	10.9
Sandwell	*	*	*
Walsall	7.8	11.1	33.8
Wolverhampton	2.9	5.8	13.6
<b>Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>18.4</b>
Coventry	7.6	8.5	12.9
Warwickshire	7.8	16.2	23.2
Herefordshire	12.9	20.6	20.1
Worcestershire	6.5	10.6	24.4
<b>Shropshire and Staffordshire</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>29.4</b>
Staffordshire	10.1	14.2	33.0
Stoke-on-Trent	10.2	16.0	28.2
Shropshire	5.7	11.1	20.3
Telford and Wrekin	*	*	*
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>22.6</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>22.6</b>

\* Cells suppressed due to low numbers (less than five cases)

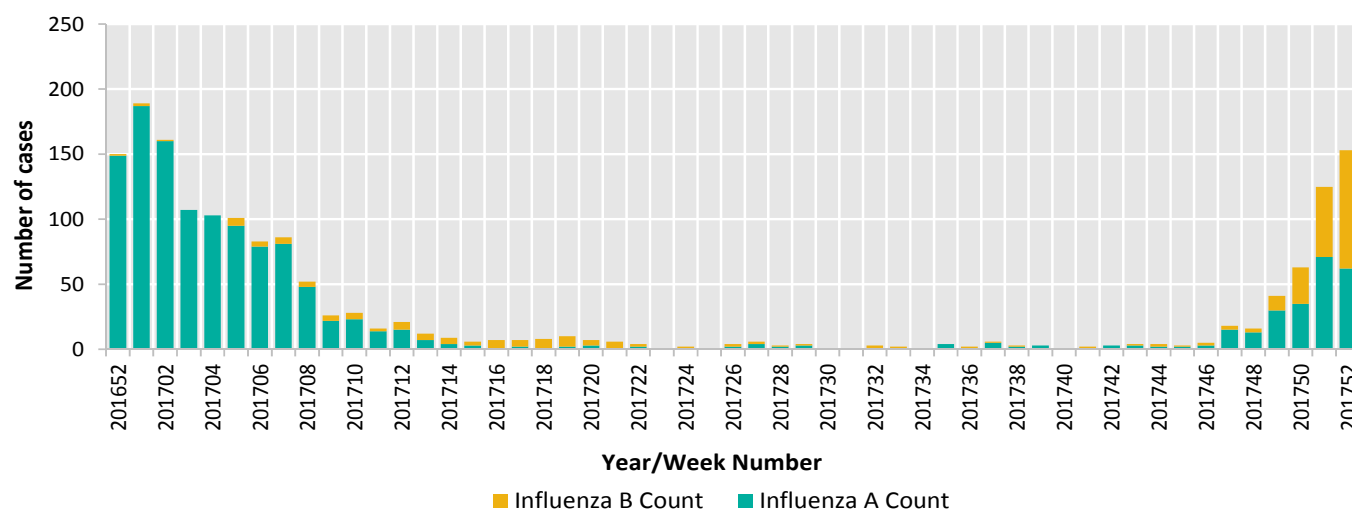
**Figure 2: GP in-hours ILI consultations by PHE Centres in the Midlands and East Region, and England**



## INFLUENZA A & B

**Figure 3: Laboratory confirmations of Influenza A and B in the West Midlands (by Specimen date)**

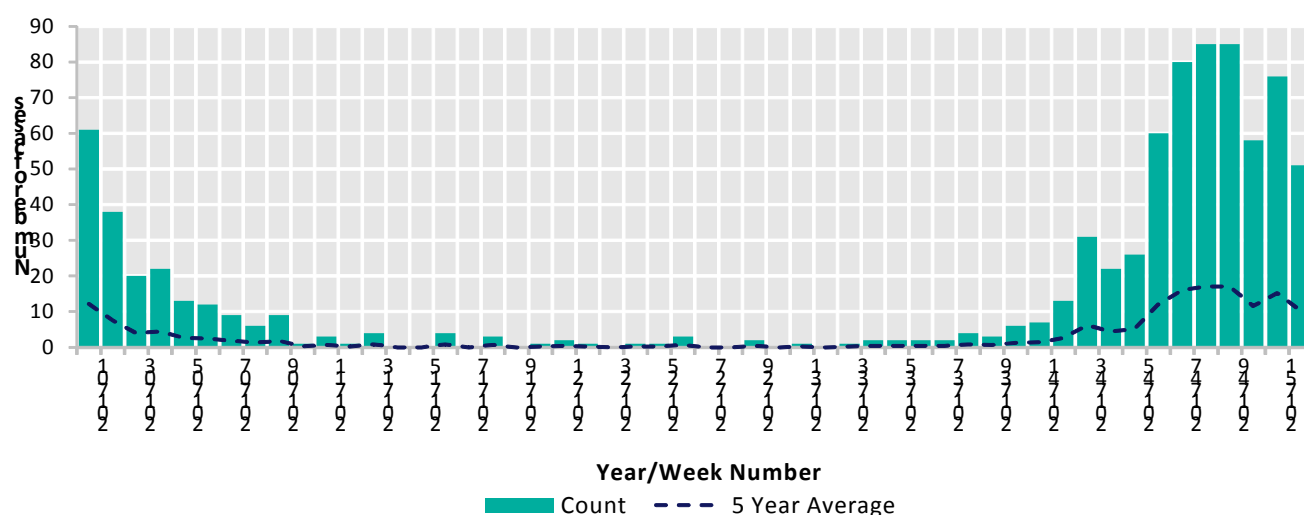
Source: Laboratory Data (SGSS)



## RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

**Figure 4: Laboratory confirmations of RSV in the West Midlands (by Specimen date)**

Source: Laboratory Data (SGSS)



## INFLUENZA -LIKE ILLNESS OUTBREAKS

**Table 2: Number of reported outbreaks of influenza-like illness (suspected/confirmed) by NHS England Area Team, West Midlands, 2017/18**

Source: HPZone

NHS England Area Team	Week 51 2017		Week 52 2017		Four Week Total (week 49 to week 52)		Cumulative count week 40 2017 to week 52 2017	
	Suspected	Confirmed	Suspected	Confirmed	Suspected	Confirmed	Suspected	Confirmed
Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country	0	3	0	1	1	5	0	7
Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shropshire and Staffordshire	0	2	0	2	0	4	1	4
West Midlands	0	5	0	3	1	9	1	12

## NATIONAL

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS (RCGP)

#### Research and Surveillance Centre: Weekly Communicable and Respiratory Disease Report

Source: Weekly communicable and respiratory disease report

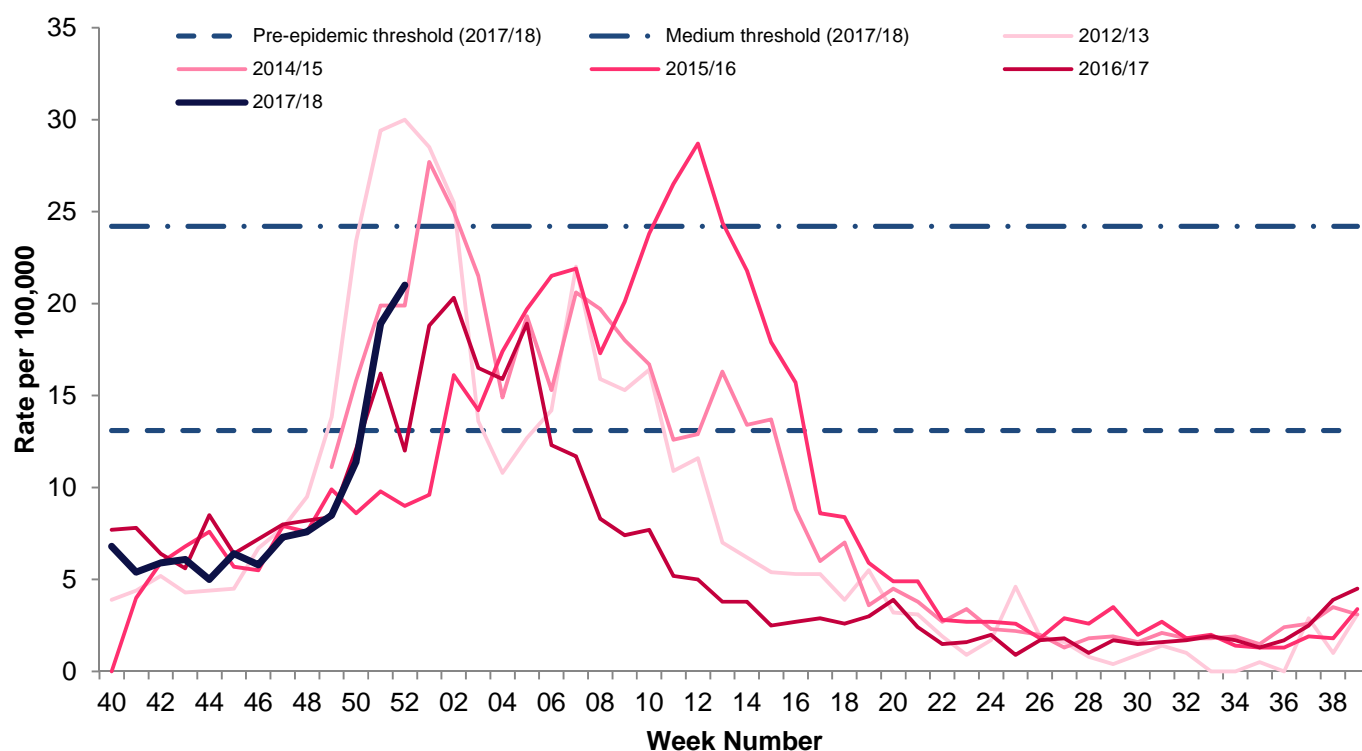
**Table 3: Weekly consultation rates for influenza and influenza-like illness by age group, England 2017/18 (rate per 100,000 population)**

Week Number	<1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85+	All Ages
50	12.4	7.9	11.3	9.8	12.0	14.9	5.0	13.0	5.0	11.4
51	6.1	2.6	15.0	22.3	20.3	24.6	17.3	11.8	2.5	18.9
52	6.0	7.9	10.4	19.2	20.5	33.7	15.2	17.6	15.4	21.0

**Table 4: Weekly consultation rates for influenza and influenza-like illness by PHE region, England 2017/18 (rate per 100,000 population)**

Week Number	London	Midlands and East	North	South	National
50	14.1	9.5	8.8	13.2	11.4
51	19.3	13.5	14.1	25.9	18.9
52	16.7	17.3	16.9	29.0	21.0

**Figure 5: Trends of influenza-like illness consultation rate, England and Wales 2012/13-2017/18**



**Note:** Data for the 2013/2014 and early 2014/15 influenza season has not been reported due to data quality and completeness issues

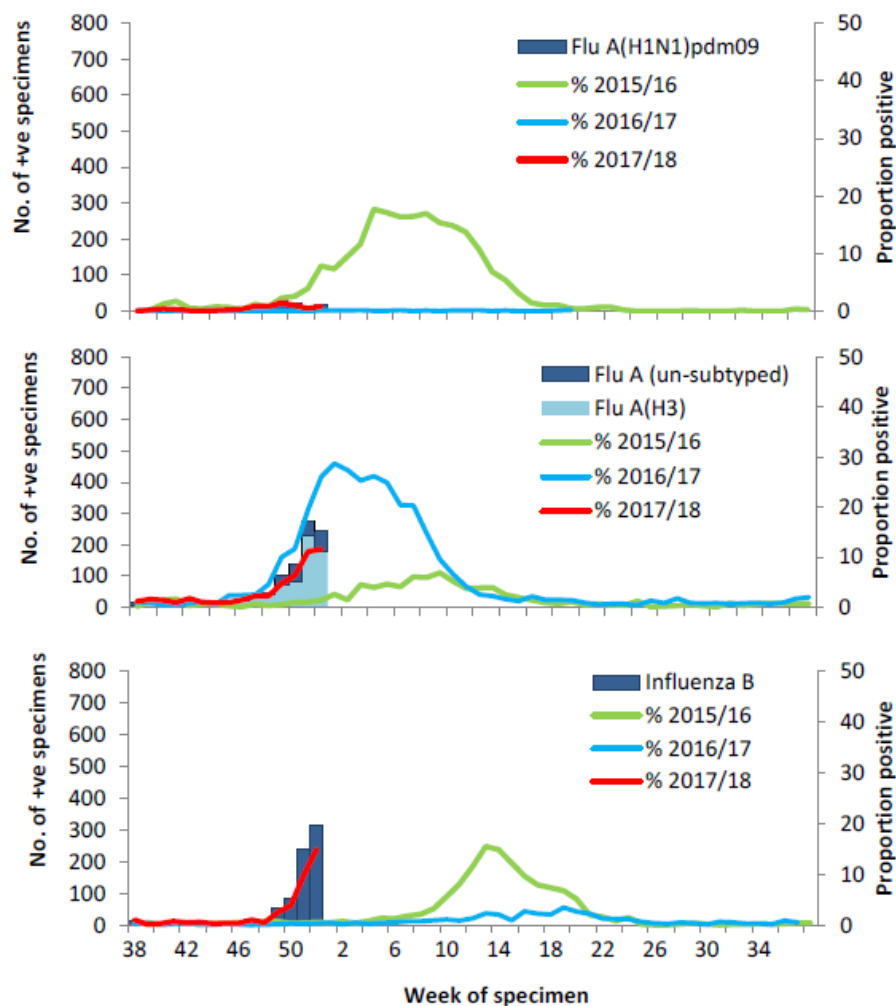
## NATIONAL LABORATORY DATA

**Table 5: Detection of respiratory viruses from the network of laboratories participating in the DataMart system (Number of laboratories reported in week 52: 9/13 laboratories in England)**

Virus	Comparison with previous week		
	Number of positive samples (week 51)	Number of positive samples (week 52)	Direction of change
Influenza A	288	261	↓
Influenza A (H1N1)	11	17	↔
Influenza A (H3)	227	179	↓
Influenza A (un-subtyped)	50	65	↑
Influenza B	238	312	↑
RSV	328	209	↓

**Figure 6a: The weekly number of detections and proportion of respiratory samples positive for influenza A(H1N1), A (un-subtyped), A(H3), influenza B and the proportions of respiratory samples positive for the previous seasons**

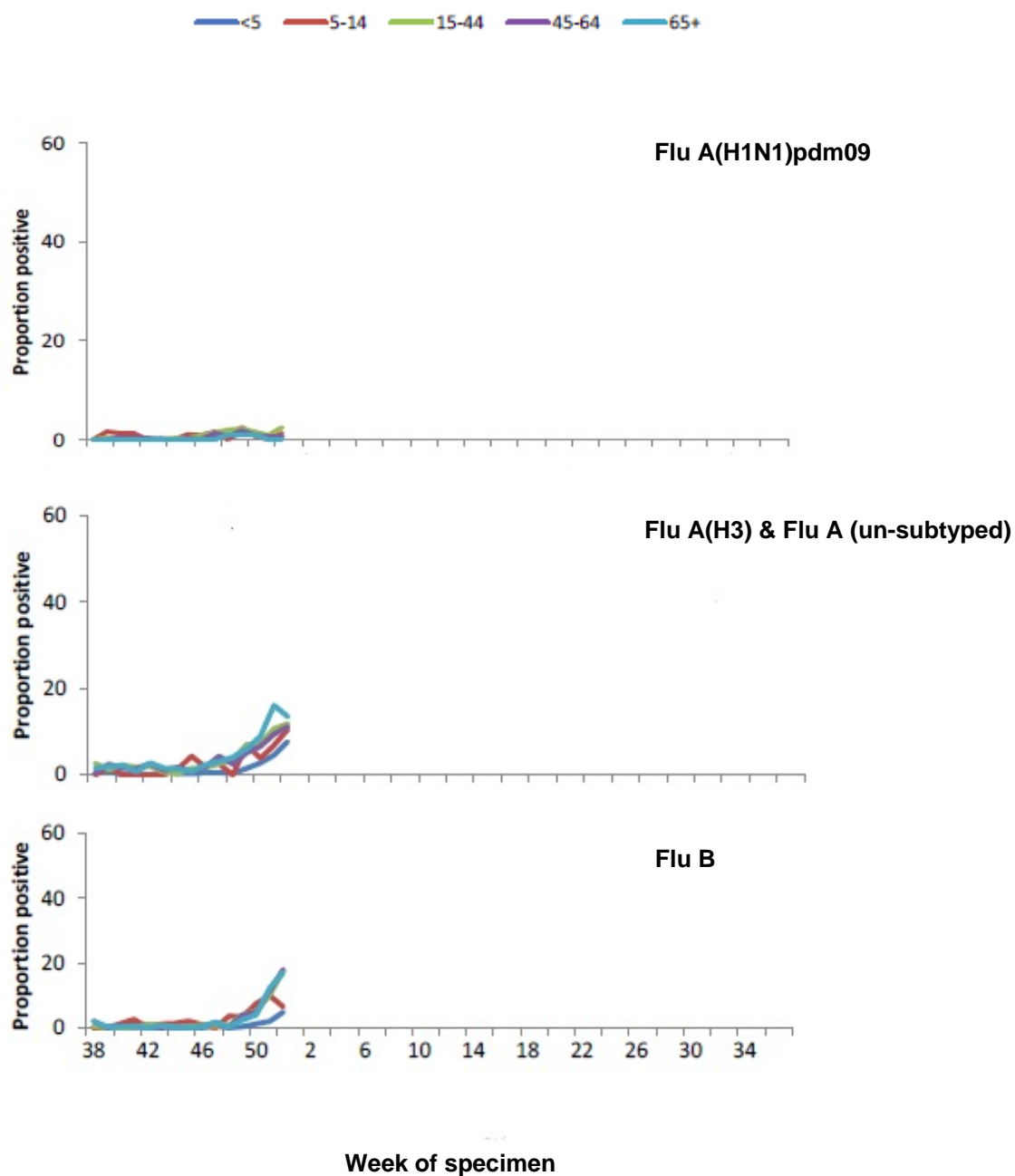
Source: PHE Weekly Report of the Laboratory Surveillance System (the Respiratory DataMart System) for influenza in England



## NATIONAL LABORATORY DATA

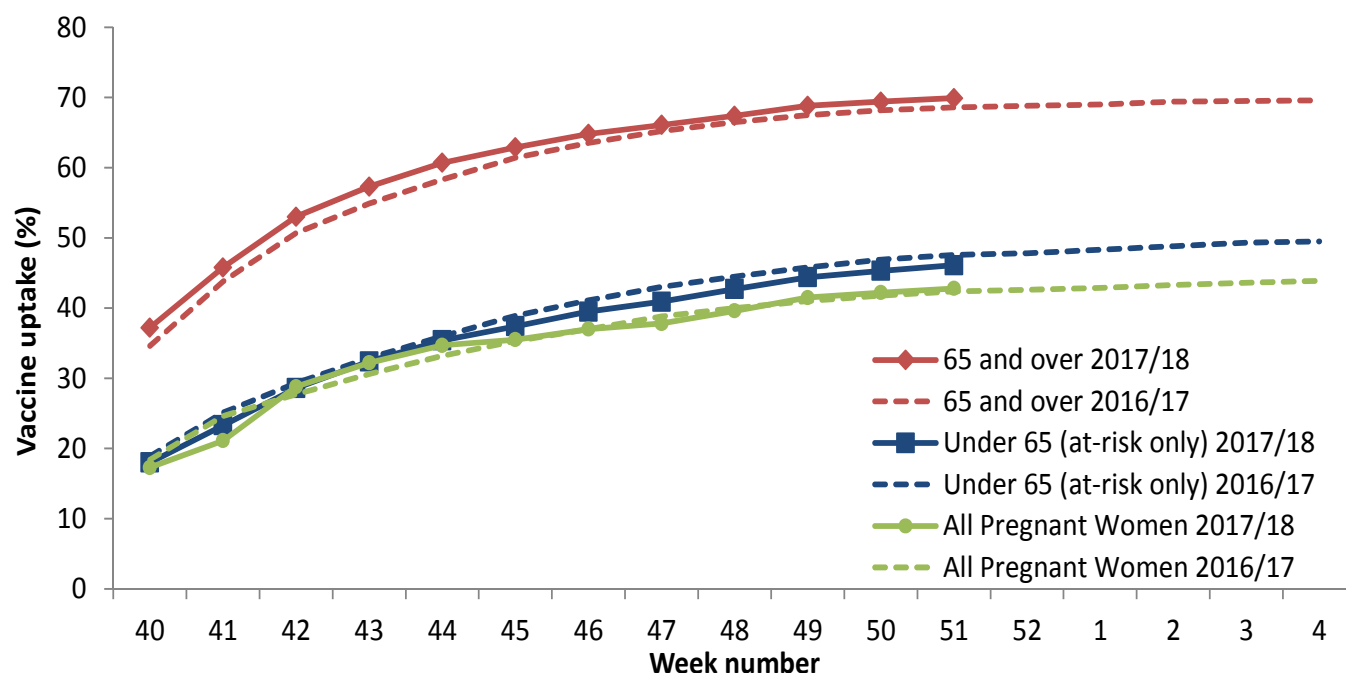
**Figure 6b: The weekly proportion positive for influenza A(H1N1), A(H3), A(un-subtyped) and influenza B by age group**

Source: PHE Weekly Report of the Laboratory Surveillance System (the Respiratory DataMart System) for influenza in England



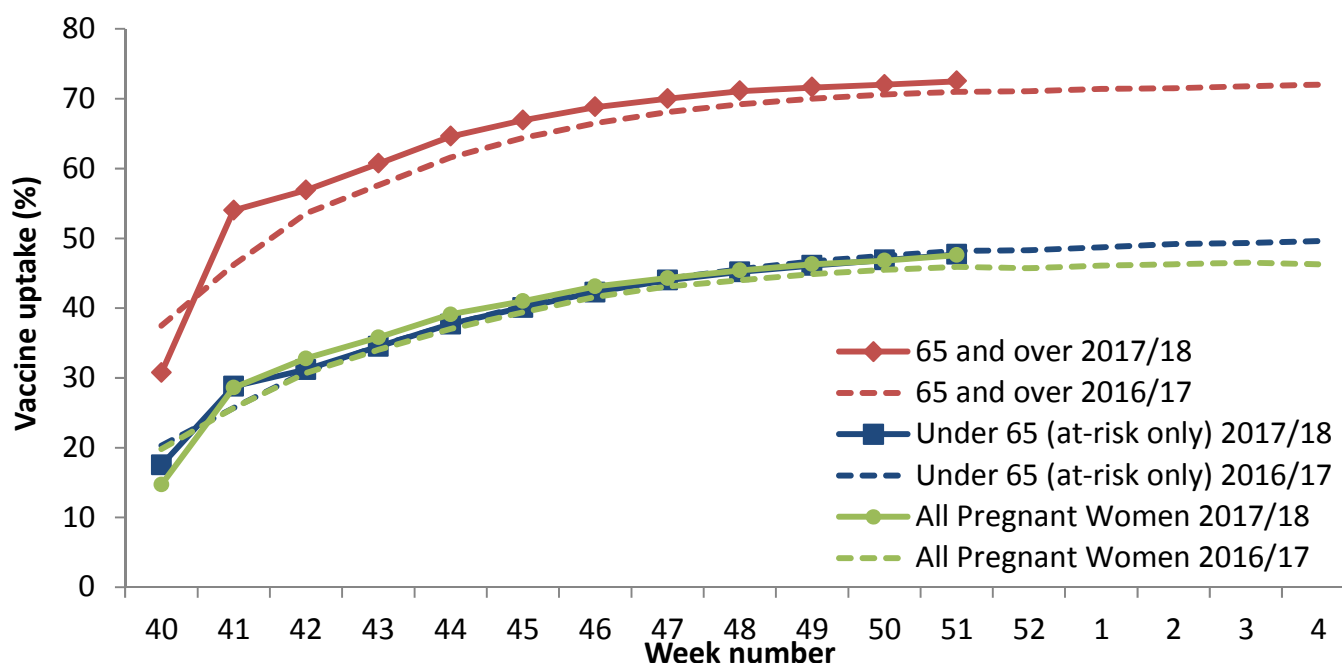
## VACCINE UPTAKE

**Figure 7a: Cumulative weekly influenza vaccine uptake in GP patients by target group in NHS West Midlands\*, Week 51**



\*Includes area teams: Arden, Herefordshire & Worcestershire and Birmingham & the Black Country

**Figure 7b: Cumulative weekly influenza vaccine uptake in GP patients by target group in NHS North Midlands\*, Week 51**



\*Includes area teams: Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire and Shropshire & Staffordshire

**Data source:** Original data downloaded weekly from Immform reporting website:

<https://portal.immform.dh.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

**Report:** Flu Weekly GP Main Collection 2017-18

**Note:** Data for vaccine uptake will run one week behind the report week

## NOTES

The [Moving Epidemic Method \(MEM\)](#) is a tool used to provide a better understanding of the annual influenza activity and allow a weekly assessment of the epidemic status and intensity. The start and the intensity of influenza activity in a particular season are denoted by breaching of an initial pre-epidemic (baseline) threshold and subsequent (low to very high) thresholds respectively.

**Table 6: MEM thresholds (per 100,000 weekly ILI consultations) for GP sentinel system in England (RCGP) for the 2017-2018 season**

Pre-epidemic	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
<13.1	13.1 to <24.2	24.2 to <68.7	68.7 to <108.9	108.9+

## DATA SOURCES

**Laboratory Data:** Public Health England Reference Laboratory (DataMart) and local laboratories.

**Syndromic Surveillance:** **GP In Hours** Syndromic Surveillance System uses anonymised data from two GP clinical software systems - EMIS, from version 1 of the QSurveillance® database, and TPP System One. Data are accessed from the PHE GP In Hours Syndromic Surveillance Bulletin:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gp-in-hours-bulletin>

**PHE Syndromic surveillance bulletins** can be found on the Web:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/syndromic-surveillance-systems-and-analyses>

**Royal College of General Practice:** The RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre extracts data from over 100 practices through England & Wales. See link below for further information and RCGP bulletins:  
<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-and-research/our-programmes/research-and-surveillance-centre.aspx>

## WEBLINKS

National Seasonal Influenza data:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/seasonal-influenza-guidance-data-and-analysis>

Weekly National Flu Report:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/weekly-national-flu-reports>

Vaccination Uptake data (updated monthly):  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>

The Department of Health:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health>

European Surveillance of Seasonal Influenza:  
<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/seasonal-influenza>

WHO Global Influenza Update:  
[http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/updates/latest\\_update\\_GIP\\_surveillance/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/)

## CONTACTS

**Editors:** Amelia Au-Yeung and Jeremy Hawker

**Produced by:** Field Epidemiology Service, Public Health England, Birmingham

**Tel:** 0344 225 3560 **Fax:** 0121 236 2428 **Email:** FES.WestMidlands@phe.gov.uk

**Please note that this report must not be published in the public domain.**