

Seasonal influenza vaccination programme country profile: Ireland

2012–13 Season

Background information

Influenza immunisation policy and general facts about Ireland	
Volume indices of GDP per capita in 2011 and 2013 (EU-28=100) Source: Eurostat ^a	130
Health costs as % of GDP 2011 Source: Eurostat ^b	7.5%
Total population of the country, 2011 Source: Eurostat ^c	4 574 888
Population ≥65, 2011 Source: Eurostat ^c	531 563 (11.6% from the total population)
Population with chronic medical conditions <65 years, 2006 Source: ECDC (based on methodology by Fleming and Eliot, 2006) ^d	358 000 (8.3% from the total population)
Number of live births in 2011 ^e	74 033 (1.6% from the total population)
National seasonal influenza recommendations (e.g. age and target group recommendations and guidelines)	Recommendations available
URL link to Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland	http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/immunisationguidelines.html
National Action Plan (NAP) as requested by EC	Adopted
URL link to NAP	http://www.immunisation.ie/en/HotTopics/Text_17237_en.html

EUROSTAT links:

^aGDP per capita 2013 (accessed 15.12.2014): http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/GDP_per_capita,_consumption_per_capita_and_price_level_indices

^bHealth expenditures 2011(accessed 15.12.2014): http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/General_government_expenditure_on_social_protection_and_health

^cTotal population and those > 65 years of age 2011(accessed 15.12.2014): <https://ec.europa.eu/CensusHub2/intermediate.do?&method=forwardResult>

^dPopulation with chronic medical conditions 2006:
http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/0808_GUI_Priority_Risk_Groups_for_Influenza_Vaccination.pdf (Fleming, D.M. and A.J. Elliot, Estimating the risk population in relation to influenza vaccination policy. 2006 May 15; 24(20):4378-85)

^e Number of live births in 2011(accessed 15.12.2014): <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00111&plugin=1>

Seasonal influenza vaccination recommendations and payment mechanism for vaccination

Vaccination recommendations (population groups targeted by vaccination)	
Overall population	No recommendation
Healthy children and adolescents	No recommendation
Older population groups: ≥50 years of age ^a	Recommended
Chronic medical conditions	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pulmonary diseases, - Neurologic diseases, - Cardiovascular diseases, - Renal diseases, - Hepatic diseases, - Haematological disorders, - Metabolic disorders, - Immunosuppressed individuals, - HIV/AIDS, - Morbid obesity, - Long-term aspirin use (children <15 years).
Pregnancy-related vaccination (including post-partum women)	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For all pregnant women at any stage during pregnancy.
	Postpartum women if not vaccinated during pregnancy recommended only for those with chronic medical condition.
Healthcare workers	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For all healthcare workers
Other occupational groups	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For those working in veterinary services; - Poultry and swine industry workers; - For families raising swine, poultry or geese; - Abattoir and zoo workers.
Population groups in closed communities	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For residents of long- term care facilities;
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For prisoners; - For children in day care centres
Household contacts or carer of:	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infants <6 months of age; - Immunosuppressed individuals; - Individuals with chronic medical conditions; - ≥65 years of age.

^a NITAG recommends vaccine for those ≥50 years but the national influenza programme specifies ≥65 years, nationally.

Payment mechanism for vaccine and its administration for the population groups targeted by seasonal influenza vaccine		
	For vaccine	For administration
Overall population	na	na
Healthy children and adolescents	na	na
Older population groups (≥ 50 ; ≥ 65 years of age) ^a	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket; Employer; For those aged 50-64 years without health risk or employment recommendation the individual must pay for vaccine	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket; Employer; For those aged 50-64 years without health risk or employment recommendation the individual must pay for vaccine administration
Chronic medical conditions groups (by group) ^a	National health service (Health Service Executive)	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket; Employer
Pregnancy-related vaccination (including post-partum women) ^a	National health service (Health Service Executive)	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket; Employer
Healthcare workers (including staff of long-stay care facilities) ^a	National health service (Health Service Executive)	National health service (Health Service Executive); Employer
Other occupational groups ^a	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket; Employer	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket; Employer
Population groups in closed communities ^a	National health service (Health Service Executive)	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket
Household contacts or care givers ^a	National health service (Health Service Executive)	National health service (Health Service Executive); Out of pocket; Employer

na: Not applicable

^a No co-payment for vaccine and vaccine administration.

National insurance scheme: health contributions are paid to the insurance fund and then for this contribution there is a package of services received. It is not by default that you receive the services if you do not pay the insurance contributions.

National health service: taxes are paid by a citizen or resident of the country and this person is covered by the health service.

Out of pocket: not reimbursed, paid by receiver of vaccine.

Vaccination coverage rates

Vaccination coverage (%) in population groups targeted by seasonal influenza vaccination the from 2008–09 to the 2012–13 influenza season by method of data collection (administrative and /or survey)

Population group	Influenza season									
	2008–09		2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13	
	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.
Overall population	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children/adolescents	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Older population groups: ≥65 years of age	70.1	NA	53.8	63.5	63.8	NA	56.3	NA	56.9	59.9
Chronic medical conditions groups (aged 18- 64years)	NA	NA	NA	28.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	28.4
Pregnant women ^a	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22
Healthcare workers	NA	NA	NA	26.5	NA	NA	18	NA	NA	28
Staff in long-stay care facilities ^b	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.5	NA	15	NA
Residents in long stay care facilities ^b	-	-	-	-	-	-	88	NA	73	NA

na: Not applicable

NA: Not available

^a VENICE started to collect vaccination coverage data for pregnant women after the A(H1N1)pdm09 (2010-11 influenza season).

^b VENICE started to collect vaccination coverage data for staff and residents in long-stay care facilities for the influenza season 2011-12.

Figure 1. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among those ≥65 years of age from the 2008–09 to the 2012–13 influenza season

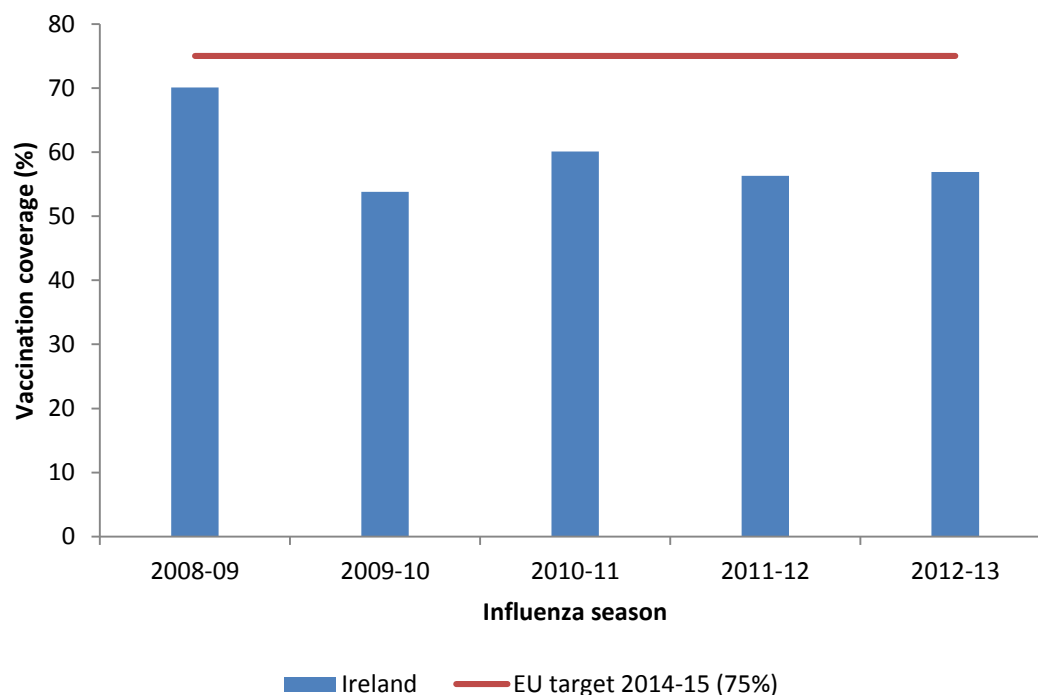


Figure 2. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among those with chronic medical conditions in the 2009–10 and the 2012–13 influenza seasons

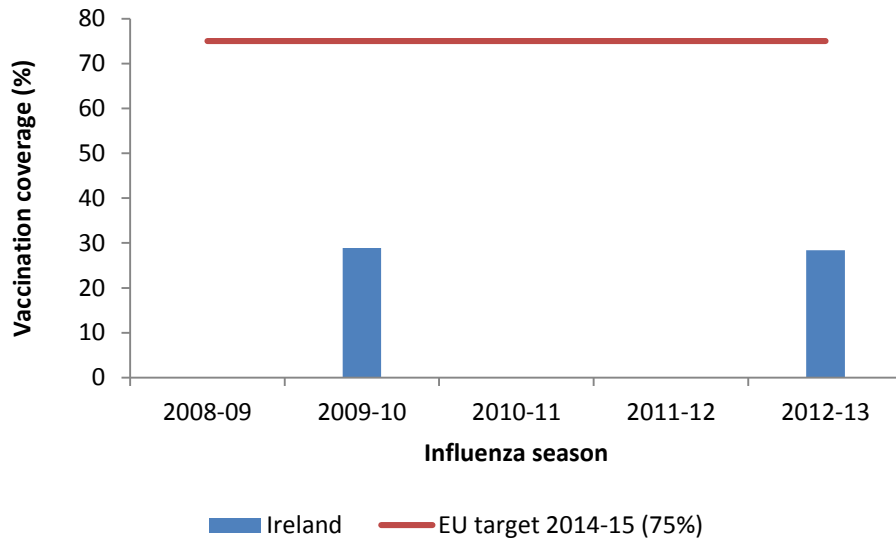
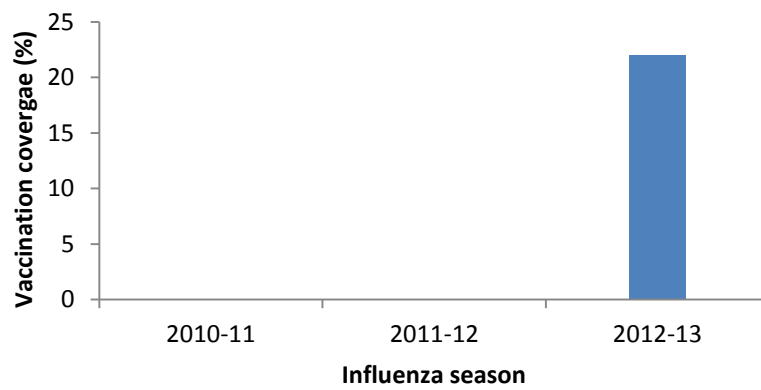


Figure 3. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among pregnant women in the 2012–13 influenza season



Note: VENICE started to collect vaccination coverage data for pregnant women after the A(H1N1)pdm09 (2010–11 influenza season).

Figure 4. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare workers in the 2009–10, 2011–12 and the 2012–13 influenza seasons

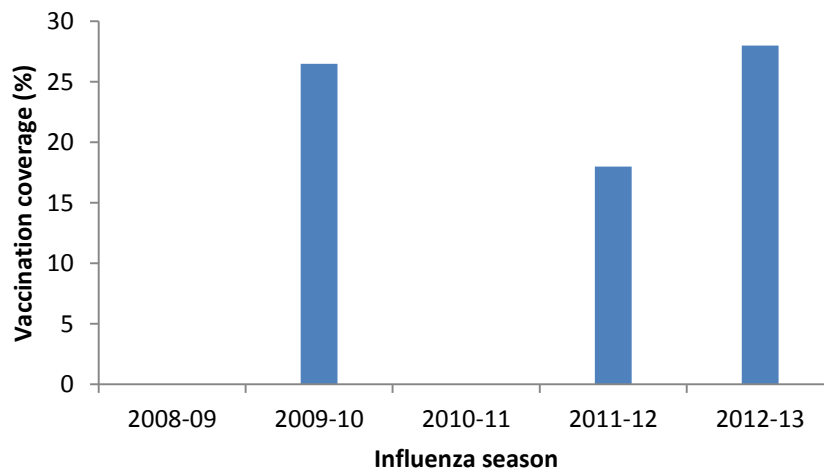
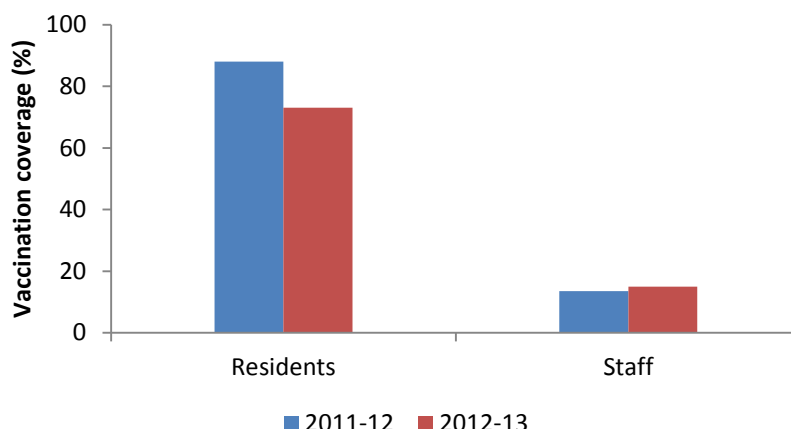


Figure 5. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among residents and staff of long-stay care facilities, 2011–12 and 2012–13 influenza seasons



Note: VENICE started to collect vaccination coverage data for staff and residents in long stay care facilities for the 2011–12 influenza season.

Methods to monitor vaccination coverage, safety and effectiveness

Monitoring of vaccination coverage during the 2012–13 influenza season	
Method used to monitor influenza vaccination coverage	
Combination of administrative and survey methods used	

Method used (administrative, survey) to monitor vaccination coverage by population group	
Administrative	Survey
Adults aged ≥ 65 years old; Healthcare workers; Residents of long term care institutions.	Adults aged ≥ 65 years old; Individuals with medical/risk conditions; Pregnant women; Healthcare workers.

Details on administrative method used (medical records vs. immunisation registry; manual vs. electronic) by population group			
Medical records		Immunisation registry	
Manual	Electronic	Manual	Electronic
Health care workers; Residents of long term care institutions;	Health care workers : some hospitals/facilities may have own system for HCWs /residents- but not at regional or national level; Adults aged ≥ 65 years old.	No	No

Numerator assessment		
Pharmaceutical data	Administrative data	Frequency of numerator assessment
Not used	Aggregate collection of number of vaccines distributed (national purchaser); Payment/ reimbursement claims	For HCWs and residents in long term care it was collected twice during influenza season in 2012-2013 season; for elderly the data is requested at monthly intervals from national payment agency for those entitled to this service.

Denominator assessment by population groups and data source	
Population group	Data source for population group
Health care workers	Based on denominator data provided from units providing data on numerator
Residents of long term care institutions	Based on denominator data provided from units providing data on numerator
Entire population	na
Children and adolescents	na
Adults	
Individuals with medical/risk conditions (clinical risk groups)	Not used
Pregnant women	Not used
Essential public sector workers	Not used
Prisoners	Not used
Educational institutions	Not used
Other	Not used

na: Not applicable

Details for survey method used for the 2012–13 influenza season			
Type of the survey	Survey mode	Sampling strategy	Sample size
Household	By telephone	Non probability sampling; Quotas	1 700

Scientific studies conducted for vaccination coverage; vaccine safety and vaccine effectiveness
https://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/Respiratory/Influenza/SeasonalInfluenza/Publications/InfluenzaVaccinationPublications/File,4511,en.pdf

Vaccine safety monitoring (adverse events following immunisation AEFV)				
Data collected at the national and at the regional level	Data linkage with immunisation registry	Details collected	Status of reporting	AEFV reported to
Yes	No	Case based data including age, sex and suspected symptoms should be reported	Mandatory	Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) http://www.hpra.ie/

Monitoring of influenza vaccine break-through ^a infections in vaccinated individuals		
Data collected	Data linkage with immunisation registry	Details collected
There is no such system		

^a Break-through infection is defined as laboratory-confirmed influenza infection >14 days after seasonal influenza vaccination in the current season (i.e. vaccine failure).

Vaccine procurement and delivery

Influenza vaccine procurement and delivery, 2012–13 influenza season		
Number of doses		
Purchased	Distributed	Used
749 992	702 027	659 596

Type of vaccine/Product Name	Target groups
Trivalent inactivated non-adjuvanted vaccines (TIV)	
Used ^a	
GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur	Older adults (e.g. ≥60/65 years); Those with medical condition/s; Pregnant women; Residents of long stay care facilities; Health Care Workers; Other occupational groups; Other target group: GSK product was procured by pharmacies for private patients (we are informed)
Trivalent inactivated adjuvanted vaccines (aTIV)	
Not used	
Trivalent live attenuated nasal vaccine (LAIV)	
Not used	
Quadrivalent attenuated nasal vaccine (LAIV)	
Not used	
Quadrivalent inactivated non-adjuvanted vaccine (QIV)	
Not used	

^a Sanofi Pasteur product procured by national agency; we believe that GSK (Fluarix) was procured privately by some pharmacies for private patients.

Promoting seasonal influenza vaccination

Promoting seasonal influenza vaccination during the 2012–13 influenza season	
Promotion activities with the general public and healthcare workers	Source of information (if yes)
General public	
No	
Population over 65	
Yes	Radio; TV; Newspapers; Leaflets; Posters; Website
Pregnant women	
Yes	Radio; TV; Newspapers; Leaflets; Posters; Website
Chronic medical conditions	
Yes	Radio; TV; Newspapers; Leaflets; Posters; Website
Healthcare workers	
Yes	Radio; TV; Newspapers; Leaflets; Posters; Website; Professional medical societies; National medical publications

Use of antiviral agents for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza

Recommendations and/or guidelines (policy document) on antiviral use	
Recommendations available	
Use of antiviral agents for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza during the 2012–13 influenza season	
Use of antivirals for <u>treatment</u> for in-patients and out-patients who are at higher risk of developing influenza complications	
For in-patients who:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have severe, complicated influenza-like illness (ILI); - have progressive influenza-like illness; - require hospitalisation due to influenza-like illness. 	Recommended
For out-patients who are at higher risk of developing influenza complications on the basis of their age or underlying medical conditions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children < 2 years; - Adults aged ≥65 years; - Individuals belonging to risk groups. - Women who are pregnant or postpartum (within 6 weeks after delivery). - Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities. 	Recommended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children < 5 years; 	No Recommendation
Use of antivirals for <u>post-exposure</u> prophylaxis	
For family or other close contacts of a person at higher risk for influenza complications who have not been vaccinated with influenza vaccine at the time of exposure;	Recommended
For unvaccinated healthcare workers with occupational exposure and who did not use personal protective equipment at the time of exposure	Recommended
Use of antivirals for <u>pre-exposure</u> prophylaxis	
For individuals who are at high risk (e.g. severely immunosuppressed patients) for influenza-related complications who cannot otherwise be protected during times when a high risk for exposure exists	Recommended
Use of antivirals for <u>control of influenza outbreaks</u>	
For individuals in long-term care facilities/care for immunocompromised individuals if not vaccinated or if the circulating influenza strain does not match the vaccine strains	Recommended
For unvaccinated healthcare staff who provide care to individuals at high risk of developing complications in long-term care facilities/ care for immunocompromised patients if not vaccinated or if the circulating influenza strain does not match the vaccine strains	Recommended
For all health care staff regardless of whether they received an influenza vaccination if the circulating influenza strain does not match the vaccine strains	Recommended
Prisoners	No recommendation
Educational institutions	No recommendation
Existence of antiviral resistance surveillance system	
Antiviral resistance surveillance system	There is an antiviral resistance surveillance system in place

Country profiles are based on the [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in Europe](#) report produced by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Vaccine European New Integrated Collaboration Effort III (VENICE III). The data are from the seasonal influenza vaccination survey for 2012–13 season in EU/EEA countries. During the validation process in June 2015, minor changes were introduced in some country profiles. Therefore, data may be different to those available in the report.