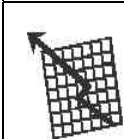


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 5, Issue 1 November 2, 2001</i>
			

Week #43: Week Ending October 27, 2001

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was no influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending October 27, 2001. None of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported influenza cases during this surveillance period. However, the following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 2 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 5 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), and 6 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2) and 2. (Table 1).

The season's first laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak in a long-term care facility was reported in the province during the week ending October 20, 2001 (week 42) (Tables 2 and 3). Three were positive for influenza A by rapid testing, 2 were cultured and confirmed for influenza A, and 1 is pending viral culture. The outbreak was reported by Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark District Health Unit.

Table 1. Comparison of Influenza Activity for the 2000-01 and 2001-02 Influenza Surveillance Seasons

Indicator	2000-01 Season	2001-02
	Week Ending October 28, 2000	Week Ending October 27, 2001
	Season to Date	Season to Date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates)Total	1	0
Influenza A	1	0
Influenza B	0	0
√No. of Visits to Sentinel Physicians for ILI	N/A	19
Institutional Outbreaks	0	0
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	38	2
PIV1	1	5
PIV2	1	6
PIV3	13	0
PIV4	2	0
Other PIVs	0	0
Adenoviruses	5	0

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

√FluWatch Sentinel Physician Program, 2000-01, Rate per 1000 patients seen

Table 2. Influenza Cases Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2001-2002

Health Unit	Number of ILI Cases	Number of Lab-Confirmed Influenza Cases	
		Type A	Type B
Leeds, Grenville, Lanark	18	3	0

Note: These influenza cases are not included in Table1, as they were reported by a laboratory not participating in the FluWatch program.

Table 3. Season-to-date Institutional Influenza Outbreaks by Health Unit in Ontario, 2001-2002

Health Unit	Type of Institution	# of Outbreaks	Organism Identified	RAR (%)	SAR (%)	Complications
Leeds, Grenville, Lanark	Long-term Care Facility	1	Influenza A	21.6	N/A	None reported to date

RAR: Resident Attack Rate (# of residents ill/total number of residents)

SAR: Staff Attack Rate (# of staff ill/total number of staff)

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance Activity in Ontario

The rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported through the Federal FluWatch system was 19 per 1,000 patients seen.

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

During the period October 7-20, no regions reported influenza activity (8 regions did not report for the latter week). During the same period, sentinel physicians reported 15 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits in the first week and 20/1000 in the following week. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention & Control (CIDPC) received 515 reports of laboratory tests for influenza viruses in the first week and 628 tests in the second week: none were positive for influenza.

Source: Health Canada, FluWatch: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/index.html>

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 42 (October 14-20, 2001), none of the specimens tested by WHO and NREVSS laboratories were positive for influenza. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) overall was 1.5%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.4%. Twelve state and territorial health departments reported sporadic influenza activity and 36 reported no influenza activity.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>>

Influenza Activity in the World

Outbreaks of influenza A were reported in Australia and the Philippines during the first week of October while sporadic cases of were detected by Hong Kong SAR and United Kingdom. A rise in influenza-like illness was reported by other countries, however no influenza virus was detected or isolated.

Source: WHO, Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response: <<http://www.who.int/emc/diseases/flu/country.html>>

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the trivalent vaccine for the 2001-02 season contain an A/Moscow/10/99 (H3N2)-like virus, an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, and a B/Sichuan/379/99-like virus.