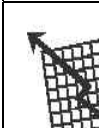


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 5, Issue 3 November 16, 2001</i>
			

Week #45: Week Ending November 10, 2001

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There were four cases of influenza A activity reported in the province for the week ending November 10, 2001. In addition, the following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 8 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 11 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 8 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 1 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3) and 5 adenovirus. (Tables 1 and 2).

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

Indicator	2000-01 Season	2001-02 Season
	Week Ending November 11, 2000	Week Ending November 10, 2001
	Season-to-date	Season-to-date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total	5	9
Influenza A	5	9
Influenza B	0	0
Institutional Outbreaks	0	1
Other Respiratory Viruses		
RSV	58	11
PIV1	2	25
PIV2	1	20
PIV3	21	1
PIV4	3	0
Other PIVs	0	0
Adenoviruses	5	13

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

Table 2. Season-to-date Influenza Cases by Health Unit as Reported Through RDIS*, 2001-2002

Health Unit	Number of Lab-Confirmed Influenza Cases	
	Type A	Type B
Kingston	2	0
Leeds, Grenville, Lanark	3	0

*Reportable Disease Information System

Note: The four new cases of Influenza A have not been reported by the health unit(s) to-date.

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	10.8	2 resident deaths have occurred 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 30 per 1,000 patients seen.

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

The A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like strain characterization is included in the influenza vaccine being distributed for the 2001-2002 season.

Table 4. Season-to-date Strain Identification and Characterization In Canada*, 2001-2002

Strain Characterization	# of Strains Identified-to-date in Ontario	# of Strains Identified-to-date in Canada
A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	2	3
A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like	0	0
B/Sichuan/379/99-like	0	0

* Respiratory Viruses Section, National Microbiology Laboratory (NML), PPHB, Health Canada

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

During the week ending November 3 (week 44), 49 regions reported no influenza activity and four regions reported sporadic activity. During the same period, sentinel physicians reported 16 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits and the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention & Control (CIDPC) received 641 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: two were positive for influenza A. Since the beginning of the 2001-2002 season, there has been one reported outbreak (week 42) at a long-term care facility.

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

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 44 (October 28 – November 3, 2001), three of the respiratory 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 1.4%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.5%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for week 44. Two state and territorial health departments reported regional influenza activity, 15 reported sporadic influenza activity, and 32 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

During week 44, the European Influenza Surveillance System (EISS) reported low levels of influenza activity in Europe. Ten countries in the surveillance network reported baseline levels of clinical visits (eight countries did not report). With respect to worldwide activity, recent updates on FluNet, the WHO's global influenza surveillance system indicate: influenza has remained below baseline levels during the last 2 weeks of October and Influenza A, A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B viruses have been isolated from sporadic cases.

Sources: European Influenza Surveillance System: <http://www.eiss.org/cgi-files/bulletin.cgi>
World Health Organization, FluNet: <http://oms2.b3e.jussieu.fr/flunet/docs/html>