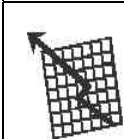


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
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Week #48: Week Ending December 1st, 2001

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was no influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending December 1st, 2001. The following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 19 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 9 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 7 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 1 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3), 2 parainfluenza type 4 (PIV4), and 3 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 December 2, 2000	Week Ending December 1 st , 2001
	Season-to-date	Season-to-date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total	6	9
Influenza A	5	9
Influenza B	1	0
Institutional Outbreaks	0	1
Other Respiratory Viruses		
RSV	124	43
PIV1	4	51
PIV2	2	43
PIV3	32	2
PIV4	6	9
Other PIVs	0	2
Adenoviruses	14	20

*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 from Week 45 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 22 per 1,000 patients seen.

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

No new strain characterizations were identified to-date. The identified strain is included in the current season's influenza vaccine (Table 4).

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	3	4
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 24 (week 47), 48 regions reported no influenza activity and five regions reported sporadic activity. During the same period, sentinel physicians reported 12 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits and the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention & Control (CIDPC) received 773 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: none were positive. 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-dgsp/fluwatch/index.html>

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 47 (November 18-24, 2001), 3 of 717 respiratory specimens tested by WHO and NREVSS laboratories were positive for influenza. The overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.4%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.1%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 7.4% for week 47. One state and territorial health department reported regional influenza activity, 20 reported sporadic influenza activity, and 18 reported no flu activity.

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

Influenza Activity in the World

Influenza remained below baseline levels although an increase in number of influenza-like illness consultations has been reported. Influenza A, A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B viruses were isolated or antigenically detected mainly from sporadic cases. Influenza activity between 1 October and 24 November 2001: Outbreaks of influenza were reported in Australia, Canada and the Philippines during the first week of October. Activity in the USA was reported to be at local outbreak level on the second week of November and viruses isolated were influenza A, A(H3N2) and B. In other countries that reported, the rate of acute respiratory consultations remained below baseline levels.

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

Influenza Activity Level By health Unit Week Ending Dec 1, 2001

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario

