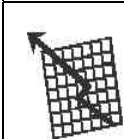


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 5, Issue 8 December 21, 2001</i>
			

Week #50: Week Ending December 15, 2001

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There were two cases of influenza A reported in the province for the week ending December 15, 2001. The reported upper respiratory isolates included: 48 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 11 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 8 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 1 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3), 2 parainfluenza type 4 (PIV4), and 2 adenovirus. (Tables 1 2, and 3).

Toronto Public Health reported the season's second outbreak of influenza. Two children at a day-care centre tested positive for influenza A, detected by rapid testing. (Tables 2 and 3).

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 16, 2000	Week Ending December 15, 2001
	Season-to-date	Season-to-date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total	8	11
Influenza A	7	11
Influenza B	1	0
Institutional Outbreaks	0	2**
Other Respiratory Viruses		
RSV	219	135
PIV1	7	75
PIV2	3	59
PIV3	40	4
PIV4	9	12
Other PIVs	0	2
Adenoviruses	21	28

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

**Reportable Disease Information System

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
Halton	1	0
Kingston	2	0
Leeds, Grenville, Lanark	3	0
Toronto	2	0

*Reportable Disease Information System

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; *(note: they were not immunized)
Toronto	Day-Care Centre	1	Influenza A	7.6	0.1	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 24 per 1,000 patients seen.

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

No new influenza 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

Across Canada, there is limited influenza activity. During the week ending December 8, all regions reported no influenza activity and sentinel physicians reported 18 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is below the expected rate for this time of year. During the same period, Health Canada received 888 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: one was positive for influenza A. Since the beginning of the season, there has been 1 reported outbreak (week 42) at a long term care facility. All influenza viruses characterised to date have been A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like, a strain contained in this year's vaccine.

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

Influenza Activity in the United States

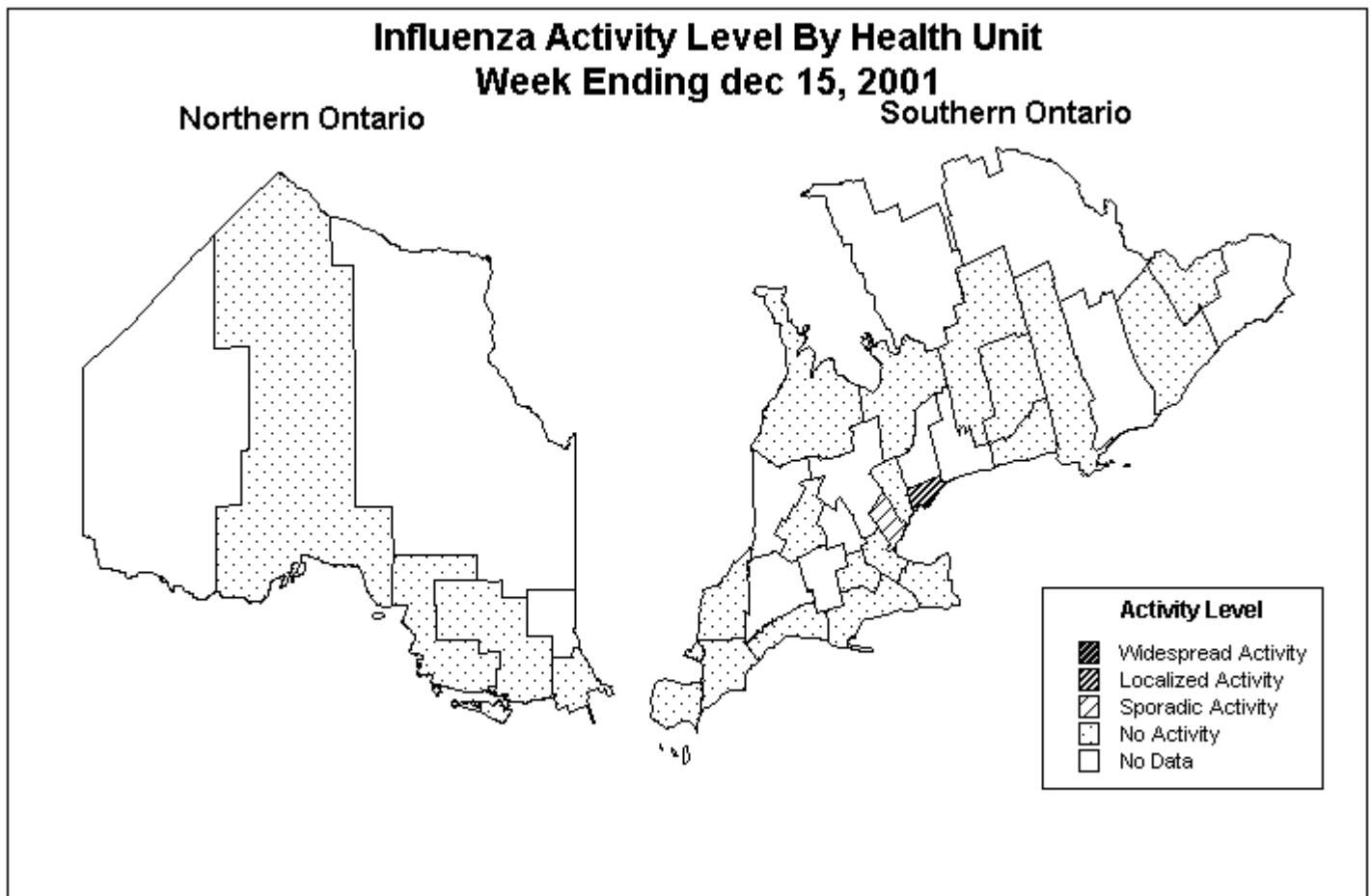
During week 49 (December 2-8, 2001), 11 of 943 respiratory specimens tested by WHO and NREVSS laboratories were positive for influenza. The overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.2%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.7%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 7.6% for week 49. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, one reported regional activity, 33 reported sporadic activity, and 14 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

No new information reported since the last Bulletin.

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



Visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website weekly for the current issue, or back issues, of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin: <http://www.gov.on.ca/MOH/english/program/pubhealth/flu_bul/flubul_mn.html>