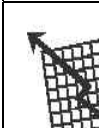


|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                           |                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <b>Ontario<br/>Influenza<br/>Bulletin</b> | <b>Ministry of Health and<br/>Long-Term Care</b><br><br><b>Public Health Branch</b><br><br><i>Volume 5, Issue 9<br/>December 28, 2001</i> |
|  |  |                                           |                                                                                                                                           |

**Week #51: Week Ending December 22, 2001**

### Influenza Activity in Ontario

There were two cases of influenza A reported in the province for the week ending December 22, 2001. The reported upper respiratory isolates included: 91 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 4 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 7 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 1 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3), and 1 adenovirus (Table 1).

In addition, the City of Ottawa Public Health and Long-Term Care Branch reported the season's first lab-confirmed case of influenza B for the province. And Toronto Public Health also reported one isolated lab-confirmed case of influenza B. Neither of the influenza B strains has been characterized to-date (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 23, 2000 | Week Ending December 22, 2001 |
|                                                  | Season-to-date                | Season-to-date                |
| <b>*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total</b> | <b>8</b>                      | <b>15</b>                     |
| Influenza A                                      | 7                             | 13                            |
| Influenza B                                      | 1                             | 2***                          |
| <b>Institutional Outbreaks</b>                   | <b>0</b>                      | <b>2**</b>                    |
| Other Respiratory Viruses                        |                               |                               |
| RSV                                              | 306                           | 226                           |
| PIV1                                             | 10                            | 79                            |
| PIV2                                             | 3                             | 66                            |
| PIV3                                             | 44                            | 5                             |
| PIV4                                             | 10                            | 12                            |
| Other PIVs                                       | 0                             | 2                             |
| Adenoviruses                                     | 23                            | 29                            |

\*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

\*\*Reportable Disease Information System

\*\*\* As reported by Toronto Public Health Unit and the City of Ottawa Public Health and Long-Term Care Branch

**Table 2. Season-to-date Influenza Cases by Health Unit as Reported Through RDIS\*, 2001-02**

| 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                                       | 1**    |
| Ottawa                   | 0                                       | 1**    |

\*Reportable Disease Information System

\*\*As reported by Toronto Public Health Unit and the City of Ottawa Public Health and Long-Term Care Branch

**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;<br>*(note: they were not immunized) |
| Toronto                  | Day-Care Centre         | 1              | Influenza A         | 58   | 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 25 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, influenza activity remains limited. During the week ending December 15, most influenza surveillance regions reported no influenza activity. However, sporadic activity was reported for Quebec and south-east British Columbia and localised influenza activity was reported for one region in Ontario. 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. Health Canada received 978 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: 5 were positive for influenza A and one was positive for influenza B. Since the beginning of the season, there have been 2 reported outbreaks, one in a day-care (week 50) and one at a long term care facility (week 42). Both outbreaks occurred in Ontario and are associated with influenza A. 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

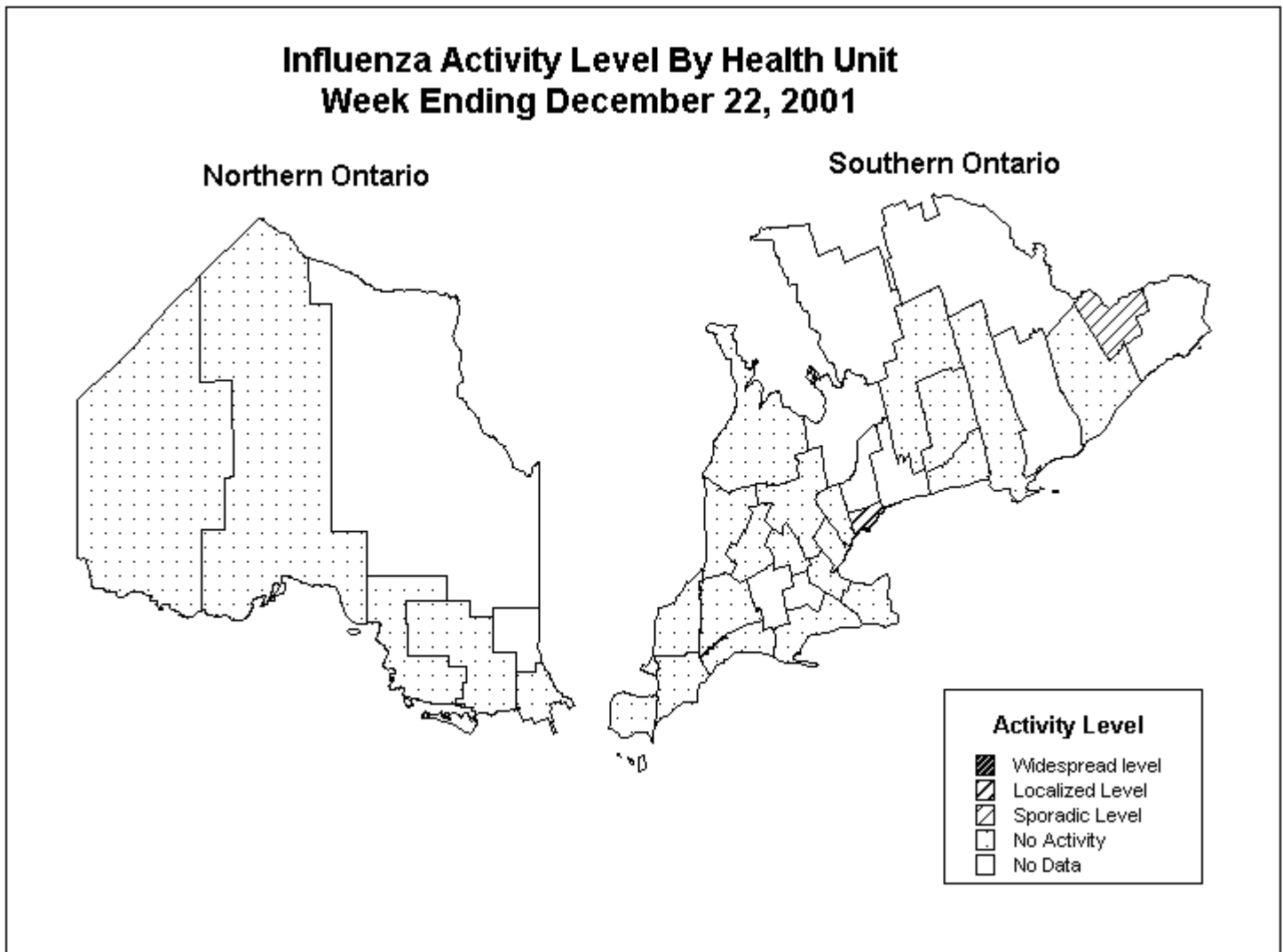
During week 50 (December 9-15, 2001) 25 of 907 respiratory specimens tested by WHO and NREVSS laboratories were positive for influenza. The overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.2%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 7.1%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 7.7% for week 50. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, two reported regional activity, 36 reported sporadic activity, and 11 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](http://www.gov.on.ca/MOH/english/program/pubhealth/flu_bul/flubul_mn.html)>