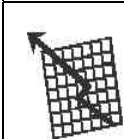


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
			Public Health Branch <i>Volume 5, Issue 10 January 4, 2002</i>

Week #52: Week Ending December 29, 2001

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was one case of influenza B reported in the province for the week ending December 29, 2001. None of the influenza B strains has been confirmed by viral culture and characterized to-date. The reported upper respiratory isolates included: 26 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 3 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), and 3 adenovirus (Table 1).

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 30, 2000	Week Ending December 29, 2001
	Season-to-date	Season-to-date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total	11	16
Influenza A	10	13
Influenza B	1	3***
Institutional Outbreaks	0	2**
Other Respiratory Viruses		
RSV	382	252
PIV1	13	79
PIV2	3	69
PIV3	51	5
PIV4	10	12
Other PIVs	0	2
Adenoviruses	27	32

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

**Reportable Disease Information System

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

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	4**	1**
Ottawa	0	1**
York	0	1

*Reportable Disease Information System

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

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	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 14 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 22, most influenza surveillance regions reported no influenza activity. Ontario and south-east British Columbia reported sporadic influenza activity (see map). Sentinel physicians reported 23 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is below the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 623 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: 3 were positive for influenza A (see table). 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 were 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

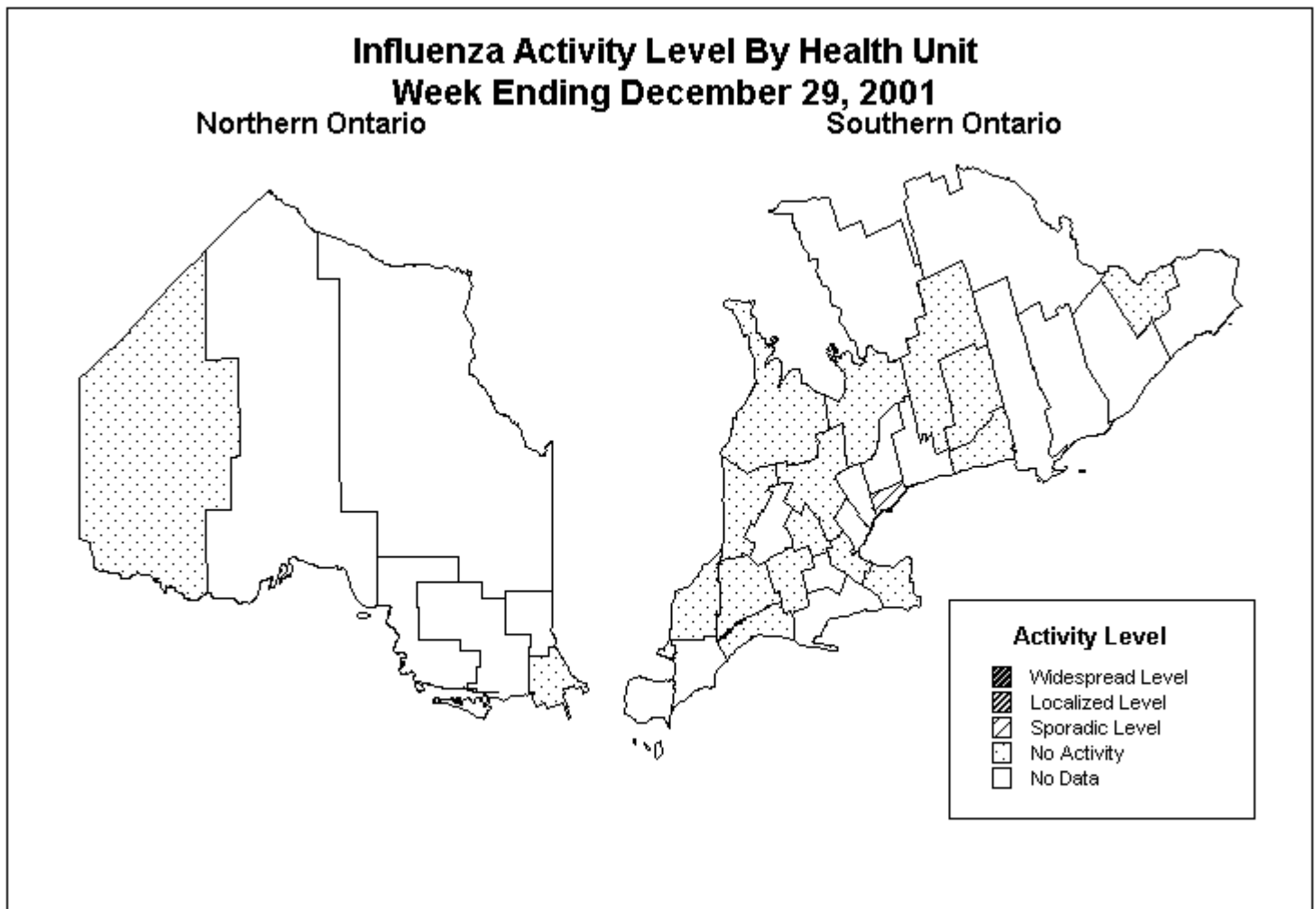
During week 51 (December 16-22, 2001), 18 of 756 respiratory specimens tested by WHO and NREVSS laboratories were positive for influenza. The overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.5%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.4%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 7.8% for week 51. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, two reported regional activity, 39 reported sporadic activity, and 5 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>