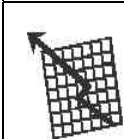


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 5, Issue 11 January 11, 2002</i>
			

Week #1: Week Ending January 5, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was no influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending January 5, 2002. The reported upper respiratory isolates included: 60 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 2 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), and 4 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 January 6, 2001	Week Ending January 5, 2002
	Season-to-date	Season-to-date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total	13	16
Influenza A	11	13
Influenza B	2	3
Institutional Outbreaks	0	2
Other Respiratory Viruses		
RSV	466	312
PIV1	14	81
PIV2	3	69
PIV3	59	5
PIV4	10	12
Other PIVs	0	2
Adenoviruses	30	36

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada; Reportable Disease Information System; Health Units

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

**Public Health Units

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 30 per 1,000 patients seen.

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

No new influenza strain characterizations were identified to-date. None of the influenza B strains has been characterized 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, however, laboratory detections for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and parainfluenza virus have increased in recent weeks (see table). During the week ending December 29, most influenza surveillance regions reported no influenza activity. Sporadic activity was reported in a few regions in British Columbia and Manitoba. Sentinel physicians reported 24 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is below the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 456 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: 3 were positive for influenza A and 1 was positive for influenza B (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 52 (December 23-29, 2001), 20 of 608 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 2.5%, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 7.0%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 7.9% for week 52. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 3 reported regional activity, 42 reported sporadic activity, and 3 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 the week ending January 5, 2002, a local outbreak of influenza A continued to be detected in Spain. In the United Kingdom, levels of acute respiratory virus infection, including influenza, continued to be reported at low levels.

(Influenza activity between 1 October and 29 December 2001): On the first week of October, outbreaks of influenza were reported in Australia, Canada and Philippines. During the last 3 weeks of the month, Paraguay reported local outbreaks of influenza A and B.

In November, there have been some influenza activity reported by USA on the last 3 weeks of the month. During the same weeks, Russian Federation reported rapid increase in the rate of influenza-like illness. Influenza cases were confirmed by serologic tests. The rate of acute respiratory consultations increased in several countries, mainly in Europe and North America, but still remained below baseline levels with only sporadic isolations of influenza A and B viruses. Most influenza A viruses so far have been subtype A(H3N2).

During the last two weeks of December, Spain reported local outbreaks of influenza. France also reported local outbreaks of influenza on the last week of the month, influenza A and B viruses were isolated. The rate of influenza-like illness went above the epidemic level on the third week of the month in some cities of Russian Federation. In most countries, influenza activity continued to remain low with acute respiratory consultations still below the epidemic levels.

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>

Influenza Activity Level By Health Unit Week Ending January 5, 2002

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario

