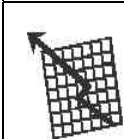


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
			Public Health Branch <i>Volume 5, Issue 12 January 18, 2002</i>

Week #2: Week Ending January 12, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There were two cases of influenza A, and 3 cases of influenza B reported in the province for the week ending January 12, 2002. The reported upper respiratory isolates included: 133 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 3 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 8 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 1 parainfluenza type 4 (PIV4), 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 January 13, 2001	Week Ending January 12, 2002
	Season-to-date	Season-to-date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total	24	23
Influenza A	18	13
Influenza B	6	10
Institutional Outbreaks	0	2
Other Respiratory Viruses		
RSV	635	597
PIV1	16	92
PIV2	4	81
PIV3	79	5
PIV4	12	13
Other PIVs	0	2
Adenoviruses	36	47

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

**Due to the holiday season delay in data transmissions, Health Canada reported revisions for weeks 51, 52, and 1. This new data is updated in Table 1.

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
Eastern Ontario	1	0
Halton	1	0
Kingston	2	1
Leeds, Grenville, Lanark	3	0
Toronto	5	4
Niagara	1	0
Ottawa	0	3
Peel	0	1
York	0	1
Total	13	10

*Reportable Disease Information System; **Public Health Units

Table 3. Season-to-date Institutional Influenza Outbreaks by Health Unit in Ontario, 2001-02

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 13 per 1,000 patients seen.

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

Two influenza A isolates in Canada were characterized as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like, and both cases were from Alberta. None of the type B strains from Ontario has been characterized to-date. The identified type A strains are included in the current season's influenza vaccine (Table 4).

Table 4. Season-to-date Strain Identification and Characterization In Canada*, 2001-02

Province/Territory	Strain Characterization	# of Strains Identified-to-date
Newfoundland		
Prince Edward Island		
Nova Scotia		
New Brunswick		
Quebec	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	1
Ontario	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	3
Manitoba		
Saskatchewan	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	2
Alberta	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	2
	A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like	2
British Colombia	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	1
Yukon	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	1
NorthWest Territories		
Nunavut		
		Total
	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	10
	A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like	2
	B/Sichuan/379/99-like	0

*Respiratory Viruses Section, National Microbiology Laboratory (NML), PPHB, Health Canada

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

Influenza activity has increased in some areas of Canada, most notably in Quebec. In addition, laboratory detections for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) have continued to rise sharply, especially in Quebec. During the week ending January 5, sporadic activity was reported in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and the Yukon and localised activity was reported for Quebec. Sentinel physicians reported 20 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which remains below the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 1295 reports of laboratory tests, for influenza: 103 were positive for influenza A, and 2 were positive for influenza B. Since the beginning of the season, there have been 2 reported outbreaks associated with influenza A, one in a day-care (week 50) and one at a long-term care facility (week 42). All influenza viruses characterised to date are similar to strains 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 1 (December 31, 2001-January 5, 2002), 94 (7.3%) of 1281 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 2.4%, which is above 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 8.0% for week 1. One state and territorial health department reported widespread influenza activity, 11 reported regional activity, 32 reported sporadic activity, and 2 states 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

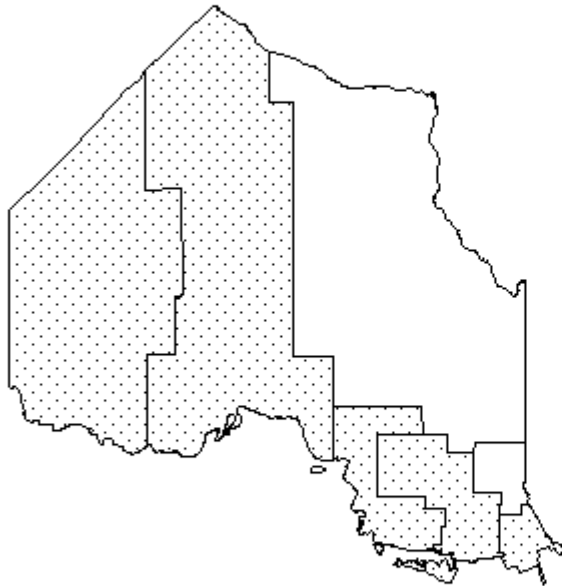
No new information was reported since the last Bulletin.

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

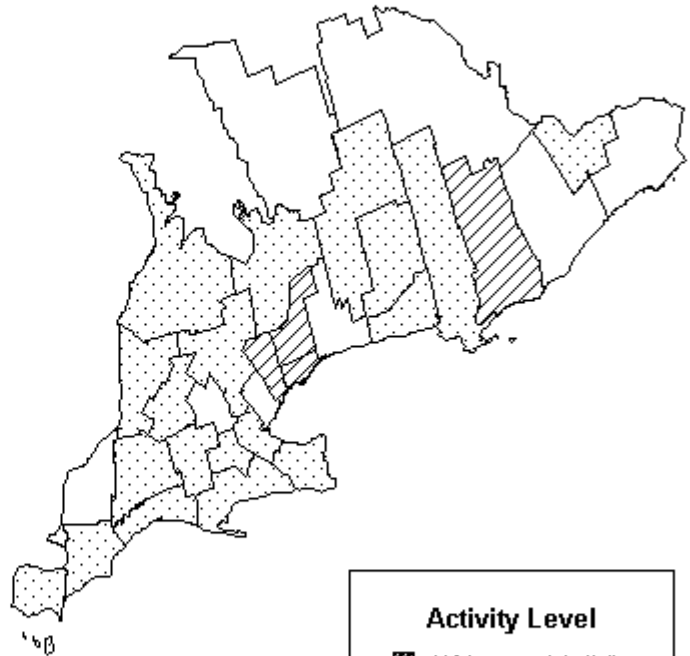
Visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website weekly for the current issue, or back issues, of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin: <http://www.gov.on.ca/MOH/english/program/pubhealth/flu_bul/flubul_mn.html>

Influenza Activity Level By Health Unit Week Ending January 12, 2002

Northern Ontario



Southern Ontario



Activity Level

-  Widespread Activity
-  Localized Activity
-  Sporadic Activity
-  No Activity
-  No Data