

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 5, Issue 14</i> <i>February 1st, 2002</i>
			

Week #4: Week Ending January 26, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There were 15 cases of influenza A, and 14 cases of influenza B reported in the province for the week ending January 26, 2002. The reported upper respiratory isolates included: 97 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 4 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 3 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 1 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3), and 8 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 27, 2001	Week Ending January 26, 2002
	Season-to-date	Season-to-date
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates) Total	62	58
Influenza A	42	29
Influenza B	20	29
Institutional Outbreaks	0	4
Other Respiratory Viruses		
RSV	820	823
PIV1	18	100
PIV2	5	87
PIV3	97	9
PIV4	16	13
Other PIVs	0	2
Adenoviruses	43	62

*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*, 2001-02

Health Unit	Number of Lab-Confirmed Influenza Cases**	
	Type A	Type B
Brant County	1	0
Durham	2	1
Eastern Ontario	1	0
Halton	1	0
Hamilton-Wentworth	5	1
Kingston	3	1
Leeds, Grenville, Lanark	4	0
Niagara	1	0
North Bay & District	2	0
Ottawa	3	3
Peel	1	2
Peterborough	1	0
Simcoe	1	1
Toronto	7	9
York	0	1
Total	33	19

*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
Brant County	Nursing Home	1	Influenza A	5.2	2.9	None reported to-date; *(note: antiviral use was initiated)
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)
North Bay & District	Home for the Aged	1	Influenza A	1.8	3.3	None reported to-date; *(note: the residents were immunized; antiviral use was initiated)
Toronto	Day-Care Centre	1	Influenza A	58	0.1	None reported to-date; *(note: immunization data unknown)

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

No new strains were identified this week. For the season-to-date, the following strains have been identified in Ontario: A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like, B/Sichuan/379/99-like, and B/Hong Kong/22/01-like.

The A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like strain and B/Sichuan/379/99-like strain, is included in this year's vaccine, and the B/Hong Kong/22/01-like strain belongs the B/Victoria/504/2002 lineage, which is not included in this year's vaccine.

This year's influenza vaccine B component provides protection mainly against B/Yamagata/16/88-like viruses, but as several studies have shown, this strain also provides some protection against the B/Victoria/504/2002-like viruses. The identified A strains are included in the current season's 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	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	1
Quebec	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	13
Ontario	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	13
	B/Sichuan/379/99-like	1
	B/Hong Kong/22/01-like	2
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 Columbia	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	7
Yukon	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	2
NorthWest Territories		
Nunavut		
		Total
	A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like	40
	A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like	2
	B/Sichuan/379/99-like	1
	B/Hong Kong/22/01-like	2

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

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

Influenza activity has increased to localised activity in Quebec, Ontario, and BC, with outbreaks reported in all three provinces. In Quebec, 25% of tests were positive for influenza A. 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 1661 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: 199 (12%) were positive for influenza A and 7 (0.4%) were positive for influenza B. Of the 45 influenza isolates referred to the National Microbiology Laboratory, the majority (89%) were identified as: A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2)-like; 2 (4%) were identified as A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like. All influenza A viruses identified to date have been similar to the strains included in this season's northern hemisphere vaccine. There have been two influenza B strains identified to date. The influenza B/Sichuan/379/99-like strain is similar to the vaccine strain, B/Victoria/504/2000. The influenza B/Hong Kong/22/01-like virus is antigenically different from the vaccine strain and the current vaccine is expected to provide limited cross-protection against this antigenic variant of influenza B viruses.

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

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 3 (January 13-19, 2002), 167 (13.9%) of 1200 respiratory specimens tested by WHO and NRVES laboratories were positive for influenza. The overall proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.6%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%, which is above the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 7.7%, which is below the epidemic threshold of 8.1% for week 3. Four state and territorial health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 11 reported regional activity, 31 reported sporadic activity, and 1 state 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](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 26, 2002

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario

