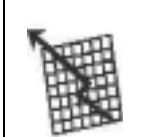


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 6, Issue 1 November 1, 2002</i>
			

Week #43: Week Ending October 26, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was no influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending October 26, 2002. None of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported influenza cases during this surveillance period. However, the following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 8 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 1 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), and 6 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3). (Table 1).

The season's first laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak in a long-term care facility was reported in the province during the week ending August 31, 2002 (week 35) (Tables 2 and 3). Two cases were confirmed positive for influenza A. The outbreak was reported by Peel Regional Health Unit.

Table 1. Comparison of Influenza Activity for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 Influenza Surveillance Seasons

Indicator	2001-02 Season	2002-03
	Week Ending October 27, 2001	Week Ending October 26, 2002
	Season to Date**	Season to Date***
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates)Total	0	3
Influenza A	0	3
Influenza B	0	0
vNo. of Visits to Sentinel Physicians for ILI	19	13
Institutional Outbreaks	0	0
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	2	24
PIV1	5	7
PIV2	6	5
PIV3	0	64
PIV4	0	2
Other PIVs	0	0
Adenoviruses	0	24

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

** October 20, 2001- October 27, 2001

***Season to Date August 25, 2002 – October 26, 2002; consistency with Health Canada year round surveillance

vFluWatch Sentinel Physician Program, Rate per 1000 patients seen

Table 2. Influenza Cases Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2002-2003

Health Unit	Number of Lab-Confirmed Influenza Cases	
	Type A	Type B
Ottawa	1	0
Perth District	1	0
Total	2	0

Note: 2 additional cases of influenza A were reported by Peel Regional prior to August 25, 2002.

Table 3. Season-to-date Institutional Influenza Outbreaks by Health Unit in Ontario, 2002-2003

Health Unit	Type of Institution	# of Outbreaks	Organism Identified	RAR (%)	SAR (%)	Complications
Peel Regional *	Long-Term Care Facility	1	Influenza A	20.9	8.3	1 death
Perth District	Long-term Care Facility	1	Influenza	40.4	11.3	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)

*The outbreak within Peel Regional began prior to week 35 but into week 41 and thus has been included in the 2002-2003 season.

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.

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

Across Canada, influenza activity remains low. During the week ending October 19 (week 42), 11 regions reported no influenza activity, Nunavut reported sporadic activity and one region did not report. During the same period, sentinel physicians reported 13 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is below the expected rate for this time of year. The Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention & Control (CIDPC) received 597 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: one positive for influenza A. Detection of other respiratory viruses circulating in the Canadian population was at low levels, including: RSV (2.3% of tests positive), parainfluenza viruses (5.1% of tests positive) and adenovirus (0.7% of tests positive). Since the beginning of the 2002-2003 season, there have been no reported outbreaks in long term care facilities.

Source: Health Canada, FluWatch: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/02-03/w42_02/index.html>

Influenza Activity in the United States

During the week ending October 12, 2002 (week 41), influenza activity was reported as sporadic in 9 states and none in 37 states. (4 states did not report). ILI accounted for 1.2% of patient visits to sentinel physicians, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. Sentinel cities reported that 6.0% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza, which is below the epidemic threshold of 6.4% for this week. The CDC received 446 reports of influenza tests: 1 influenza A (H1N1) isolate was identified in North Carolina.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>>

Influenza Activity in the World

During week 42, although most countries participating in FluNet surveillance did not report, Denmark and Hong Kong SAR reported very low levels of influenza activity. Spain, France and the United Kingdom reported no activity.

Source: WHO, <<http://oms2.b3e.jussieu.fr/flunet/news.html>>

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the trivalent vaccine for the 2002-03 season contain an A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2)-like virus, an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, and either B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like virus or B/Shangdong/7/97-like antigens.

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/health/english/program/pubhealth/flu_bul/flubul_mn.html>