

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 6, Issue 2 November 8, 2002</i>

Week #44: Week Ending November 2, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was no influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending November 2, 2002. None of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported influenza cases during this surveillance period. However, the following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 9 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 7 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 9 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3) and 4 adenovirus (Table 1).

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

Indicator	2001-02 Season	2002-03
	Week Ending November 3, 2001	Week Ending November 2, 2002
	Season to Date**	Season to Date***
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates)Total	5	3
Influenza A	5	3
Influenza B	0	0
vNo. of Visits to Sentinel Physicians for ILI	1	21
Institutional Outbreaks	1	2
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	3	35
PIV1	14	15
PIV2	12	5
PIV3	0	76
PIV4	0	2
Other PIVs	0	0
Adenoviruses	8	29

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

** October 20, 2001- November 3, 2001

***Season to Date August 25, 2002 – November 2, 2002; consistency with Health Canada year round surveillance

vFluWatch Sentinel Physician Program, Rate per 1000 patients seen

Table 2. Season to Date 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 A	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 21 per 1,000 patients seen.

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

Influenza activity remains low across Canada. During the week ending October 26 (week 43), 12 provinces/territories reported no influenza activity and one province did not report. Sentinel physicians reported 21 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is within the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 594 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: none were positive for influenza. Detection of other respiratory viruses circulating in the Canadian population is slightly increased but still at moderate levels for RSV (3.7% of tests positive), parainfluenza viruses (6.2% of tests positive) and adenovirus (1.0% of tests positive). To date this season, there have been no reported outbreaks of laboratory confirmed influenza in long-term care facilities.

Source: Health Canada, FluWatch: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/02-03/w43_02/index.html>

Influenza Activity in the United States

During the week ending October 19, 2002 (week 42), influenza activity was reported as sporadic in 10 states and none in 39 states (one state did not report). ILI accounted for 1.1% 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 6.9% for this week. The CDC received 671 reports of influenza tests; none were positive for influenza virus.

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

Influenza Activity in the World

During week 42, reports to the WHO FluNet indicated that sporadic influenza activity was occurring in Argentina, France, Hong Kong SAR of China and Madagascar. However, many participating countries did not report. In the two weeks prior, acute respiratory infection or influenza-like illness remained below baseline level in Africa, the Americas, Europe and Asia. Viruses detected since the beginning of October include: influenza A (unsubtyped) in Canada; A(H1N1) in the United States; A(H3N2) in Hong Kong SAR of China and Madagascar; and influenza B in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong SAR of China and Madagascar. Week 42 was the first bulletin of the season posted by the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS); 20 networks reported no influenza virus detections and baseline levels of clinical influenza activity.

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

And EISS (Europe): <http://www.eiss.org/cgi-files/bulletin_v2.cgi>

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

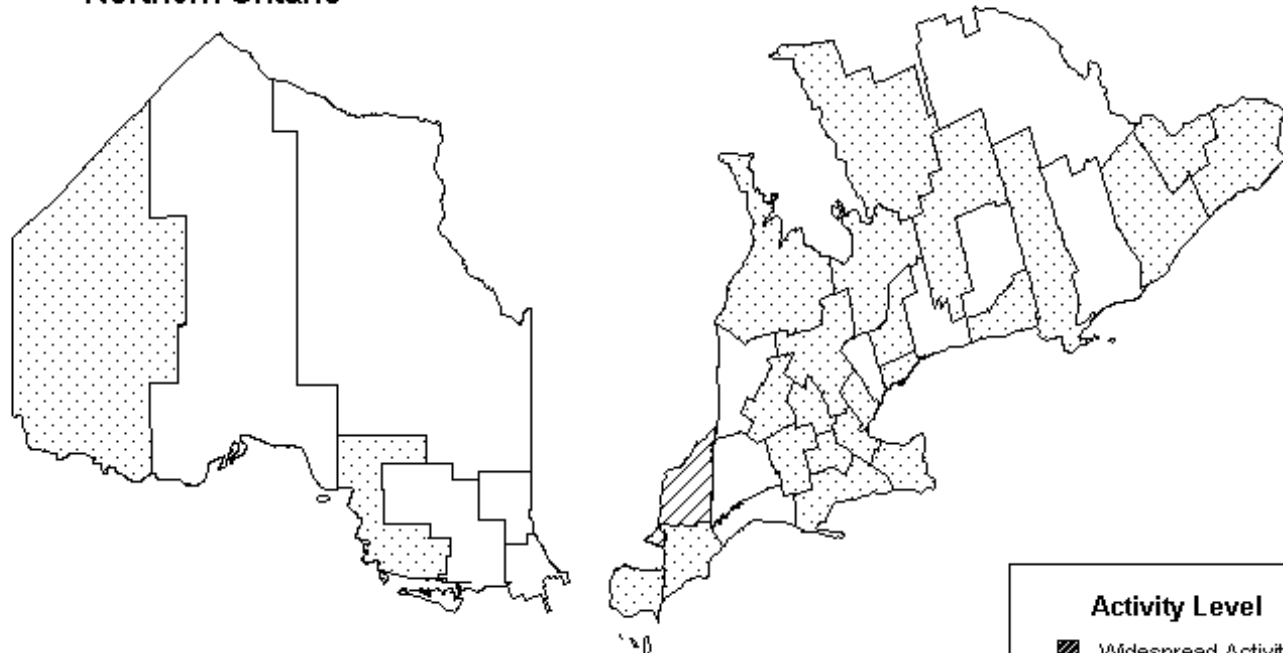
The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the trivalent vaccine for the 2002-03 season contain an A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2)-like virus, an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, and either B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like virus or B/Shangdong/7/97-like antigens.

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

Influenza Activity Level by Health Unit Week Ending November 2, 2002

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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

