

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 6, Issue 3 November 15, 2002</i>
			

Week #45: Week Ending November 9, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was no influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending November 9, 2002. None of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported influenza cases during this surveillance period. However, the following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 14 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 3 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 1 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 10 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3) and 1 adenovirus (Table 1).

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

Indicator	2001-02 Season Week Ending November 10, 2001	2002-03 Week Ending November 9, 2002
	Season to Date**	Season to Date***
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates)Total	9	3
Influenza A	9	3
Influenza B	0	0
vNo. of Visits to Sentinel Physicians for ILI	30	15
Institutional Outbreaks	1	2
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	11	49
PIV1	25	19
PIV2	20	6
PIV3	1	90
PIV4	0	2
Other PIVs	0	0
Adenoviruses	13	30

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

** October 20, 2001- November 10, 2001

***Season to Date August 25, 2002 – November 9, 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 15 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 November 2 (week 44), 12 provinces/territories reported no influenza activity and one province did not report. Sentinel physicians reported 15 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is within the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 874 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: one was positive for influenza A. Alberta reported a detection of influenza A (November 1st) in a traveller returning from south east Asia. Results for subtyping and strain identification are pending. Detection of other respiratory viruses circulating in the Canadian population remains at moderate levels for RSV (3.1% of tests positive), parainfluenza viruses (5.3% of tests positive) and adenovirus (0.8% of tests positive). To date this season, there has been one reported outbreak of laboratory confirmed influenza in a long term care facility (LTCF). The outbreak, which occurred in a LTCF in Perth, Ontario in late September/early October was associated with influenza A (unsubtyped). The outbreak ended on October 8, 2002.

Source: Health Canada, FluWatch: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/02-03/w44_02/index.html>

Influenza Activity in the United States

During the week ending October 26, 2002 (week 43), influenza activity was reported as regional in two states, sporadic in eight states and none in 40 states. ILI accounted for 1.0% of patient visits to sentinel physicians, which is below the national baseline of 1.9%. Sentinel cities reported that 6.1% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza, which is below the epidemic threshold of 6.9% for this week. The CDC received 668 reports of influenza tests; three were positive for influenza A(H1N1) virus.

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

Influenza Activity in the World

During week 43, reports to the WHO FluNet indicated that sporadic influenza activity was occurring in Argentina, Brazil, Hong Kong SAR of China and Madagascar. However, many participating countries did not report. In Week 44 the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) reported sporadic circulation of influenza A and B viruses across Europe including: sporadic detections of influenza A (unsubtyped) in Wales, A(H1N2) in England, A(H3N2) in France and Poland and influenza B in Germany, France, Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

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

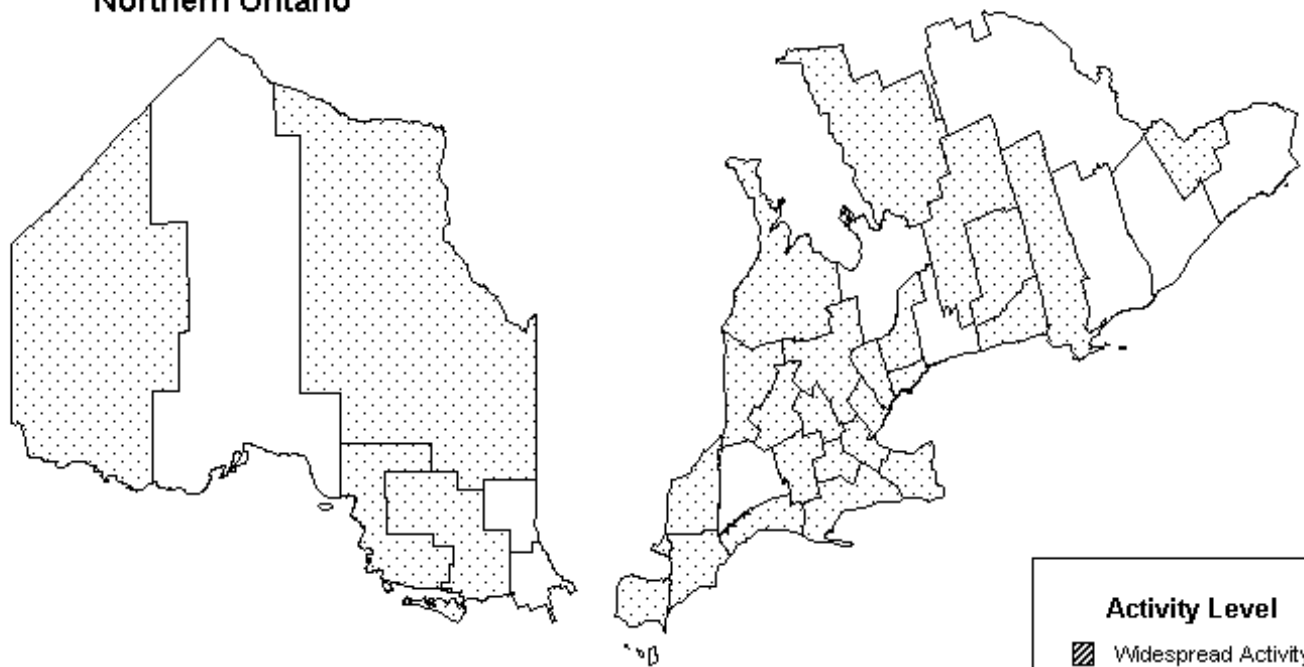
The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the trivalent vaccine for the 2002-03 season contain an A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2)-like virus, an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, and either B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like virus or B/Shangdong/7/97-like antigens.

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 9, 2002

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

- Widespread Activity
- Localized Activity
- Sporadic Activity
- No Activity
- No data