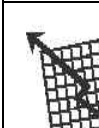


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 6, Issue 4 November 22, 2002</i>
			

Week #46: Week Ending November 16, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was no influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending November 16, 2002. None of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported influenza cases during this surveillance period. However, the following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 15 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 4 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 11 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3) and 2 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 17, 2001	Week Ending November 16, 2002
	Season to Date**	Season to Date***
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates)Total	9	3
Influenza A	9	3
Influenza B	0	0
√No. of Visits to Sentinel Physicians for ILI	13	26
Institutional Outbreaks	1	2
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	18	64
PIV1	36	23
PIV2	24	6
PIV3	1	103
PIV4	4	2
Other PIVs	1	0
Adenoviruses	15	32

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

** October 20, 2001- November 17, 2001

***Season to Date August 25, 2002 – November 16, 2002; consistency with Health Canada year round surveillance

√FluWatch 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 26 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 9 (week 45), 10 provinces/ territories reported no influenza activity (two provinces and one territory did not report, see map). Sentinel physicians reported 26 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is within the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 790 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: none were positive for influenza. Last week Alberta reported a detection of influenza A (November 1st) in a traveller returning from south east Asia. The National Microbiology Laboratory has identified the associated strain as A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like, which is covered by this year's vaccine. Detection of other respiratory viruses circulating in the Canadian population remains at moderate levels for RSV (3.2% of tests positive), parainfluenza viruses (6.3% of tests positive) and adenovirus (1.5% of tests positive). To date this season, there has been one reported outbreak of laboratory confirmed influenza in a long term care facility (LTCF).

Source: Health Canada, FluWatch: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/02-03/w45_02/index.html>

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 44, influenza activity was reported as regional in Louisiana and sporadic or none in 44 states (one state did not report). ILI accounted for 1.2% of patient visits to sentinel physicians, below the national baseline of 1.9%. Sentinel cities reported 6.7% of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza, below the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for this week. The CDC received 884 reports of influenza tests, 4 were positive (2 influenza A(unsubtyped) and 2 influenza B). Since September 29, a total of 5,355 specimens have been tested for influenza, 10 (0.2%) were positive (7 influenza A and 3 influenza B) and one has been characterized as influenza A(H1N2). A(H1N2) viruses circulated in several countries during the past season, resulting from gene reassortment among the circulating influenza A (H1N1) and A (H3N2) viruses. Accordingly, the A(H1N1) and A(H3N2) components of 2002-03 vaccine are expected to provide protection against the A(H1N2) viruses.

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

Influenza Activity in the World

During weeks 43 & 44, reports to the WHO FluNet indicated that sporadic influenza activity was occurring in Brazil, Chile, Russian Federation and Madagascar. However, many participating countries did not report. In Week 45, The European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) reported influenza activity at low levels across Europe. Influenza A and B viruses identified to date are covered by the current vaccine.

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

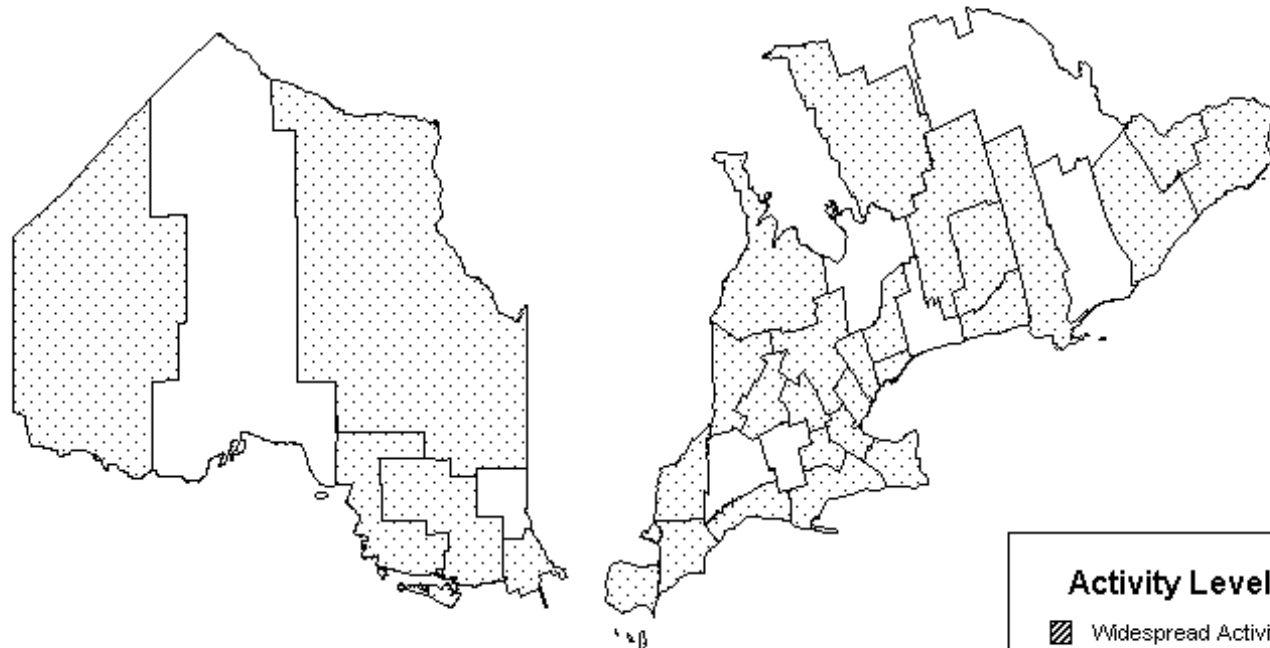
The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the trivalent vaccine for the 2002-03 season contain an A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2)-like virus, an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, and either B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like virus or B/Shangdong/7/97-like antigens.

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 16, 2002**

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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