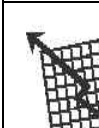


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 6, Issue 5 November 29, 2002</i>
			

Week #47: Week Ending November 23, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending November 23, 2002. Three of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported 5 influenza A cases during this surveillance period. The following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 14 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 6 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 1 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), and 10 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3) (Table 1).

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

Indicator	2001-02 Season	2002-03 Season
	Week Ending November 24, 2001	Week Ending November 23, 2002
	Season to Date**	Season to Date***
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates)Total	9	8
Influenza A	9	8
Influenza B	0	0
vNo. of Visits to Sentinel Physicians for ILI	11	12
Institutional Outbreaks	1	2
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	24	80
PIV1	42	29
PIV2	36	7
PIV3	1	114
PIV4	7	2
Other PIVs	2	0
Adenoviruses	17	33

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

** October 20, 2001- November 24, 2001

***Season to Date August 25, 2002 – November 23, 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
Hamilton-Wentworth	1	0
Total	3	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.

As of November 27, 2002, we have been informed about 3 outbreaks in Ontario schools (Halton, Perth, York Region) and in all 3 outbreaks Influenza A was identified as the causative organism. This information is provided to make all aware of the first signs of major activity within the province. Since school outbreaks are not reportable in Ontario, future issues will not report on school outbreaks.

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance Activity in Ontario

The rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported through the Federal FluWatch system was 12 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 16 (week 46), Quebec and BC reported sporadic activity and 11 provinces/territories reported no influenza activity. Sentinel physicians reported 12 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is within the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 800 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: two were positive for influenza. Detection of other respiratory viruses circulating in the Canadian population remains at moderate levels for RSV (4.5% of tests positive), parainfluenza viruses (6.0% of tests positive) and adenovirus (1.8% of tests positive). To date this season, there has been one reported outbreak of laboratory confirmed influenza in a long term care facility (LTCF).

Source: Health Canada, FluWatch: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/02-03/w46_02/index.html>

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 45, influenza activity was reported as regional in Louisiana and sporadic or none in 49 states. ILI accounted for 1.3% of patient visits to sentinel physicians, below the national baseline of 1.9%. Sentinel cities reported 6.5% of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza, below the epidemic threshold of 7.2% for this week. The CDC received 738 reports of influenza tests, one was positive (influenza B). Since September 29, a total of 6,493 specimens have been tested for influenza, 11 (0.2%) were positive (7 influenza A and 4 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 45 and 46, country reports to the WHO FluNet indicate that influenza activity is low worldwide with only sporadic isolations of influenza viruses. However, many participating countries did not report. Similarly in week 46, 21 out of 22 networks participating in the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) reported baseline levels of clinical activity. Outside of North America, influenza virus detections reported to the WHO and EISS in recent weeks include influenza A(H3N2) in Spain and France, influenza A(H1N2) in Central England and influenza B in Spain, France, Chile and Brazil. All of these viruses are covered by the 2002-2003 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.

Table 4. Season-to-date Strain Identification and Characterization in Canada, 2002-2003*

Province/Territory	Strain Characterization	# of Strains Identified-to-date
Alberta	A/PANAMA/2007/99-like	1
Ontario	A/PANAMA/2007/99-like	1
Quebec	A/PANAMA/2007/99-like	2
Total		4

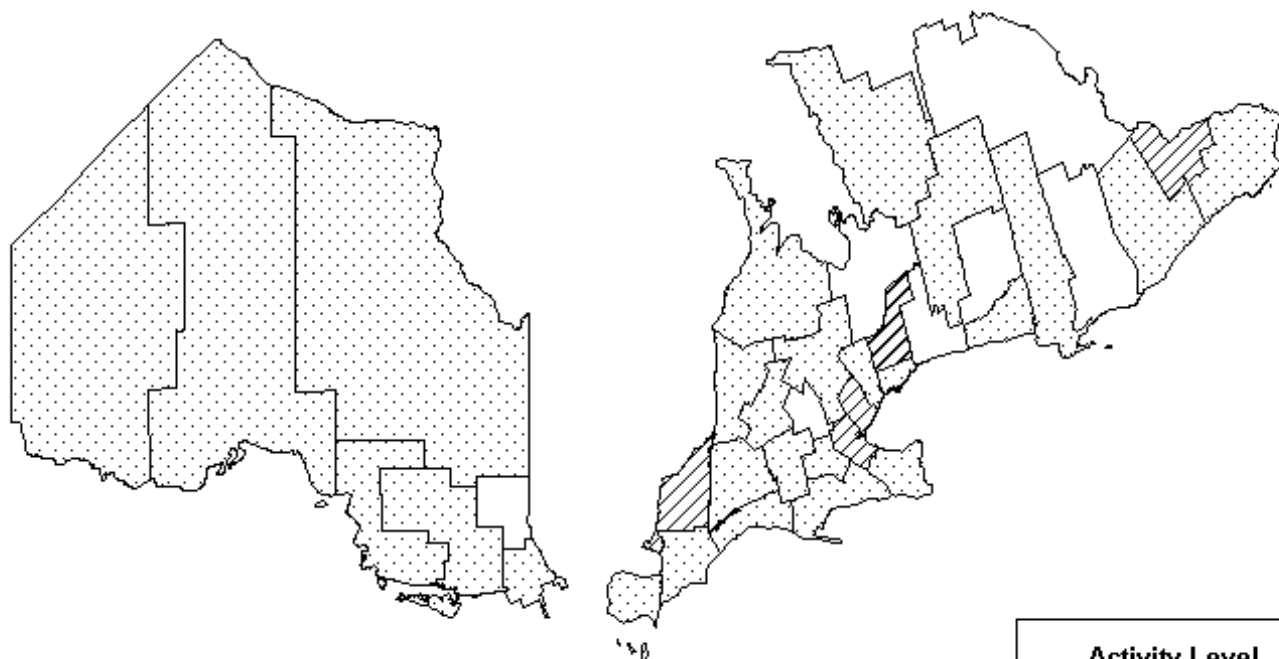
*Influenza and Respiratory Viruses Section
National Microbiology Laboratory (NML), PPHB
Canadian Sciences Centre for Human and Animal Health

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 23, 2002

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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