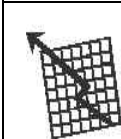


		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 6, Issue 6 December 6, 2002</i>
			

Week #48: Week Ending November 30, 2002

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was influenza activity reported in the province for the week ending November 30, 2002. One of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported 5 influenza A cases during this surveillance period. The following upper respiratory isolates were reported: 13 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 9 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 12 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3), and 5 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 Season
	Week Ending December 1, 2001	Week Ending November 30, 2002
	Season to Date**	Season to Date***
*Laboratory Surveillance (isolates)Total	9	13
Influenza A	9	13
Influenza B	0	0
vNo. of Visits to Sentinel Physicians for ILI	22	17
Institutional Outbreaks	1	2
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	43	97
PIV1	51	38
PIV2	43	7
PIV3	2	130
PIV4	9	2
Other PIVs	2	0
Adenoviruses	20	38

*Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

** October 20, 2001- December 1, 2001

***Season to Date August 25, 2002 – November 30, 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
Halton	2	0
Hamilton-Wentworth	1	0
York Region	3	0
Total	8	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 17 per 1,000 patients seen.

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

Localized activity reported for Ontario with outbreaks of ILI in schools. During the week ending November 23 (week 47), Ontario reported localised and sporadic activity, Quebec reported sporadic activity and 11 provinces/territories reported no influenza activity. Sentinel physicians reported 17 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is within the expected rate for this time of year. Health Canada received 835 reports of laboratory tests for influenza: five were positive for influenza A and one for influenza B. Detection of other respiratory viruses circulating in the Canadian population remains within expected levels for RSV (4.6% of tests positive), parainfluenza viruses (6.6% of tests positive) and adenovirus (1.3% of tests positive). To date this season, there has been one reported outbreak of laboratory confirmed influenza in a long term care facility (LTCF). Further outbreak reporting is pending laboratory confirmation.

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

Influenza Activity in the United States

During week 46, influenza activity was reported as regional in Louisiana and sporadic or none in 48 states (one state did not report). ILI accounted for 1.1% of patient visits to sentinel physicians, below the national baseline of 1.9%. Sentinel cities reported 6.8% of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza, below the epidemic threshold of 7.3% for this week. The CDC received 701 reports of influenza tests; five were positive for influenza A (unsubtyped) and four were positive for influenza B. Since September 29, a total of 8,103 specimens have been tested for influenza; 24 (0.3%) were positive (13 influenza A and 11 influenza B) and 75% of these were identified in the South Atlantic region. The three viruses that have been antigenically characterized to date (one influenza A (H1N2) virus and two influenza B viruses) are covered by the 2002-2003 northern hemisphere vaccine.

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

Influenza Activity in the World

During weeks 46 and 47, country reports to the WHO FluNet indicate low influenza activity worldwide with only sporadic isolations of influenza viruses. However, many participating countries did not report. All virus isolations reported to date are covered by the 2002-2003 vaccine. Similarly in week 47, reports to the the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) indicate low levels of influenza activity with sporadic isolations of influenza A and B viruses reported for the Czech Republic, France, Portugal and Spain and sporadic clinical activity in 2 out of 22 networks (England and France).

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

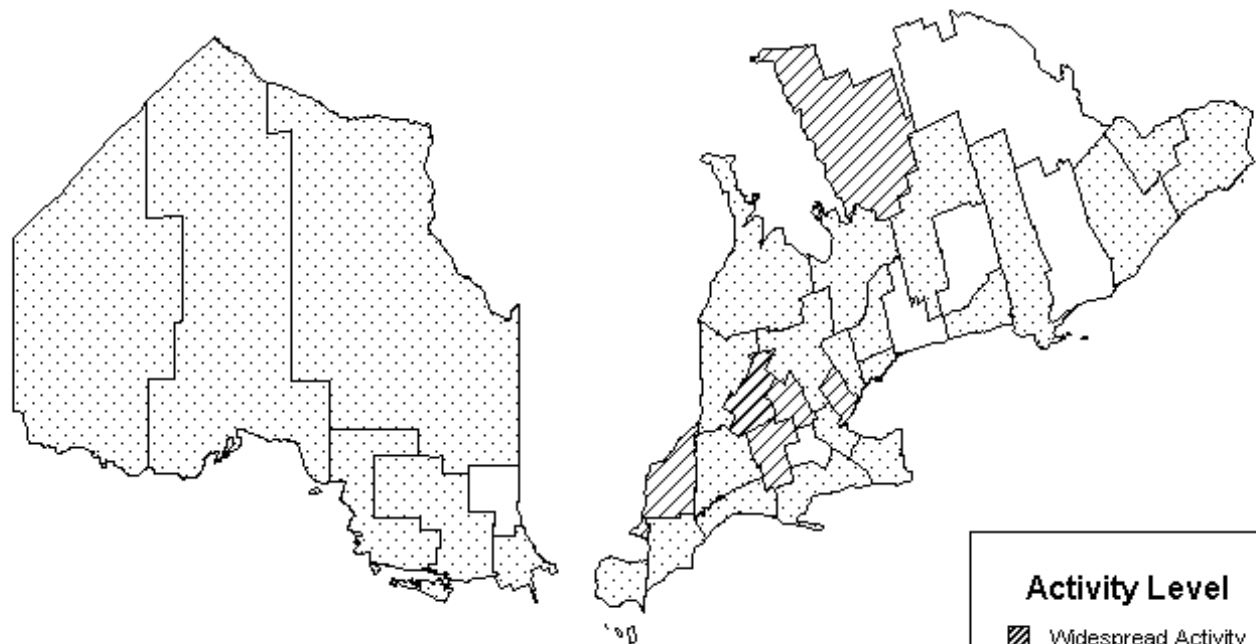
*Influenza and Respiratory Viruses Section
National Microbiology Laboratory (NML), PPHB
Canadian Sciences Centre for Human and Animal Health

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 30, 2002

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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