	Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 7, Issue 1, 2003</i>
			

Week #44: Week Ending November 1, 2003

Influenza Activity in Ontario

North Bay and District health unit and Waterloo Regional health unit reported 'sporadic' influenza activity for the week ending November 1, 2003. None of the Ontario Public Health laboratories reported influenza cases during this surveillance period. However, the following upper respiratory isolates: 5 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 8 parainfluenza type 1 (PIV1), 5 parainfluenza type 2 (PIV2), 3 parainfluenza type 3 (PIV3), and 2 adenovirus (Table 1). Three respiratory infection outbreaks were reported during this surveillance period.

Table 1. Comparison of Influenza Activity in Ontario for the 2002-03 and 2003-04 Influenza Surveillance Seasons

Indicator	2002-03 Season	2003-04 Season
	Week Ending , October 26, 2002 (week 43)	Week Ending November 1, 2003 (week 44)
	Season to Date**	Season to Date***
*Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates)Total	0	0
Influenza A	0	0
Influenza B	0	0
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	24	11
PIV1	7	36
PIV2	5	23
PIV3	64	10
PIV4	2	2
Other PIVs	0	1
Adenoviruses	24	10
No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	13	38
Institutional Outbreaks	0	3

*Center for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada

** August, 2002 – October 26, 2002

***Season to Date; August 24, 2003 - November 1, 2003 consistent with Health Canada year round surveillance

Season to Date Influenza Cases in Ontario Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2003-2004

York Regional health unit reported one case of influenza A prior to October 27, 2003.

**Table 3. Season-to-date Institutional Influenza Outbreaks by Health Unit in Ontario, 2003-2004
(October 27, 2003 – November 1)**

Health Unit	Type of Institution	# of Outbreaks	Organism Identified	RAR (%)	SAR (%)	Complications
Toronto	Chronic Care Hospital	1	Flu A	6.8	1.8	1 patient death

RAR: Resident Attack Rate (# of residents ill/total number of residents)

SAR: Staff Attack Rate (# of staff ill/total number of staff)

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance Activity in Ontario

The overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported through the Federal FluWatch system were 38.2 ILI patients seen per 1,000 patients that were seen by the sentinel physicians for all reasons, including ILI.

Laboratory Confirmations and Influenza Activity in the Rest of Canada

Localized influenza activity was reported in all parts of Alberta and in parts of Saskatchewan. Sporadic influenza activity was also reported in Saskatchewan and British Columbia in week 43. During the week ending October 25 (week 43), sentinel physicians reported 33 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1,000 patient visits, which is above baseline rates for week 43. During the one-week period, October 19 to October 25, Health Canada received 1,416 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 165 (11.65%) influenza A detections (in Saskatchewan and Alberta) and 0 influenza B detections.

Source: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/03-04/w43_03/index.html

Influenza Activity in the United States:

During the week ending October 18, 2003 (week 42), one state (Texas) reported widespread influenza activity, five states (Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska and New York) and New York City reported sporadic influenza activity. ILI visits accounted for 1.9% of patient visits to sentinel physicians, which is below the national baseline of 2.5%. Sentinel cities reported that 6.3% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza, which is below the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for this week. During week 42, the CDC received 520 reports of influenza tests and 15 (2.9%) were positive. Eleven influenza A (H3N2) and four untyped influenza A viruses were identified.

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

International Influenza Activity:

WHO: Denmark, Norway and the Russian Federation reported low levels of ILI. France reported their first detection of influenza and Poland reported ILI, with the highest incidence occurring in children aged 0-14 years. Hong Kong and New Caledonia continue to report detections of influenza A (H3N2).

Source: WHO: <http://rhone.b3e.jussieu.fr/flunet/www/index.html>

Vaccine and Strain Characterization

Up to October 25, 2003, the National Microbiology Laboratory had antigenically characterized 14 influenza viruses. All were found to be A/Panama/2007/99-like, which is included in the 2003-04 vaccine.

Source: National Microbiology Laboratory (NML), Population and Public Health Branch (PPHB)

Influenza Vaccine Components and Protection for the 2003/04 Season

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) updated the antigenic components of the influenza vaccine for the 2003-2004 season. NACI recommended that the trivalent vaccine for the 2003-04 season in Canada contain an A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2)-like, an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like, and either B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like virus or B/Shangdong/7/97-like antigens.

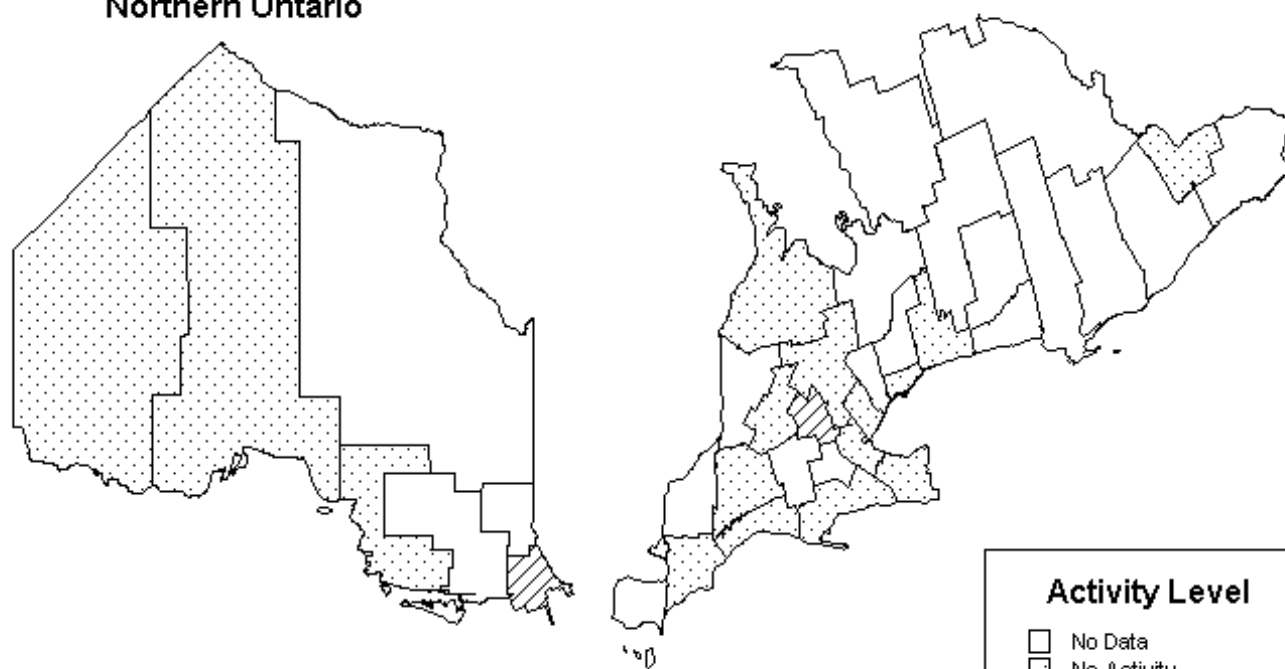
Source: Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR) 15 August 2003, Vol. 29 ACS-4
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/03vol29/index.html#acs>

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.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_03/flubul_mn.html
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Influenza Activity Level by Health Unit Week Ending October 31, 2003

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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