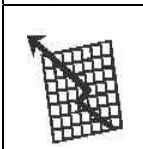
	Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 7, Issue 12, 2004</i>
			

Week #03: Week Ending January 17, 2004

Influenza Activity in Ontario

Influenza activity continued to decrease in Ontario based on some of the indicators reported to the Ministry during the week ending January 17, 2004. Most of the health units, fifteen, reported sporadic activity, six reported localized activity and ten health units reported widespread influenza activity (see Map). The Ontario laboratories reported 240 influenza A and no influenza B isolations to the Center for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada. Also reported during this season-to-date, were other respiratory isolates and detections as shown in Table 1. Health units have reported 593 cases of confirmed influenza A cases and nine influenza B cases through the Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS) season-to-date (Table 2). Sixty-six (65 influenza A, 1 influenza B) influenza-related deaths have been reported through RDIS since October 27, 2003 (Table 3). There were 30 respiratory infection outbreaks reported by the health units to the Ministry during this surveillance period and 18 (60.0%) of the reported outbreaks were due to influenza A (Table 4). The overall rate of influenza like illness (ILI) reported by sentinel physicians in Ontario decreased to 30.1/1,000 (Chart 1) corresponding to the first few weeks during the season. The distribution of the outbreaks by type of institution is shown in Table 4.

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending January 18, 2003 (week 2) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending January 17, 2004 (week2) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates)Total	568	4075
Influenza A	568	4062
Influenza B	0	13
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	484	353
PIV1	83	206
PIV2	14	134
PIV3	237	96
PIV4	2	6
Other PIVs	1	2
Adenoviruses	76	82
% of Flu tests that are positive	7.7	20.5
No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate / 1000 patients seen for all reasons)	40 %	30.1 %
+ Institutional <u>Influenza</u> Outbreaks	9	287
+ Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	9	429

Consistent with Health Canada year round surveillance periods (only for Laboratory Surveillance Data)

+ October 27, 2003 - January 17, 2004

Season to Date; August 24, 2002 - January 18, 2003 *Season to Date; August 24, 2003 - January 17, 2004

Note: 16 public health and hospital laboratories in the Province report to the CIDPC

Table 2. Week Ending January 17, 2004 Influenza Cases in Ontario Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2003-2004 (September 1, 2003 to January 17, 2004)

Health Unit	Flu A Week 3 (Ending Jan. 17)	Flu A Week 2 (Ending Jan. 10)	Flu A Change (Week 03- Week 02)	Flu B (Season-to-date)
Algoma	133	124	9	
Brant	21	3	18	
Chatham-Kent	24	16	8	
Durham Region	168	140	28	
Eastern Ontario	34	29	5	
Elgin-St. Thomas	9	6	3	
Grey-Bruce	77	73	4	
Haldimand-Norfolk Region	43	34	9	1
Haliburton-Kawartha	110	101	9	1
Halton Region	160	111	49	1
Hamilton City	400	382	18	
Hastings-Prince Edward	92	69	23	
Huron	25	23	2	
Kingston-Frontenac	82	49	33	
Lambton	0	0	0	
Leeds-Grenville	12	12	0	
Middlesex-London	73	61	12	
Muskoka-Parry Sound	74	60	14	
Niagara Region	179	162	17	
North Bay	76	70	6	
Northwestern	0	0	0	
Ottawa-Carleton	206	183	23	
Oxford	8	8	0	
Peel Region	391	309	82	2
Perth	48	45	3	
Peterborough	101	96	5	
Porcupine	92	91	1	
Renfrew	10	10	0	
Simcoe County	215	162	53	1
Sudbury	165	145	20	
Thunder Bay	26	21	5	
Timiskaming	7	0	7	
Toronto City	427	427	0	1
Waterloo Region	131	110	21	
Wellington-Dufferin	97	40	57	
Windsor-Essex	0	0	0	
York Region	89	40	49	2
Province	3,805	3,212	593	9
*593 new cases of influenza A and 9 cases of influenza B were reported during Week 03				
(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1-January 17, 2004) = 33.5/100,000				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-January18,2003) =3.6/100,000				

Table 3: Influenza-related Deaths reported through RDIS for September 1 - January 17

Health Unit	Age	Sex	Flu Vaccine Status	Organism	Risk Factor	Outbreak Related?	Flu Role in Cause of Death
Halton	8	F	Yes	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	*	Underlying
Peterborough	11	M	No	Influ A	Unknown	No	Unknown
Ottawa	14	F	Yes	Influ A	*	No	Contributing
Algoma	38	M	Yes	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	No	Incidental

Simcoe	39	M	Unknown	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	No	Incidental
Algoma	42	M	*	Influ A	Unknown	No	Unknown
Niagara	54	F	Unknown	Influ A	Unknown	Uns	Unknown
Sudbury	61	F	*	Influ A	*	*	Contributing
Algoma	64	F	*	Influ A	*	No	Contributing
Simcoe	64	F	Unknown	Influ A	Unknown	No	Incidental
Peel	71	F	Unknown	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	*	Incidental
North Bay	72	M	Yes	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	Yes	*
Niagara	74	M	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Uns	Contributing
Algoma	74	M	*	Influ A	Unknown	No	Contributing
Durham	74	M	No	Influ A	*	No	Contributing
Algoma	75	M	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	*	Contributing
Sudbury	75	F	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Underlying
Algoma	76	M	*	Influ A	Unknown	No	Contributing
Peterborough	76	M	*	Influ A	*	*	*
Halton	78	F	*	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	*	Underlying
Peel	78	F	Unknown	Influ A	Unknown	*	Unknown
Niagara	80	M	No	Influ A	Unknown	Uns	Contributing
Porcupine	81	F	Unknown	Influ A	Unknown	No	Contributing
Waterloo	81	F	*	Influ A	*	*	Contributing
Sudbury	81	M	Unknown	Influ A	*	No	Unknown
Hamilton	82	M	Unknown	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	No	Contributing
Waterloo	82	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Contributing
Waterloo	82	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Underlying
Simcoe	83	M	Unknown	Influ A	Unknown	No	Contributing
Sudbury	83	F	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Contributing
Bruce-Grey	84	M	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Underlying
Eastern	84	F	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Incidental
Halton	85	F	Yes	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	*	Underlying
Peel	86	M	Yes	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	No	Contributing
Halton	86	F	No	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	No	Contributing
York Region	87	M	*	Influ A	Travel outside province	No	Underlying
Algoma	87	M	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	*
Algoma	87	F	Yes	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	Yes	Contributing
Waterloo	87	M	Unknown	Influ A	Unknown	No	Contributing
Niagara	88	M	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Contributing
Porcupine	88	F	Unknown	Influ A	Unknown	No	Contributing
Toronto	88	F	Yes	Influ A	*	No	Contributing
Toronto	88	F	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Contributing
Haliburton	88	M	No	Influ B	Underlying medical condn	No	Contributing
Peel	88	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Underlying
Sudbury	88	F	Unknown	Influ A	*	No	Unknown
Algoma	89	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Contributing
Elgin	89	F	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Contributing
Huron	90	M	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Underlying
Toronto	90	M	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Contributing
Elgin	90	F	*	Influ A	*	Yes	Contributing
Waterloo	90	M	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Contributing
Waterloo	90	M	*	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Contributing
Peel	90	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Contributing
Hamilton	91	M	Yes	Influ A	Underlying medical condn	No	Contributing
Peel	91	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Underlying
North Bay	92	M	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	*
Eastern	93	M	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Unknown
Peel	93	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Underlying
Peterborough	93	M	No	Influ A	Unknown	No	Incidental
Peel	93	M	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Underlying

York Region	94	F	Yes	Influ A	Unknown	Yes	Underlying
Durham	95	M	Unknown	Influ A	*	No	*
Algoma	97	F	*	Influ A	*	Yes	Contributing
Haliburton	98	F	Yes	Influ A	*	Yes	Contributing
York Region	98	F	Yes	Influ A	Other	Yes	Incidental

NOTE: RDIS Reporting is usually incomplete for the reporting week. Hence, numbers may change as more reports are received

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance Activity in Ontario

During Week 03 the overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported through the Federal FluWatch system were 30.1% ILI patients seen per 1,000 patients that were seen by the sentinel physicians for all reasons, including ILI. The ILI patients rates among children continue to decrease when compared to those that were observed during the earlier weeks.

Canada: During week 03, widespread influenza activity is now limited to Quebec and eastern Ontario. Localized activity continues in the Atlantic provinces and regions of Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia. Across Canada, during the week ending January 17 (week 03), sentinel physicians reported 23 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is within the expected range for this time of year.

Laboratory Confirmations:

Health Canada received 3,335 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 632 (19%) influenza A detections and 0 influenza B detections.

Strain Characterization:

The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized 551 influenza viruses to date. Of these, 544 (99%) are influenza A viruses [517 (95%) A/Fujian/411/02(H3N2)-like, 25 (4.5%) A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like, 1 (0.2%) A/NewCaledonia/20/99(H1N1)-like and 1 (0.2%) H1N2] and 7 (1%) are influenza B viruses [1 B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like and 6 B/Sichuan/379/99-like]. Detections of other respiratory viruses are at or below the expected range for this time of year.

Detections reported from Ontario are: 251 A/Fujian/411/02(H3N2)-like, 1 B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like and 6 B/Sichuan/379/99-like.

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

Avian Flu and SARS: Health Canada Updated Alert

Health Canada issues Alerts regarding the Avian influenza (H5N1) outbreaks in animals and humans that have occurred in several Asian countries. This Alert is updated regularly and is intended for information and national recommendation purposes, please consult the following websites if you require more information on the various aspects of this issue.

Source: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/index.html>
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/h5n1/index.html>
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/tmp-pmv/pub_e.html

United States: Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Influenza Summary Update

The number of states reporting widespread influenza activity continued to decrease during the week-ending January 17, 2004, with the majority of states reporting regional influenza activity. The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza also decreased and the percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) declined again in all 9 surveillance regions. The national percentage of ILI (2.0%) declined below the national baseline of 2.5%. However, pneumonia and influenza mortality (10.3%) continued to exceed the epidemic threshold during week 2 (8.1%). One hundred twenty-three (8.0%) of 1,544 specimens collected from throughout the United States were positive for influenza. Five state health departments reported widespread influenza activity, 31 states and New York City reported regional activity, 8 states reported local activity, and 6 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity.

Source: CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

International: WHO: Influenza activity associated with A/Fujian/411/2002-like viruses continued to increase and is now widespread in parts of eastern Europe (Austria, Croatia, Latvia, Norway, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Ukraine and Italy).

Sources: WHO Influenza Update: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_13a/en/ **and EISS:** <http://www.eiss.org>

Avian influenza (H5N1)

The WHO has confirmed that a number of countries in Asia including Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and others have been affected by this strain. WHO and local governments are carrying out investigations about various aspects of this influenza strain. However, although people have been affected in some countries, the risk factor indicated by WHO has been contact with the infected fowls. **To date, the WHO has stated that there has been no evidence of person-to-person transmission. For further information, WHO puts out a daily update and information can be seen at the following websites.**

Sources: WHO H5N1 Update: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_14/en/
WHO Avian Influenza Fact Sheet: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/

WHO,WPRO: http://www.wpro.who.int/public/press_release/Press_List.asp

SARS: The last official update was posted by WHO on January 8, 2004, reporting one confirmed SARS case (now recovered) and one suspected case of SARS who is in a stable condition. Epidemiological and laboratory investigations are still pending on the second case.

Source: WHO SARS Update: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_08/en/

Table 4. Institutional Influenza Outbreaks by Health Unit, Ontario, 2003-2004 for Week 3

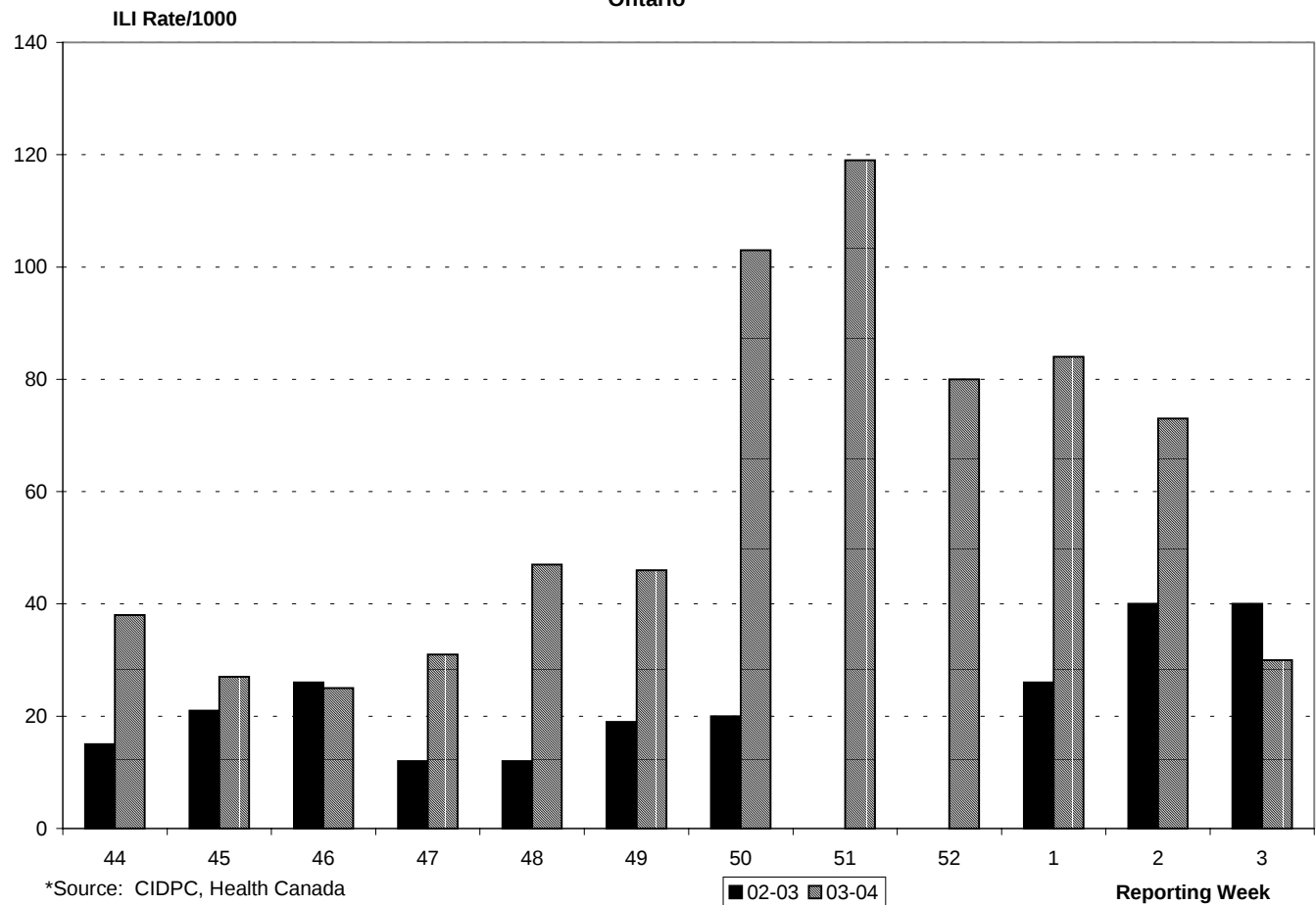
Table 4. Institutional Influenza Outbreaks by Health Unit, Ontario, 2003-2004 for Week 03									
Health Unit	Institution Type	Organism	Total # of Residents	# Ill Residents	RAR	Complications			SAR
						# Cases with Pneumonia	# Cases Hospitalized	# Deaths Cases	
Hamilton	ACH	Flu A	27	2	7.4	0	0	0	4.0
Hastings	NH	Flu A	251	3	1.2	0	1	0	0.0
Windsor-Essex	NH	Flu A	126	9	7.1	0	1	0	0.0
Windsor-Essex	NH	Flu A	248	5	13.0	0	0	0	0.3
Hastings	ACH	Flu A	230	8	18.9	2	230	0	0.4
Perth	RH	Flu A	87	9	24.8	0	0	0	0.0
Peterborough	NH	Flu A	61	9	30.7	0	1	1	4.5
Kingston	RH	Flu A	27	3	36.6	0	0	0	0.0
Niagara	HFA	Flu A	60	3	42.5	0	0	0	0.0
Ottawa - Carleton	Other	Flu A	9	2	48.4	1	2	0	0.0
Toronto	HFA	Flu A	69	9	54.3	0	3	0	0.0
Toronto		Flu A	93	9	60.2	1	0	0	0.0
Toronto	HFA	Flu A	270	2	66.1	0	0	0	0.0
Toronto	HFA	Flu A	148	4	72.0	0	0	0	0.0
Hastings	Acute	Flu A		3	77.9			0	0.0
Simcoe	Other	Flu A	369	11	83.8	0	1	0	1.2
Peel	RH	Flu A	124	16	89.7	0	1	0	0.0

RAR: Resident Attack Rate (# of residents ill/total number of residents)*100

SAR: Staff Attack Rate (# of staff ill/total number of staff)*100

NH = nursing home, RH= retirement home, combined facility consists of 2 or more types of institutions e.g. a NH section and a retirement home (RH) section; CCH = chronic care hospital, ACH= Acute Care Hospital, LTCF = long term care facility

Sentinel Physicians ILI Rates Reporting by Season (2002-03 & 2003-04)
Ontario



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

**Influenza Activity Level by Health Unit
Week Ending January 17, 2004**

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario

