

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 7, Issue 18, 2004</i>
			

Week #09: Week Ending February 28, 2004

Influenza Activity in Ontario

Influenza activity in Ontario remained at low levels during the week ending February 28, 2004 (see map). The influenza activity levels in the 31 health units that reported were as follows: no activity -20 (64.5%), sporadic activity -10 (32.3%), localized activity -0 (0%) and only one health unit (3.2%) reported widespread influenza activity. There were 16 (1.9%) positive influenza isolations, (15 Flu A and 1 Flu B) of the 862 influenza tests that Ontario laboratories reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada. Between August 24, 2003 and February 28, 2004, these laboratories reported 4,444 influenza A and 17 influenza B isolates or detections (Table 1). Also reported during this season to date are other respiratory isolates and detections shown in Table 1. Health units reported 104 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and one influenza B case through the Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS) during this surveillance week (Table 2). The overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by sentinel physicians in Ontario was 10.4/1,000. Since September 1, 2003, to date, 128 (127 Flu A, 1 Flu B) influenza-related deaths have been reported in the province through RDIS. Table 3 shows data on the respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions that have been reported to the Ministry by the health units from October 27, 2003 to February 28, 2004. These include 12 respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions that met the provincial surveillance case definition and were reported during this surveillance period. One (8.3%) outbreak was positive for influenza A (Table 4).

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending March 1, 2003 (week 9) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending February 28, 2004 (week9) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates)Total	724	4461
Influenza A	719	4444
Influenza B	5	17
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	1370	1232
PIV1	109	232
PIV2	17	145
PIV3	279	156
PIV4	3	6
Other PIVs	1	6
Adenoviruses	116	128
* % of Flu tests that were positive	1.2	1.8
+No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	27	10

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

+ October 27, 2003 – February 28, 2004. *% of positive cases based on the total specimens submitted for the surveillance week.

Season to Date: August 24, 2002 – March 1, 2003. *Season to Date: August 24, 2003 – February 28, 2004.

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

Table 2. Week Ending February 28, 2004 Influenza Cases in Ontario Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2003-2004 (September 1, 2003 to February 28, 2004)

Health Unit	Flu A Week 9 (Ending Feb. 28)	Flu A Week 8 (Ending Feb. 21)	Flu A Change (Week 09-Week 08)	Flu B (Season-to-date)
Algoma	136	136	0	
Brant	38	38	0	
Chatham-Kent	34	34	0	
Durham Region	177	176	1	1
Eastern Ontario	54	52	2	
Elgin-St. Thomas	16	16	0	
Grey-Bruce	89	89	0	
Haldimand-Norfolk Region	54	54	0	1
Haliburton-Kawartha	116	114	2	1
Halton Region	221	218	3	1
Hamilton City	415	415	0	
Hastings-Prince Edward	201	201	0	
Huron	42	42	0	
Kingston-Frontenac	95	95	0	
Lambton	46	33	13	
Leeds-Grenville	16	14	2	
Middlesex-London	79	79	0	
Muskoka-Parry Sound	85	85	0	
Niagara Region	201	200	1	
North Bay	83	83	0	
Northwestern	0	0	0	
Ottawa-Carleton	235	235	0	
Oxford	40	39	1	
Peel Region	531	511	20	2
Perth	49	49	0	
Peterborough	101	101	0	
Porcupine	94	94	0	
Renfrew	37	36	1	
Simcoe County	229	226	3	1
Sudbury	184	184	0	
Thunder Bay	29	29	0	
Timiskaming	43	28	15	
Toronto City	570	551	19	2
Waterloo Region	150	150	0	
Wellington-Dufferin	130	122	8	
Windsor-Essex	23	22	1	
York Region	295	283	12	2
ONTARIO	4,938	4,834	104	11
*104 new cases of influenza A and 1 case of influenza B were reported during Week 08.				
(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2003-February 28, 2004) = 43.4/100,000.				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-March 1, 2003) = 5.6/100,000.				

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

Table 3: Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions October 27, 2003 –February 28, 2004

Indicator	2003-04 Season Week Ending February 28, 2004 (week 9) Season to Date
Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	623
No. of Outbreaks not meeting Provincial Surveillance Case Definition	11
No. of Outbreaks meeting Provincial Surveillance Case Definition	612
Influenza A Outbreaks	373
Flu A & other organisms	7
Other Organisms	32
Influenza B	0
No organism detected	163
Laboratory Results pending	37
*Declared Over	498
Influenza A	323
Flu A & other Organisms	7
Other Organisms	32
Reported as "N/A results pending" or no definitive laboratory results reported	6
No organism detected	130
Onset of illness in index case October 27/03 – Feb. 14, 2004	484
Onset of illness in index case prior to October 27/03	14
**Ongoing Outbreaks	114
Influenza A	50
Other organisms	0
Results pending	31
No Organism detected	33
Categories & Types of Institutions	
LTCF 's (NH, HFA)	403
Combined (e.g. NH/HFA, NH/Hospital)	19
"Separate"/"Combined" LTCs (Type Unavailable)	16
Hospitals (ACH, CCH, Psychiatric Hosp.)	49
Other (RHs, Children Residences, Developmentally Act Institutions/Jail)	125

* Declared over respiratory infection outbreaks = Appendix E (Final Report) has been received by the Ministry.

** Ongoing respiratory infection outbreaks = Appendix E not yet received or outbreak onset is recent and is still active.

Table 4. Institutional Influenza Outbreaks by Health Unit, Ontario, 2003-2004 for Week 09

Health Unit	Institution Type	Organism	Total # of Residents	# Ill Residents	RAR	Complications			SAR
						# Cases with Pneumonia	# Cases Hospitalized	# Deaths Cases	
Toronto	NH	Flu A	162	13	8	4	0	0	4
Durham	NH	Flu A	435	8	2	0	0	1	2
Peterborough	NH	Flu A	169	10	6	1	0	0	6

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.

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance Activity in Ontario

During Week 08 the overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported for Ontario through the Federal FluWatch system was 10.46 ILI patients seen per 1,000 patients that were seen by the sentinel physicians for all reasons, including ILI.

Canada: Summary for Week 9

Quebec reported localized influenza activity, whereas Newfoundland, Ontario, Alberta and parts of British Columbia reported sporadic activity. Across Canada, during the week ending February 28 (week 09), sentinel physicians reported 15 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is below the expected range for this time of year.

Laboratory Confirmations:

Health Canada received 2,812 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 190 (6.8%) influenza A detections and seven influenza B detections. Detections of other respiratory viruses are at or below the expected range for this time of year.

Source: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2003/flu_statement.htm

Avian Flu and SARS: Health Canada Updated Information on SARS/Avian Flu (H5N1)

Health Canada provides updated reports on SARS and Avian Flu (H5N1). Links are provided on: Travel Health Advisories, the latest official WHO update information on Avian Influenza, WHO avian influenza fact sheet and Q&A's and SARS information for health professionals. This information is updated regularly and is intended for information and national recommendations.

Source: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dqspsp/fluwatch/index.html>
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dqspsp/h5n1/index.html>
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dqspsp/tmp-pmv/pub_e.html
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/diseases/flu/avian.html>

United States: CDC Update

Influenza activity remained low during the week of February 22-28, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained below the national baseline (2.5%). During week 8, mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold (8.3%). Eight (1.2%) of 643 specimens collected from throughout the United States were positive for influenza. There were no reports of widespread or regional influenza activity from state and territorial epidemiologists during week 8. Five states reported local activity, 32 states, New York City, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity, and 12 states reported no influenza activity.

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

International:

WHO and EISS: Influenza A activity continues to decline in Europe with no reports of widespread activity. WHO recommends vaccines to be used in the 2004-2005 season (northern hemisphere winter) contain an A/New Caledonia/20/99(H1N1)-like virus, a A/Fujian/411/2002(H3N2)-like virus and a B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus. WHO vaccine update can be viewed at:

Source: <http://www.who.int/wer/2004/en/wer7909.pdf>
<http://www.eiss.org>

Avian Influenza (WHO)

WHO H5N1 Update: More than 100 million birds have either died of H5N1 or been culled in Asia. This figure is greater than the total number of poultry affected over the years in the world's previous five largest outbreaks combined. Unique features in the present situation that have contributed to the large-scale outbreak include the concentration of poultry in backyard farms, the economic significance of poultry production and the lack of control experience and resources).

Sources: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/

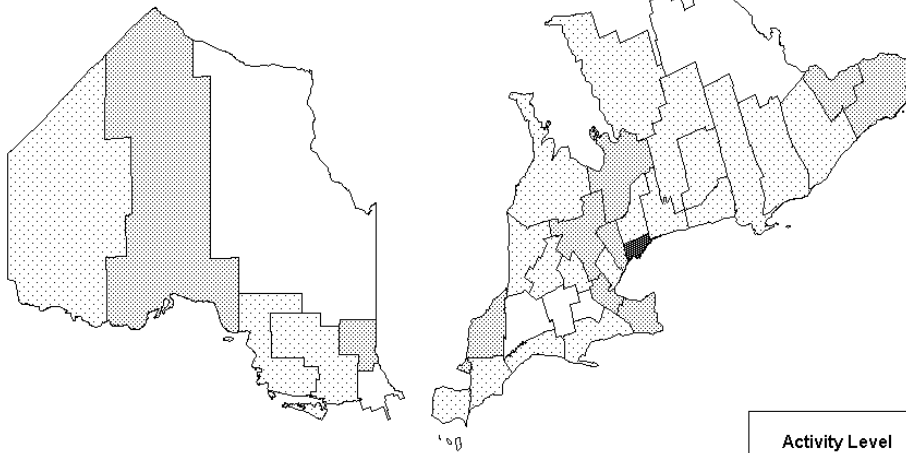
Further information, including progress reports and technical guidelines, on all these issues is available at the WHO avian influenza web site: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/

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 February 27, 2004**

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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