

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 7, Issue 20. 2004</i>
			

Week #11: Week Ending March 13, 2004

Influenza Activity in Ontario

All the health regions of Ontario generally experienced low influenza activity during the week ending March 13, 2004 (see map). The influenza activity levels in the 29 health units that reported were as follows: no activity – 20 (69%), sporadic activity - 7 (24%), localized activity - 1 (3%) and another health unit (3 %) reported widespread influenza activity. There were only 8 (0.9%) positive influenza isolations, (8 Flu A and 0 Flu B) of the 847 influenza tests that the Ontario laboratories reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada. Between August 24, 2003 and March 13, 2004, these laboratories have reported 4,463 influenza A and 20 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 23 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza (22 influenza A, 1 influenza B) 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 23.5/1,000. Since September 1, 2003, to date, 132 (131 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 March 13, 2004. These include 28 respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions that met the provincial surveillance case definition and were reported during this surveillance period, none of the outbreaks were due to influenza. Table 4 shows that A/Fujian/411/02-like (H3N2) has been the predominant strain circulating in Ontario and other Canadian jurisdictions this season.

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending March 15, 2003 (week 11) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending March 13, 2004 (week 11) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates) Total	751	4,483
Influenza A	740	4,463
Influenza B	11	20
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	1,658	1,524
PIV1	120	233
PIV2	17	149
PIV3	297	180
PIV4	4	6
Other PIVs	1	8
Adenoviruses	127	203
* % of Flu tests that were positive	0.8	0.9
+No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	40	23.5

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

+ October 27, 2003 – March 13, 2004. *% of positive cases based on the total specimens submitted for the surveillance week.

Season to Date: August 24, 2002 – March 15, 2003. *Season to Date: August 24, 2003 – March 13, 2004.

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

Table 2. Week Ending March 13, 2004 Influenza Cases in Ontario Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2003-2004 (September 1, 2003 to March 13, 2004)

Health Unit	Flu A Week 11 (Ending Mar. 13)	Flu A Week 10 (Ending Mar. 06)	Flu A Change (Week 11-Week 10)	Flu B (Season-to-date)
Algoma	136	136	0	
Brant	39	39	0	
Chatham-Kent	34	34	0	
Durham Region	177	177	0	1
Eastern Ontario	54	54	0	
Elgin-St. Thomas	16	16	0	
Grey-Bruce	93	93	0	
Haldimand-Norfolk Region	58	58	0	1
Haliburton-Kawartha	116	116	0	1
Halton Region	222	221	1	1
Hamilton City	416	416	0	
Hastings-Prince Edward	202	201	1	
Huron	42	42	0	
Kingston-Frontenac	95	95	0	
Lambton	46	46	0	
Leeds-Grenville	17	17	0	
Middlesex-London	79	79	0	
Muskoka-Parry Sound	85	85	0	
Niagara Region	201	201	0	
North Bay	83	83	0	
Northwestern	0	0	0	
Ottawa-Carleton	235	235	0	
Oxford	40	40	0	
Peel Region	539	531	8	2
Perth	49	49	0	
Peterborough	101	101	0	
Porcupine	94	94	0	
Renfrew	37	37	0	
Simcoe County	238	229	9	2
Sudbury	184	184	0	
Thunder Bay	30	29	1	
Timiskaming	43	43	0	
Toronto City	577	577	0	2
Waterloo Region	150	150	0	
Wellington-Dufferin	133	132	1	
Windsor-Essex	23	23	0	
York Region	318	317	1	2
	5,002	4,980	22	12
*22 new cases of influenza A and 1 case of influenza B were reported during Week 11.				
(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2003-March 13, 2004) = 43.9/100,000.				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-March 15, 2003) = 6.3/100,000.				

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 – March 13, 2004

Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	2003-04 Season Week Ending March 13 (week 11) Season to Date
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	677
Influenza A Outbreaks	380
Flu A & other organisms	7
Other Organisms	45
Influenza B	0
No organism detected	194
Laboratory Results pending	51
*Declared Over	543
Influenza A	336
Flu A & other Organisms	7
Other Organisms	37
Reported as "N/A results pending" or no definitive laboratory results reported	6
No organism detected	157
Onset of illness in index case October 27/03 – March 13, 2004	527
Onset of illness in index case prior to October 27/03	16
**Ongoing Outbreaks	134
Influenza A	44
Other organisms	8
Results pending	45
No Organism detected	37
Categories & Types of Institutions	
LTCF 's (NH, HFA)	448
Combined (e.g. NH/HFA, NH/Hospital)	23
Hospitals (ACH, CCH, Psychiatric Hosp.)	52
Other (RHs, Children Residences, Developmentally Act Institutions/Jail)	137

* 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.

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 11 the overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported for Ontario through the Federal FluWatch system was 23.5 ILI patients seen per 1,000 patients that were seen by the sentinel physicians for all reasons, including ILI.

Canada: Summary for Week 11

The weekly percentage of positive laboratory tests for influenza continued to decline. Localized influenza activity was reported in Quebec and a few parts of Nova Scotia and Ontario. The rest of the country reported sporadic or no activity. Across Canada, during the week ending March 13 (week 11), sentinel physicians reported 14 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits, which is below the expected range for this time of year.

Avian Situation in BC: Surveillance of farms within a 10-km radius of the H7N3 infected farm continued. Although the risk to humans was low, precaution continued to be taken to protect human health as the control procedures proceeded. For more information Health Canada advises accessing the **CFIA update at:**

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anim/hasan/disemala/avflu/avflue.shtml>.

Laboratory Confirmations:

Health Canada received 2,459 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 89 (3.6%) influenza A detections and eight influenza B detections.

Source: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/03-04/w11_04/index.html

United States: CDC Update

Influenza activity remained low during the week of March 7-13, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained below the national baseline (2.5%). During week 10, mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold (8.3%). Four (0.3%) of 1184 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 10. One state reported

local activity, 25 states, New York City, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity, and 23 states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity.

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

International:

WHO and EISS: Both clinical and virological indicators of influenza are currently low around the world.

Avian Influenza (WHO): The number of cases in the affected countries has not increased dramatically over the past few weeks indicating that some control of the poultry outbreaks has been achieved in the affected countries. It is not known how long it will take to eliminate the virus from the avian host as there are still renewed outbreaks in some countries and experts believe that the virus may have become endemic in parts of Asia.

EISS: <http://www.eiss.org>

WHO H5N1 Update: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/

Strain Characterization:

The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) reported on strain characterization completed on influenza isolates submitted from October 1, 2003 to March 8, 2004 (Table 4). During this period, the Ontario laboratories have submitted a total of 345 viruses which have been characterized as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Strain Characterization Completed on Influenza Isolates in Canada

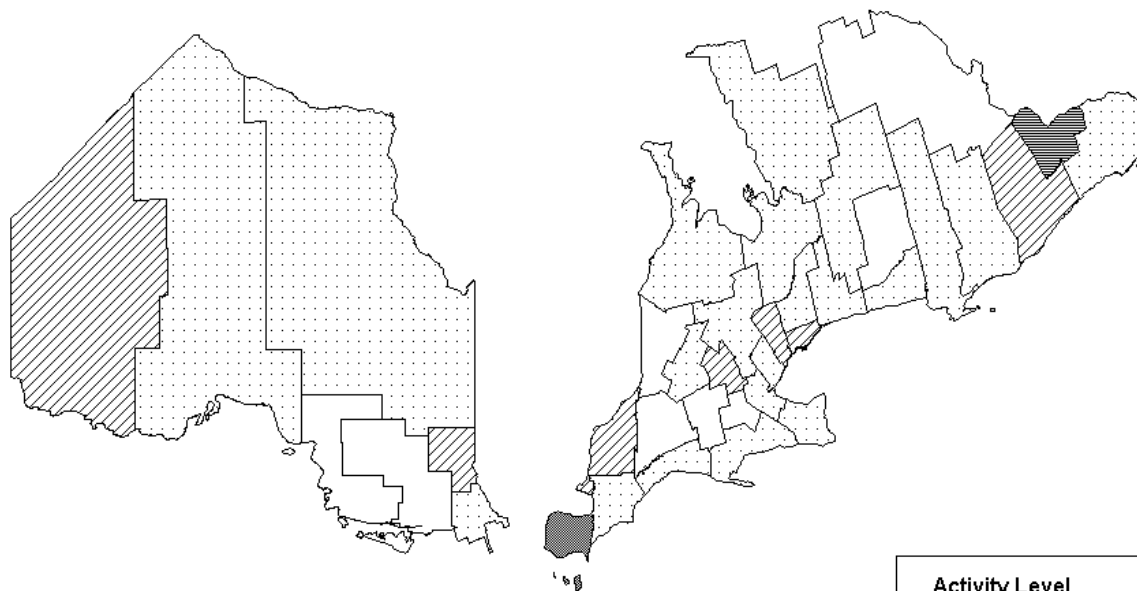
	Influenza Virus						
Province/Territory	Type A(H1N1) *A/New Caledonia/20/ 99-like	Type A(H3N2)		Type A(H1N2)	Type B		TOTAL
		A/Panama/ 2007/99-like	A/Fujian/411/02 -like		Hong Kong /330/01- like	Sichuan /379/99 -like	
Newfoundland			9				9
Prince Edward Island			5				5
Nova Scotia			21	1			22
New Brunswick			7				7
Quebec			56				56
Manitoba			16				16
Saskatchewan		14	61				75
Alberta		6	63				69
British Columbia	1	5	107				113
Yukon			2				2
North West Territory			2				2
Nunavut			6				6
ONTARIO			335		2	8	345
Total	1	25	690	1	2	8	727

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

Influenza Activity Level by Health Unit Week Ending March 13, 2004

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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

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