

Week #13: Week Ending March 27, 2004

Influenza Activity in Ontario

There was low influenza activity in the province during the week ending March 27, 2004 (see map). Influenza activity reported by 25 health units was ranked as follows: 22 (88%) - no activity, 2 (8%) - sporadic activity and 1 (4%) - localized activity. There were 6 (1.0%) positive influenza isolations, (0 Flu A and 6 Flu B) of the 583 influenza tests that Ontario laboratories reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada. Between August 24, 2003 and March 27, 2004, these laboratories reported 4,465 influenza A and 31 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 47 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza (45 influenza A, 2 influenza B) through the Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS) (Table 2). Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by sentinel physicians in Ontario was 26.7/1,000. Since September 1, 2003 to March 27, 2004, 145 (144 Flu A, 1 Flu B) influenza-related deaths were reported through RDIS. Table 3 shows data on the respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions reported to the Ministry by the health units from October 27, 2003 to March 27, 2004; 34 of the outbreaks were reported during week 13. No influenza-confirmed outbreaks were reported during week 13.

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending March 29, 2003 (week 13) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending March 27, 2004 (week 13) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates)Total	782	4,496
Influenza A	766	4,465
Influenza B	16	31
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	1,856	1,944
PIV1	124	239
PIV2	19	152
PIV3	314	225
PIV4	5	6
Other PIVs	1	15
Adenoviruses	3	152
* % of Flu tests that were positive	2.0	1.0
+No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	N/A	26.7

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

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

Season to Date: August 24, 2002 – March 29, 2003. *Season to Date: August 24, 2003 – March 27, 2004.

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

Table 2. Week Ending March 27, 2004 Influenza Cases in Ontario Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2003-2004 (September 1, 2003 to March 27, 2004)

Health Unit	Flu A Week 13 (Ending Mar. 27)	Flu A Week 12 (Ending Mar. 20)	Flu A Change (Week 13-Week 12)	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	59	56	3	
Elgin-St. Thomas	16	16	0	
Grey-Bruce	93	93	0	
Haldimand-Norfolk Region	59	58	1	1
Haliburton-Kawartha	116	116	0	1
Halton Region	222	222	0	2
Hamilton City	417	416	1	1
Hastings-Prince Edward	202	202	0	
Huron	42	42	0	
Kingston-Frontenac	95	95	0	
Lambton	46	46	0	
Leeds-Grenville	17	17	0	
Middlesex-London	121	89	32	
Muskoka-Parry Sound	85	85	0	
Niagara Region	201	201	0	
North Bay	101	101	0	
Northwestern	0	0	0	
Ottawa-Carleton	237	237	0	1
Oxford	40	40	0	
Peel Region	547	542	5	2
Perth	49	49	0	
Peterborough	101	101	0	
Porcupine	94	94	0	
Renfrew	37	37	0	
Simcoe County	238	238	0	2
Sudbury	184	184	0	
Thunder Bay	31	30	1	
Timiskaming	44	43	1	
Toronto City	585	584	1	5
Waterloo Region	150	150	0	
Wellington-Dufferin	138	138	0	
Windsor-Essex	23	23	0	
York Region	319	319	0	3
	5,095	5,050	45	19
*45 new cases of influenza A and 2 cases of influenza B were reported during Week 13.				
(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2003-March 27, 2004) = 44.9/100,000.				
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-March 29, 2003) = 6.93/100,000.				

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 27, 2004

Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	2003-04 Season Week Ending March 27, 2004 (week 13) Season to Date
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	721
Influenza A Outbreaks	381
Flu A & other organisms	8
Other Organisms	57
Influenza B	0
No organism detected	222
Laboratory Results pending	53
*Declared Over	601
Influenza A	358
Flu A & other Organisms	8
Other Organisms	48
Reported as "N/A results pending" or no definitive laboratory results reported	5
No organism detected	182
Onset of illness in index case October 27/03 – March 27, 2004	587
Onset of illness in index case prior to October 27/03	14
**Ongoing Outbreaks	120
Influenza A	23
Other organisms	9
Results pending	48
No Organism detected	40
Categories & Types of Institutions	
LTCF 's (NH, HFA)	489
Combined (e.g. NH/HFA, NH/Hospital)	27
Hospitals (ACH, CCH, Psychiatric Hosp.)	55
Other (RHs, Children Residences, Developmentally Act Institutions/Jail)	140
Unspecified	10

* 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.

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance Activity in Ontario

During Week 13 the overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported for Ontario through the Federal FluWatch system was 26.7 ILI patients seen per 1,000 patients that were seen by the sentinel physicians for all reasons, including ILI.

Canada: Summary for Week 13

Influenza activity remained low across the country, with reports of sporadic activity in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Across Canada, during the week ending March 27 (week 13), sentinel physicians reported 16 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 1,745 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 24 (1.4%) influenza A detections and 13 (0.74%) influenza B detections.

Source: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dqspsp/fluwatch/03-04/w13_04/index.html

Avian Situation in BC: Avian influenza was confirmed on 10 poultry farms in Fraser Valley, BC by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) by the end of March 2004. Some individuals who had direct and prolonged exposure to the affected poultry or contaminated material reported mild symptoms, such as red eyes, headaches, cough, runny noses or sore throats. Two individuals who had confirmed influenza A (H7) infections were treated with the antiviral oseltamivir (Tamiflu™). **Health Canada reported no evidence of human-to-human transmission.** Surveillance and follow up continued for all exposed and all precautionary measures were being followed. For more information:

See CFIA update: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/diseases/avflu/avflue.shtml>

United States: CDC: During the week ending March 20, 2004, influenza activity remained low. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) has remained below the national baseline (2.5%) for 10 consecutive weeks. During week 11, mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold (8.3%). Four (0.3%) of 1,189 specimens collected from throughout the United States were positive for influenza. Twenty-one states, New York City, Guam and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity and 29 states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity.

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

International: EISS:

The intensity of influenza activity was low in Europe. Only sporadic cases of laboratory confirmed influenza A and B were reported. Local activity was reported in Italy, while sporadic activity was reported from several other areas on the continent. Sixteen (9%) of the 179 respiratory specimens collected by sentinel physicians in week 13 were positive for influenza virus.

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

International: WHO Avian influenza A(H5N1)- update

WHO and Viet Nam health authorities were investigating reports of a new fatal case of H5N1 in a 12-year old boy. If confirmed, this will be the first reported case in Viet Nam since 20 February.

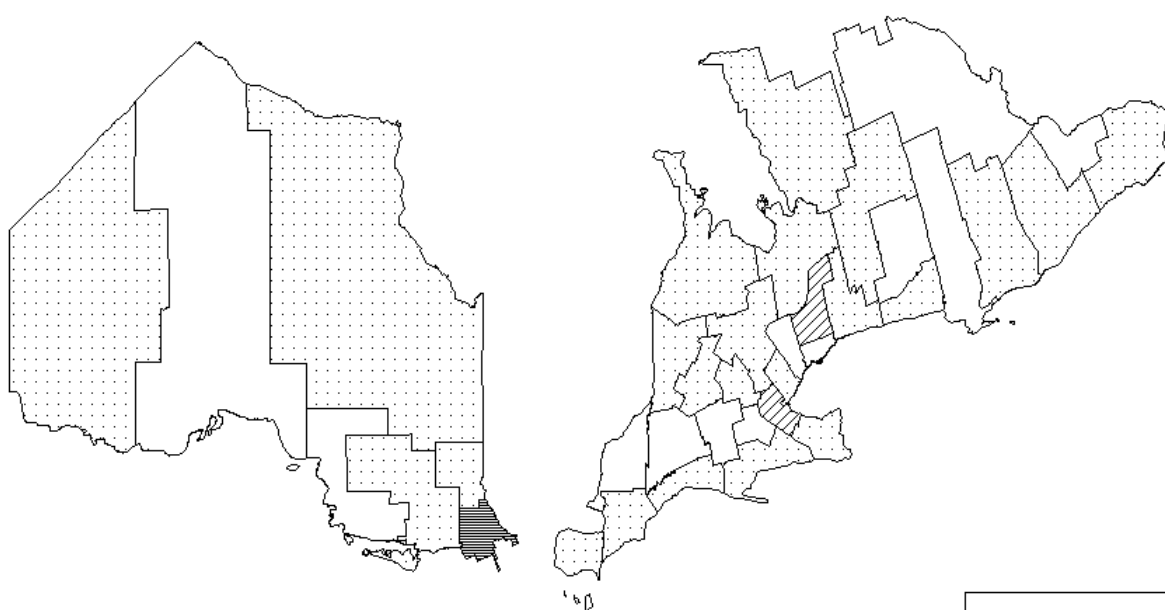
WHO H5N1 Update: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/

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 March 27, 2004

Northern Ontario

Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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