

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 7, Issue 23. 2004</i>
			

Week #14: Week Ending April 3, 2004

Influenza Activity in Ontario

Influenza activity in Ontario remained at low levels during the week ending April 3, 2004 (see map). Influenza activity reported by 21 health units was ranked as follows: 15 (71.4%) - no activity, 3 (14.3%) - sporadic activity and 3 (14.3%) - localized activity. There were 8 (1.4%) positive influenza isolations, (5 Flu A and 3 Flu B) of the 568 influenza tests that Ontario laboratories reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada. Between August 24, 2003 and April 3, 2004, these laboratories reported 4,470 influenza A and 34 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 15 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza (9 influenza A, 6 influenza B) through the Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS) (Table 2). Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by sentinel physicians in Ontario was 15.6/1,000 patients seen for all reasons. From September 1, 2003 to April 3, 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 April 3, 2004; 22 of the outbreaks were reported during week 14. One influenza B outbreak was reported.

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending April 5, 2003 (week 14) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending April 3, 2004 (week 14) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates) Total	789	4,504
Influenza A	773	4,470
Influenza B	16	34
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	1,909	2,084
PIV1	126	249
PIV2	19	155
PIV3	319	260
PIV4	5	6
Other PIVs	1	15
Adenoviruses	142	158
* % of Flu tests that were positive	1.5	1.4
+No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	N/A	15.6

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

+ October 27, 2003 – April 3, 2004. *% of positive cases based on the total specimens submitted for the surveillance week.

Season to Date: August 24, 2002 – April 5, 2003. *Season to Date: August 24, 2003 – April 3, 2004.

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

Table 2. Week Ending April 3, 2004 Influenza Cases in Ontario Reported Through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2003-2004 (September 1, 2003 to April 3, 2004)

Health Unit	Flu A Week 14 (Ending Apr. 3)	Flu A Week 13 (Ending Mar. 27)	Flu A Change (Week 14-Week 13)	Flu B (Season-to-date)
Algoma	136	136	0	0
Brant	39	39	0	0
Chatham-Kent	34	34	0	0
Durham Region	177	177	0	1
Eastern Ontario	61	59	2	0
Elgin-St. Thomas	16	16	0	0
Grey-Bruce	93	93	0	0
Haldimand-Norfolk Region	59	59	0	1
Haliburton-Kawartha	116	116	0	1
Halton Region	222	222	0	2
Hamilton City	417	417	0	1
Hastings-Prince Edward	202	202	0	0
Huron	42	42	0	0
Kingston-Frontenac	95	95	0	2
Lambton	46	46	0	0
Leeds-Grenville	17	17	0	0
Middlesex-London	121	121	0	0
Muskoka-Parry Sound	85	85	0	0
Niagara Region	201	201	0	0
North Bay	101	101	0	0
Northwestern	0	0	0	0
Ottawa-Carleton	237	237	0	1
Oxford	40	40	0	0
Peel Region	547	547	0	4
Perth	49	49	0	0
Peterborough	101	101	0	0
Porcupine	94	94	0	0
Renfrew	37	37	0	0
Simcoe County	238	238	0	2
Sudbury	184	184	0	0
Thunder Bay	31	31	0	0
Timiskaming	44	44	0	0
Toronto City	585	585	0	5
Waterloo Region	157	150	7	0
Wellington-Dufferin	138	138	0	0
Windsor-Essex	23	23	0	0
York Region	319	319	0	5
	5,104	5,095	9	25

* 9 new cases of influenza A and 6 cases of influenza B were reported during Week 14.

(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)

PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA A CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2003-April 3, 2004) = 43/100,000.

PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA A CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-April 5, 2003) = 6.8/100,000.

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 – April 3, 2004

Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	2003-04 Season Week Ending April 3, 2004 (week 14) Season to Date
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	744
Influenza A Outbreaks	381
Flu A & other organisms	7
Other organisms	67
Influenza B	1
No organism detected	243
Laboratory results pending	45
*Declared Over	630
Influenza A	359
Flu A & other organisms	7
Flu B	0
Other organisms	54
Reported as "N/A results pending" or no definitive laboratory results reported	5
No organism detected	205
Outbreaks by Onset Period	630
Onset of illness in index case October 27, 2003 – April 3, 2004	614
Onset of illness in index case prior to October 27, 2003	16
**Ongoing Outbreaks	114
Influenza A	22
Flu A & other organisms	0
Flu B	1
Other organisms	13
Results pending	40
No Organism detected	38
Categories & Types of Institutions	744
LTCF 's (NH, HFA)	503
Combined (e.g. NH/HFA, NH/Hospital)	36
Unspecified	10
Hospitals (ACH, CCH, Psychiatric Hosp.)	56
Other (RHs, Children Residences, Developmentally Act Institutions/Jail)	139

* 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 14

Health Unit	Institution Type	Organism	Total # of Residents	# Ill Residents	RAR	Complications			SAR
						# Cases with Pneumonia	# Cases Hospitalized	# Deaths Cases	
Porcupine	NH	Flu B	119	17	14.3	0	0	0	1.4

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 14 the overall rate of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported for Ontario through the Federal FluWatch system was 15.6 ILI patients per 1,000 patients that were seen by the sentinel physicians for all reasons, including ILI.

Canada: Summary for Week 14

Localized activity and an outbreak of influenza in a long-term care facility (LTCF) were reported in the Fraser health region of British Columbia. The rest of the country reported either sporadic or no activity.

Laboratory Confirmations:

Health Canada received 1,683 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 20 (1.2%) influenza A detections and 11 (0.7%) influenza B detections.

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

Avian Situation in BC: Health Canada advises to check for updates on this issue at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disemala/avflu/avflue.shtml>

United States: CDC:

Influenza activity remained low during the week ending April 3, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained below the national baseline (2.5%). Mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold (8.1%). Seven (1.0%) of 693 specimens collected from throughout the United States were positive for influenza. Thirteen states, New York City and Guam reported sporadic activity and 37 states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity.

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

International: WHO and EISS: Influenza activity remained low around the world except in Hong Kong where influenza activity continued to increase with a number of outbreaks reported in schools. The intensity of influenza activity remained low in Europe. Sporadic cases of laboratory confirmed influenza A and B were reported in seven countries across Europe.

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

Avian Influenza (WHO): As of 26th March 2004, the number of human H5N1 cases remained at 34 cases with 23 deaths in Viet Nam and Thailand. Investigation was underway on a media report of a recent fatal case in Viet Nam.

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

