

Week #16: Week Ending April 17, 2004

Influenza Activity in Ontario

Influenza activity in Ontario remained at low levels during the week ending April 17, 2004 (see map). Influenza activity reported by 21 health units was ranked as follows: 18 (85.7%) - no activity, 1 (4.8%) - sporadic activity and 2 (9.5%) - localized activity. There were 5 (1.1%) positive influenza isolations, (1 Flu A and 4 Flu B) of the 460 influenza tests that Ontario laboratories reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada. Between August 24, 2003 and April 17, 2004, these laboratories reported 4,472 influenza A and 40 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 1 case of laboratory-confirmed influenza (0 influenza A, 1 influenza B) through the Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS) (Table 2). Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by sentinel physicians in Ontario was 20.9/1,000 patients seen for all reasons. From September 1, 2003 to April 17, 2004, 151 (150 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 17, 2004; 11 of the outbreaks were reported during week 16. No influenza-confirmed outbreaks were reported during week 16.

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending April 19, 2003 (week 16) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending April 17, 2004 (week 16) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates)Total	809	4,512
Influenza A	786	4,472
Influenza B	23	40
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	1,965	2,220
PIV1	126	256
PIV2	19	155
PIV3	324	320
PIV4	5	6
Other PIVs	2	17
Adenoviruses	150	166
* % of Flu tests that were positive	3.1	1.1
+No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	N/A	20.9

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

+ October 27, 2003 – April 17, 2004. *% of positive cases based on the total specimens submitted for the surveillance week.

Season to Date: August 24, 2002 – April 19, 2003. *Season to Date: August 24, 2003 – April 17, 2004.

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

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

Health Unit	Flu A Week 16 (Ending Apr. 17)	Flu B Week 16 (Ending Apr. 17)	Total Influenza Cases (Season to Date)
Algoma	136	0	136
Brant	39	0	39
Chatham-Kent	34	0	34
Durham Region	177	1	178
Eastern Ontario	61	0	61
Elgin-St. Thomas	16	0	16
Grey-Bruce	93	0	93
Haldimand-Norfolk Region	59	1	60
Haliburton-Kawartha	114	1	115
Halton Region	222	2	224
Hamilton City	416	1	417
Hastings-Prince Edward	199	0	199
Huron	41	0	41
Kingston-Frontenac	95	2	97
Lambton	46	0	46
Leeds-Grenville	18	0	18
Middlesex-London	217	0	217
Muskoka-Parry Sound	85	0	85
Niagara Region	201	0	201
North Bay	110	0	110
Northwestern	0	0	0
Ottawa-Carleton	237	1	238
Oxford	40	0	40
Peel Region	546	4	550
Perth	65	0	65
Peterborough	101	0	101
Porcupine	94	0	94
Renfrew	37	0	37
Simcoe County	243	2	245
Sudbury	184	0	184
Thunder Bay	31	0	31
Timiskaming	44	0	44
Toronto City	590	7	597
Waterloo Region	157	0	157
Wellington-Dufferin	139	0	139
Windsor-Essex	23	0	23
York Region	319	5	324
	5,229	27	5,256

*0 new cases of influenza A and 1 case of influenza B were reported during Week 16

(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)

PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA A CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2003-April 17, 2004) = 44.0/100,000.

PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA A CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-April 19, 2003) = 7.1/100,000.

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 17, 2004

Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	2003-04 Season Week Ending April 17, 2004 (week 16) Season to Date
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	767
Influenza A Outbreaks	380
Flu A & other organisms	7
Influenza B	1
Other organisms	75
No organism detected	262
Laboratory results pending	42
*Declared Over	670
Influenza A	361
Flu A & other organisms	7
Flu B	0
Other organisms	63
Reported as "N/A results pending" or no definitive laboratory results reported	6
No organism detected	233
Outbreaks by Onset Period	670
Onset of illness in index case October 27, 2003 – April 17, 2004	654
Onset of illness in index case prior to October 27,2003	16
**Ongoing Outbreaks	97
Influenza A	19
Flu A & other organisms	0
Flu B	1
Other organisms	12
Results pending	36
No organism detected	29
Categories & Types of Institutions	767
LTCF 's (NH, HFA)	522
Combined (e.g. NH/HFA, NH/Hospital)	37
Unspecified	9
Hospitals (ACH, CCH, Psychiatric Hosp.)	59
Other (RHs, Children Residences, Developmentally Act Institutions/Jail)	140

*** 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

Canada: Summary for Week 16

Sporadic activity was reported in parts of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Activity in the Fraser health region of British Columbia remains sporadic.

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance:

Across Canada, during the week ending April 17 (week 16), sentinel physicians reported 20 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 1,528 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 8 (0.5%) influenza A detections and 12 (0.8%) influenza B detections.

Avian Situation in BC: Ongoing surveillance led to the detection of avian influenza on 36 commercial poultry farms in the Fraser Valley region, BC. Depopulation of poultry continued on a priority basis. As movement of people and equipment is likely contributing to the spread of avian influenza in the region, the CFIA continues to require poultry owners to control access to their premises. No additional confirmed human cases of H7 were identified and follow-up was underway with individuals who had reported mild symptoms following possible exposure to avian influenza contaminated material. Health Canada advises to access the following websites for more information.

See CFIA update: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/animal/hasan/disemala/avflu/avflue.shtml>

BC Agriculture/Food/Fisheries Update: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/avian/>

United States: CDC Summary: Influenza activity remained low during the week ending April 17, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained below the national baseline (2.5%). During week ending April 17, mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold (7.9%). Nine (1.4%) of 622 specimens collected from throughout the United States were positive for influenza. New York reported regional activity, twelve states, New York City, Guam and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity. The District of Columbia and 35 states reported no influenza activity.

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

International: EISS: WHO and EISS:

During week 16, human influenza activity remained low in most parts of the world.

Source: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/update/en/>

The intensity of influenza activity in Europe was low in week 16. Most countries reported no influenza activity and there were only sporadic laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A and B. Sporadic activity was reported in England and Norway and no influenza activity was reported in 15 areas. Only the Slovak Republic reported an increase in clinical activity in week 16, but the incidence of influenza-like illness remained well below the baseline level of clinical activity.

EISS: http://www.eiss.org/cgi-files/bulletin_v2.cgi

Avian Influenza (WHO): WHO has posted guidelines, recommendations and descriptions regarding Avian flu H5N1 at its H5N1 update website.

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

International: WHO SARS Update:

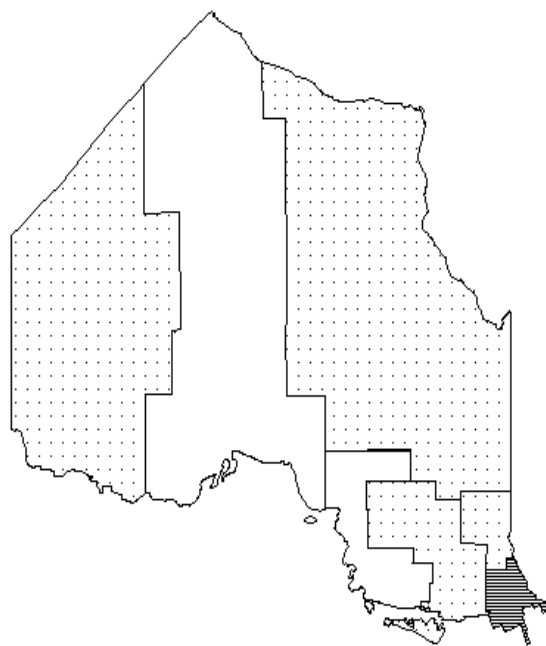
Updated information on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases in China can be accessed at:

WHO SARS Update: http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_04_22/en/

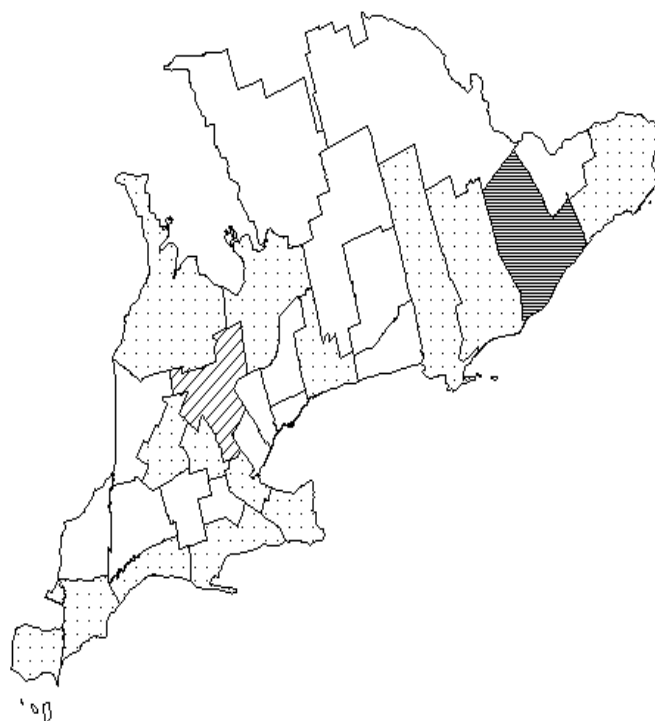
Visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website weekly for the current issue, or back issues, of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_03/flubul_mn.html

Influenza Activity Level by Health Unit Week Ending April 17, 2004

Northern Ontario



Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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