

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch <i>Volume 7, Issue 26. 2004</i>
			

Week #17: Week Ending April 24, 2004

Influenza Activity in Ontario

Influenza activity in Ontario remained at low levels during the week ending April 24, 2004 (see map). Influenza activity reported by 27 health units was ranked as follows: 18 (66.7%) - no activity, 5 (18.5%) - sporadic activity and 4 (14.8%) - localized activity. There was 1 (0.2%) positive influenza isolation (0 Flu A and 1 Flu B) of the 478 influenza tests that Ontario laboratories reported to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada. Between August 24, 2003 and April 24, 2004, these laboratories reported 4,473 influenza A and 41 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 16.9/1,000 patients seen for all reasons. From September 1, 2003 to April 24, 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 24, 2004; 11 of the outbreaks were reported during week 17. One influenza B outbreak was reported.

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending April 26, 2003 (week 17) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending April 24, 2004 (week 17) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates)Total	817	4,514
Influenza A	789	4,473
Influenza B	28	41
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	1,998	2,298
PIV1	130	258
PIV2	19	155
PIV3	329	368
PIV4	5	6
Other PIVs	2	21
Adenoviruses	152	170
* % of Flu tests that were positive	1.5	0.2
+ No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	14.0	16.9

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

+ October 27, 2003 – April 24, 2004. *% of positive cases based on the total specimens submitted for the surveillance week.

Season to Date: August 24, 2002 – April 26, 2003. *Season to Date: August 24, 2003 – April 24, 2004.

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

Table 2. Week Ending April 24, 2004 Influenza Cases in Ontario Reported through the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS), 2003-2004 (September 1, 2003 to April 24, 2004)

Health Unit	Flu A Week 17 (Ending Apr. 24)	Flu B Week 17 (Ending Apr. 24)	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	415	1	416
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	235	1	236
Oxford	40	0	40
Peel Region	549	4	553
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	8	598
Waterloo Region	154	0	154
Wellington-Dufferin	137	0	137
Windsor-Essex	23	0	23
York Region	319	5	324
	5,224	28	5,252
*0 new cases of influenza A and 1 case of influenza B were reported during Week 17			
(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)			
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2003-April 24, 2004) = 44.2/100,000.			
PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-April 26, 2003) = 7.8/100,000.			

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 24, 2004

Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions		2003-04 Season Week Ending April 24, 2004 (week 17) Season to Date
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions		777
Influenza A Outbreaks		380
Flu A & other organisms		7
Influenza B		2
Other organisms		82
No organism detected		271
Laboratory results pending		35
*Declared Over		686
Influenza A		362
Flu A & other organisms		7
Flu B		0
Other organisms		69
Reported as "N/A results pending" or no definitive laboratory results reported		5
No organism detected		243
Outbreaks by Onset Period		686
Onset of illness in index case October 27, 2003 – April 24, 2004		670
Onset of illness in index case prior to October 27, 2003		16
**Ongoing Outbreaks		91
Influenza A		18
Flu A & other organisms		0
Flu B		2
Other organisms		13
Results pending		30
No organism detected		28
Categories & Types of Institutions		777
LTCF 's (NH, HFA)		532
Combined (e.g. NH/HFA, NH/Hospital)		42
Unspecified		8
Hospitals (ACH, CCH, Psychiatric Hosp.)		60
Other (RHs, Children Residences, Developmentally Act Institutions/Jail)		135

* 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 17

Health Unit	Institution Type	Organism	Total # of Residents	# Ill Residents	RAR	Complications			SAR
						# Cases with Pneumonia	# Cases Hospitalized	# Deaths Cases	
Ottawa	NH	Flu B	238	5	2.1	0	0	0	0

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

Canada Influenza Activity for Week 17:

Summary: Localized activity was reported in Ontario. Sporadic or no activity was reported in the rest of the country.

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance:

Across Canada, during the week ending April 24 (week 17), sentinel physicians reported 9 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 1,381 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 10 (0.72%) influenza A detections and 5 (0.36%) influenza B detections.

Avian Situation in British Columbia (BC):

Ongoing surveillance by the CFIA has led to the detection of avian influenza on 39 commercial poultry farms in the Fraser Valley region, BC. The disease was also detected in 10 backyard flocks, all of which were depopulated. As of April 19, an estimated 1 million birds were found to be infected. According to BC Health Authorities, no additional confirmed human cases of H7 have been identified and follow-up is underway with individuals who have reported mild symptoms following possible exposure to avian influenza contaminated material. Health Canada advises to access the following websites for more information.

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

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

Canada Influenza Activity Source: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/03-04/w17_04/index.html

Strain Characterization:

The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) reported on strain characterization completed on influenza isolates submitted from October 1, 2003 to April 16, 2004 (Table 5). The Ontario laboratories have submitted a total of 354 viruses, which have been characterised as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. 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			7				7
Nova Scotia			21	1			22
New Brunswick			10		1		11
Quebec			99		1	5	105
Manitoba			16				16
Saskatchewan	1	14	61				76
Alberta		6	67			1	74
British Columbia	1	5	107				113
Yukon			2				2
North West Territory			2				2
Nunavut			6				6
ONTARIO			337		4	13	354
TOTAL	2	25	744	1	6	19	797

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

United States: CDC: Influenza activity remained low during the week ending April 24, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) has remained below the national baseline (2.5%). During week 16, mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold (7.9%). Thirteen (3.9%) of 333 specimens collected from throughout the United States were positive for influenza. New York reported regional activity for the second consecutive week; 5 states, New York City, Guam and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity. The District of Columbia and 43 states and reported no influenza activity.

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

International: WHO

During week 17, human influenza activity remained low in most parts of the world.

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

International: The European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS) - did not report on influenza activity for week 17.

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

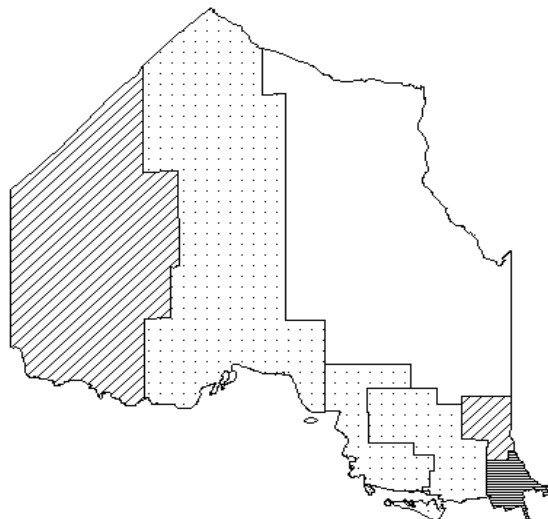
International: WHO SARS Update:

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

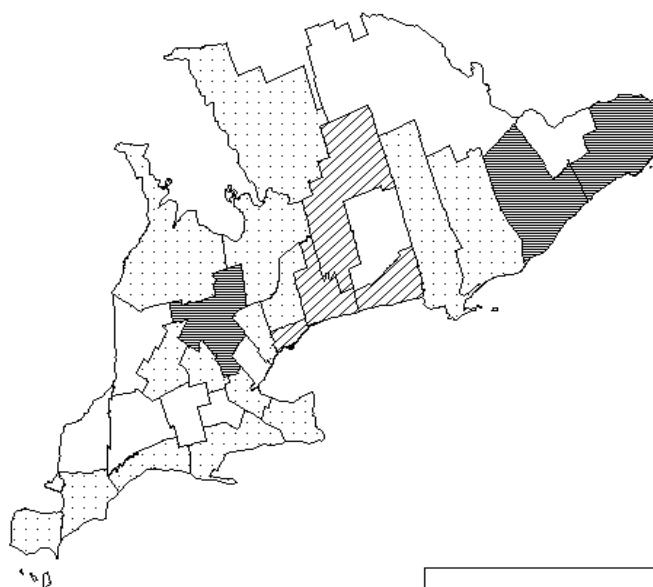
WHO SARS Update: http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/severe_acute_respiratory_syndrome/en/

Influenza Activity Level by Health Unit Week Ending April 24, 2004

Northern Ontario



Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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