

		Ontario Influenza Bulletin	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
			Public Health Branch <i>Volume 7, Issue 27, 2004</i>

Week #18: Week Ending May 1, 2004

This is the final issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin, for the 2003-2004 Influenza Surveillance Season. A summary report of the season's activity will be published in an upcoming issue of PHERO. Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division (PHD), would like to thank the staff of public health units, regional public health laboratories, the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC), Health Canada, and the sentinel physicians for their diligent data reporting.

Please note that Ontario carries out year round surveillance activities for influenza and respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions. However, during the Summer, the Ontario Influenza Bulletin will be published bi-weekly (on even numbered weeks) and weekly publication will resume in the fall of 2004.

Influenza Activity in Ontario

Influenza activity in Ontario remained at low levels during the week ending May 1, 2004 (see map). Influenza activity reported by 23 health units was ranked as follows: 19(82.6%) - no activity, 2 (8.7%) - sporadic activity and 2 (8.7%) - localized activity. There were no positive influenza isolates of the 389 influenza tests that Ontario laboratories reported to the CIDPC, Health Canada. Between August 24, 2003 and May 1, 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 5 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza (2 influenza A, 3 influenza B) through the Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS) (Table 2). Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by sentinel physicians in Ontario was 13.9/1,000 patients seen for all reasons. From September 1, 2003 to May 1, 2004, 150 (149 Flu A, 1 Flu B) influenza-related deaths were transmitted 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 May 1, 2004; 6 of the outbreaks were reported during week 18. No confirmed influenza outbreaks were reported during this surveillance period.

Table 1.

Indicator	2002-03 Season Week Ending May 3, 2003 (week 18) Season to Date**	2003-04 Season Week Ending May 1, 2004 (week 18) Season to Date***
CIDPC Laboratory Surveillance (Flu isolates)Total	821	4,514
Influenza A	792	4,473
Influenza B	29	41
Other respiratory Viruses		
RSV	2,006	2,325
PIV1	131	259
PIV2	19	155
PIV3	331	390
PIV4	5	6
Other PIVs	2	21
Adenoviruses	155	170
* % of Flu tests that were positive	3.2	0.0
+No. of ILI Visits to Sentinel Physicians (ILI Rate/1000 patients seen for all reasons)	14.0	13.9

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

+ October 27, 2003 – May 1, 2004. *% of positive cases based on the total specimens submitted for the surveillance week.

Season to Date: August 24, 2002 – May 3, 2003. *Season to Date: August 24, 2003 – May 1, 2004.

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

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

Health Unit	Flu A Week 18 (Ending May 1)	Flu B Week 18 (Ending May 1)	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	15	0	15
Grey-Bruce	93	0	93
Haldimand-Norfolk Region	59	1	60
Haliburton-Kawartha	115	1	116
Halton Region	222	2	224
Hamilton City	415	2	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	235	3	238
Oxford	40	0	40
Peel Region	549	4	553
Perth	66	0	66
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	591	8	599
Waterloo Region	154	0	154
Wellington-Dufferin	137	0	137
Windsor-Essex	23	0	23
York Region	319	5	324
	5,226	31	5,257

* 2 cases of influenza A and 3 cases of influenza B were transmitted during Week 18

(Based on 2001 Provincial Population Estimate)

PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2003-May 1, 2004)= 44.3/100,000.

PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CASES PER 100,000 (September 1,2002-May 3, 2003) = 7.2/100,000.

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 – May 1, 2004

Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	2003-04 Season Week Ending May 1, 2004 (week 18) Season to Date
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Institutions	785
Influenza A Outbreaks	380
Flu A & other organisms	7
Influenza B	2
Other organisms	83
No organism detected	281
Laboratory Results pending	32
Outbreaks by Onset Period	785
Onset of illness in index case October 27/03 – May 1, 2004	769
Onset of illness in index case prior to October 27/03	16
*Declared Over	698
Influenza A	363
Flu A & other organisms	7
Flu B	1
Other organisms	73
Reported as "N/A results pending" or no definitive laboratory results reported	5
No organism detected	249
**Ongoing Outbreaks	87
Influenza A	17
Flu A & other organisms	0
Flu B	1
Other organisms	10
Results pending	27
No organism detected	32
Categories & Types of Institutions	785
LTCF 's (NH, HFA)	541
Combined (e.g. NH/HFA, NH/Hospital)	42
Unspecified	7
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.**

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 18.

Localized activity was reported in Ontario and parts of British Columbia and Alberta. The rest of the country reported sporadic or no activity.

Federal FluWatch Sentinel Physician Surveillance:

Across Canada, during the week ending May 1, (week 18), sentinel physicians reported 8 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) per 1000 patient visits. This is below the expected range for this time of year.

Laboratory Confirmations:

Health Canada received 1,260 reports of laboratory tests for influenza, including 7 (0.6%) influenza A detections and 2 (0.2%) influenza B detections.

Avian Situation in British Columbia (BC):

Ongoing surveillance by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) led to the detection of avian influenza on 40 commercial poultry farms and 10 backyard flocks in the Fraser Valley region, BC, all of which were depopulated. 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 checking the following websites for more information: **CFIA update:** <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anim/hasan/diseases/avflu/avflue.shtml>

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

Strain Characterization:

The National Microbiology Laboratory has antigenically characterized 807 influenza viruses to date, 779 (96.5%) were influenza A viruses. Of the 779 influenza A viruses, 751 (96.4%) were A/Fujian/411/02(H3N2)-like, 25 (3.2%) A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like, 2 A/NewCaledonia/20/99(H1N1)-like and 1 H1N2. Twenty-eight (3.5%) of the 807 influenza viruses were influenza B viruses, including 7 B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like and 21 B/Sichuan/379/99-like.

Canada Influenza Activity Source: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/03-04/w18_04/index.html

United States: CDC:

Influenza activity remained low during the week ending May 1, 2004. The percentage of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained below the national baseline (2.5%). During week 17 (week ending May 1), mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold (7.8%). Two (0.6%) of 311 specimens collected from throughout the United States were positive for influenza. Seven states, New York City, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity. The District of Columbia and 43 states reported no influenza activity.

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

International: WHO

During week 18, WHO did not report on global human influenza activity.

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 18.

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

Avian Influenza (WHO): WHO posts information on Avian flu H5N1 at its H5N1 update website:

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

International: WHO SARS Update:

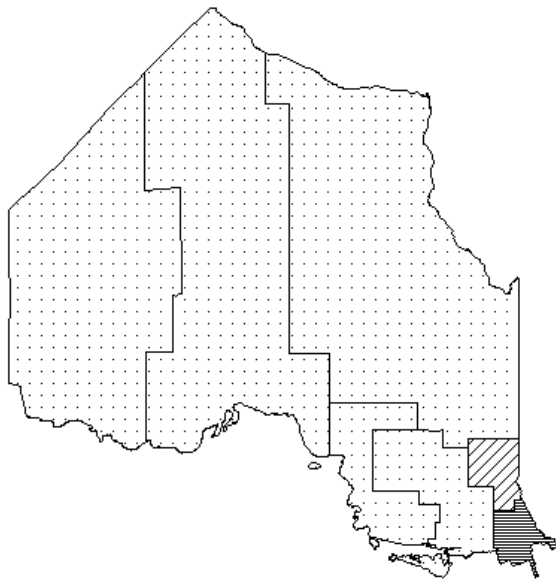
Updated information on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases in China can be accessed at:

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

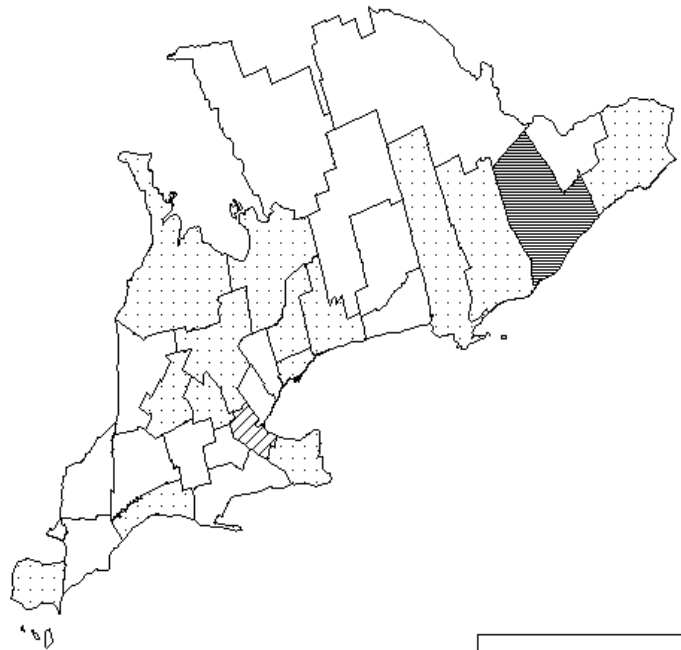
Visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website weekly for the current issue, or back issues, of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_03/flubul_mn.html

Influenza Activity Level by Health Unit Week Ending May 1, 2004

Northern Ontario



Southern Ontario



Activity Level

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