

Ontario Influenza Bulletin

Late Spring Edition**Vol. 8, Issue 10 Weeks 23 - 24 (June 5 – June 18, 2005)**

Introduction

The current issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin summarizes influenza activity during weeks 23 - 24. It covers the time period from June 5 to 18, 2005.

Influenza activity continued to decline in Ontario during weeks 23 - 24. Central West region reported sporadic activity. Other regions in Ontario reported localized activity in weeks 23 to 24 while the rest of the country experienced either sporadic or no activity. The proportion of influenza type B detected (as opposed to influenza A) continued to be the predominant type of influenza during weeks 23 to 24 in Ontario and resulted in 3 positive influenza B isolates in week 23, ending June 11, 2005.

Influenza Activity in Ontario

During the period of influenza surveillance between June 5 and June 18, 2005 (reporting weeks 23-24), a total of 6 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported (1 influenza A, 5 influenza B) by Ontario laboratories to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC).

Throughout this period there were 4 cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 91 cases of parainfluenza virus (PIV) and 19 cases of adenoviruses, all of which were laboratory-confirmed (Appendix 1).

Including late reports, a total of 3,832 influenza A, 1,309 influenza B, 2,846 RSV, 756 PIV and 389

adenoviruses were reported to the CIDPC between August 22, 2004 and June 18, 2005.

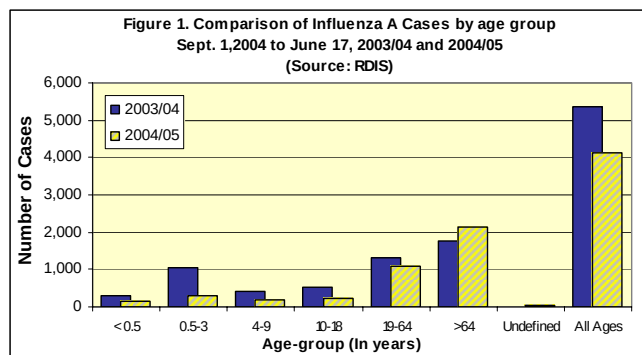
Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS)

Between June 5 and June 18, 2005, no new cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and B were reported to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) through iPHIS by 20 of Ontario's health units. There were 2 new cases of influenza that had no type specified in iPHIS during week 24, ending June 18. Please note that two other health units Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington and Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District began reporting using iPHIS on June 6. Three more health units including Huron County, Eastern Ontario and Porcupine began reporting using iPHIS on June 13, 2005. Appendix 2a reflects the number of influenza cases reported by each health unit through iPHIS since their Go-live date.

Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS)

Between June 4 and June 17, 2005, a total of 13 laboratory-confirmed sporadic cases of influenza A and 7 laboratory-confirmed sporadic cases of influenza B were reported to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) through RDIS by 16 of Ontario's health units. The total number of lab-confirmed cases of influenza A and B reported between September 1, 2004 and June 17, 2005 were 4,112 and 1,237, respectively (Appendix 2b). The total number of

influenza A is more than two thirds (76.7%) of the total number of cases for all age groups in same period of time for last season (Figure 1).



Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks

From June 5 to June 18, 2005, 8 respiratory infection outbreaks were reported by Ontario's health units to the MOHLTC (Appendix 3). None of the reports were due to influenza A, B or other laboratory-confirmed organisms. Five identified outbreaks reported no causative organism/s. Note that the laboratory results for 3 outbreaks were pending by end of week 24. The majority (87.5%) of respiratory infection outbreaks occurred in Long-Term Care Homes (7/8).

(Source: Appendix D's-preliminary reports and E's-final reports)

Taken together, data from the CIDPC, RDIS, iPHIS and the Respiratory Infection Outbreak Database indicated comparatively lower activity in Ontario during the period from June 5 to June 18, 2005 than from May 15 to June 4, 2005.

Influenza Activity in Canada

A summary of influenza activity in Canada as reported in FluWatch is provided below.

Influenza activity continued to decrease across the country during weeks 23 and 24, covering June 5 to June 18, 2005 (Table 1). Localized activity was reported in part of Ontario during weeks 23 and 24.

In Ontario, influenza activity continued to be reported as localized in all regions during weeks 20 to 22 (Table 2).

The number of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) seen by sentinel physicians in Canada from May 15 to June 4, 2005 ranged from 10/1,000 office visits (week 20, ending May 21, 2005) to 13/1,000 office visits (week 22, ending June 4, 2005). Additional information on influenza activity in Canada can be found at:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

In Ontario, the number of patients with ILI seen by sentinel physicians ranged from 9/1,000 office visits (week 20 ending May 21, 2005) to 18/1,000 office visits (week 22, ending June 4, 2005).

Table 1: Influenza activity in Canada by Province, June 5 to June 18, 2005 (Weeks 23 to 24).

Province	Week 23 June 5-11, 2005	Week 24 June 12-18, 2005
Ontario	3	3
Newfoundland	1	1
Prince Edward Isl.	1	1
Nova Scotia	2-1	2-1
New Brunswick	1	1
Quebec	1	1
Manitoba	1	1
Saskatchewan	1	1
Alberta	2-1	2-1
British Columbia	2	2

Table 2: Influenza activity in Ontario by Region, June 5 to June 18, 2005 (Weeks 23 to 24).

Region	Week 23 June 5-11, 2005	Week 24 June 12-18, 2005
Ontario	3	3
East	3	3
Central East	3	3
Central West	2	2
South West	3	3
North	3	3

Strain Characterization

A total of 1,085 influenza viruses were characterized by National Microbiology Lab between August 22, 2004 and June 18, 2005. Of these, 886 cases were identified as influenza A (H3N2), including 58.1% (515/886) of A/Fujian/411/02-like. Since February 17, 2005; 371 isolates were identified as A/California/7/04. For the same period of time 199 influenza B isolates, (159 were B/Shanghai/361/02-like viruses and 40 B/Hong Kong/330/01-like viruses) were also identified (table 3).

Table 3: Influenza strains identified by the NML
August 22, 2004 to June 18, 2005

Strain	No. (%)
A/Fujian/411/02-like virus	515 (47.5)
A/California/7/04-like virus	371 (34.2)
B/Shanghai/361/02-like virus	159 (14.6)
B/Hong Kong/330/01-like virus	40 (3.7)

Please note that NML has suspended antigenic characterization for the summer as of June 4, 2005.

Appendix 1. Respiratory viruses isolated and reported to the CIDPC, June 5 to June 18, 2005 (2004/05 Season)

Organism	Influenza Viruses			Other Respiratory Viruses						
	A & B	A	B	RSV	PIV1	PIV2	PIV3	PIV4	Other PIVs	Adenoviruses
Total until June 4, 2005 (Week 22)	[5135]	[3831]	[1304]	[2836]	[156]	[38]	[426]	[16]	[9]	[368]
Week ending June 11, 2005 (week 23)	3 [5138]	0 [3831]	3 [1307]	2 [2838]	6 [162]	0 [38]	37 [463]	0 [16]	0 [9]	6 [374]
Week ending June 18, 2005 (week 24)	3 [5141]	1 [3832]	2 [1309]	2 [2840]	4 [166]	0 [38]	44 [507]	0 [16]	0 [9]	13 [387]
Number of late reports, from August 22, 2004 to June 18, 2005	[0]	[0]	[0]	[6]	[1]	[0]	[19]	[0]	[0]	[2]
Total number of isolates, August 22, 2004 to June 18, 2005*	[5141]	[3832]	[1309]	[2846]	[167]	[38]	[526]	[16]	[9]	[389]

[] Accumulative numbers from August 22, 2004

* Late reports are included

Appendix 2a. Weekly Lab-Confirmed Cases of Influenza by Health unit, week 23 - 24 (Source: iPHIS)

Health Unit	Week 23, June 5-11, 2005			Week 24, June 12-18, 2005		
	Undefined type±	Influenza A	Influenza B	Undefined type±	Influenza A	Influenza B
Algoma	[1]	[0]	[0]	[1]	[0]	[0]
Grey-Bruce	[2]	[10]	[2]	1 [3]	[10]	[2]
Simcoe - Muskoka	[0]	[11]	[9]	[0]	[11]	[9]
Thunder Bay	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Sudbury	[0]	[0]	[3]	[0]	[0]	[3]
North Bay - Parry Sound	[2]	[0]	[3]	[2]	[0]	[3]
Northwestern	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Wellington - Dufferin - Guelph	[24]	[0]	[0]	[24]	[0]	[0]
Brant	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Waterloo*	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Haldimand-Norfolk*	[0]	[0]	[16]	[0]	[0]	[16]
Hamilton*	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Elgin – St. Thomas	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Middlesex – London	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Perth	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox* & Addington	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Leeds, Grenville and Lanark* District	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Huron County**	[0]	[0]	[0]	1 [1]	[0]	[0]
Eastern Ontario**	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Porcupine**	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Total	[29]	[21]	0 [33]	2 [31]	0 [21]	[33]

[] Cumulative number from Go-live date ,2005

* Reporting to iPHIS from June 6, 2005 ** Reporting to iPHIS from June 13, 2005

± Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as unspecified)

Please note that these data are preliminary and subject to change

Appendix 2b. Weekly Lab-Confirmed Cases of Influenza by Health unit, week 23 - 24 (Source: RDIS)

Health Unit	Week 23, June 4-10, 2005		Weeks 24, June 11-17, 2005	
	Influenza A	Influenza B	Influenza A	Influenza B
Algoma*	[53]	[3]	[53]	[3]
Brant±	[58]	[11]	[58]	[11]
Chatham - Kent	[48]	[3]	[48]	[3]
Durham	[112]	[54]	[112]	[54]
Eastern Ontario	[89]	[26]	[89]	[26]
Elgin - St. Thomas	[5]	[0]	[5]	[0]
Grey-Bruce*	[45]	[11]	[45]	[11]
Haldimand-Norfolk#	[32]	[10]	[32]	[10]
Haliburton KPR	[91]	[48]	[91]	[48]
Halton	[174]	[73]	[174]	[73]
Hamilton-Wentworth#	[275]	[106]	[275]	[106]
Hasting – P.E.	[95]	[19]	[95]	[19]
Huron	[50]	[5]	[50]	[5]
Kingston & FLA	[84]	[14]	[84]	[14]
Lambton	9 [42]	[10]	[42]	[10]
Leeds - Grenville	[30]	[10]	[30]	[10]
Middlesex-London	[41]	[4]	[41]	[4]
Muskoka-Parry Sound**	[76]	[1]	[76]	[1]
Niagara	[113]	[27]	[113]	[27]
Northwest±	[32]	[8]	[32]	[8]
North Bay - Parry Sound+	[82]	[4]	[82]	[4]
Ottawa-Carleton	[220]	[48]	[220]	[48]
Oxford	[40]	[4]	[40]	[4]
Peel	[282]	[162]	[282]	[162]
Perth	[55]	[15]	[55]	[15]
Peterborough	[58]	[28]	[58]	[28]
Porcupine	[89]	[18]	[89]	[18]
Renfrew	[23]	[2]	[23]	[2]
Simcoe - Muskoka*	[165]	[38]	[165]	[38]
Sudbury+	[46]	[13]	[46]	[13]
Timiskaming	[45]	[1]	3 [48]	1 [2]
Thunder Bay*	[20]	[4]	[20]	[4]
Toronto	1 [633]	1 [299]	[633]	3 [302]
Waterloo#	[231]	[38]	[231]	[38]
Wellington - Dufferin - Guelph±	[98]	[19]	[98]	[19]
Windsor - Essex	[30]	[10]	[30]	[10]
York	[447]	[85]	[447]	2 [87]
Total	10 [4109]	1 [1231]	3 [4112]	6 [1237]

[] Cumulative number from September 1, 2004 * Reporting to iPHIS from April 1, 2005 +Reporting to iPHIS from April 18, 2005

** No longer exists as of April 1, 2005 ±Reporting to iPHIS from April 25, 2005 # Reporting to iPHIS from May 9, 2005

Appendix 3. Respiratory infection outbreaks in Institutions from June 5 to June 18, 2005				
Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	June 5-June 11, 2005 (week 23)		June 12-June 18, 2005 (week 24)	
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	3	[981]*	5	[986]*
Influenza A	0		0	
Influenza A & B	0		0	
Influenza A & other organism/s	0		0	
Influenza B	0		0	
Influenza B & other organism/s	0		0	
Other organisms	0		0	
No organism isolated	3		2	
Laboratory results pending	0		3	
No specimen sent for laboratory testing	0		0	
Ongoing Outbreaks	0		3	
Influenza A	0		0	
Influenza A & B	0		0	
Influenza A & other organism/s	0		0	
Influenza B	0		0	
Influenza B & other organism/s	0		0	
Other organisms	0		0	
No organism isolated	0		0	
Laboratory results pending	0		3	
No specimen sent for laboratory testing	0		0	
Types of Institutions				
LTCHs	2		5	
Hospitals	0		0	
Other±	1		0	
Total Outbreaks from September 1, 2004	[1080]#		[1085]#	

[] The number represents the total number of Institutional Outbreaks from the beginning of this season.

*Late reports are not included and subject to change # Late reports are included as of July 8, 2005

±Retirement Homes > 10 beds, children's residences, facilities operated under the *Developmental Services Act* etc.