

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 30&31 (July 25, 2010– Aug 7, 2010)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from July 25, 2010 to August 7, 2010 (Weeks 30 & 31). **All data are for weeks 30 & 31 unless otherwise specified.** Data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on August 11, 2010.

In order to enable our readers to better assess influenza activity in Ontario, we have combined various sources of information in the following table.

Assessment of Influenza Activity in Ontario

Measure	Assessment of measure compared to previous week (Lower, Similar, Higher)	Reasoning behind assessment
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	No change	Zero influenza cases (0 pH1N1) reported in weeks 30/31 compared to zero reported in weeks 28/29 (0 pH1N1)*. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza A at the Toronto Public Health Laboratory was 0% for week 30. This is the same as weeks 28/29 (0%).
Influenza Outbreaks	Similar	No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for the current reporting weeks.
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Similar	Health units reported either no influenza activity or did not report for week 31.
ILI Consultation Rate reported by Sentinel Physicians	Lower	The overall ILI consultation rate has decreased from 8.40/1,000 patient visits in Week 29 to 5.73/1,000 patient visits in Week 31. The ILI rate is lower than the average rate for week 31 from previous years and within the expected range for the summer months.
Hospitalizations Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No new hospitalizations in influenza cases were reported from August 1 to August 7, which is the same as the previous week (July 25 to July 31).
Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No new deaths in influenza cases were reported from August 1 to August 7, which is the same as the previous week (July 25 to July 31).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Influenza activity in Ontario is <i>similar</i> compared to the previous week.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was similar in weeks 30/31 compared to weeks 28/29.

*Counts from previous weeks may be updated and therefore may not match reports in earlier Bulletins

Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2009-2010

Surveillance Weeks 30&31 (July 25, 2010 – August 7, 2010)

Overall, influenza activity in Ontario during weeks 30 and 31, 2010, was **similar** when compared to weeks 28 and 29, 2010. Ontario health units reported no new confirmed case of influenza for the current two weeks through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS). During weeks 30 and 31, 2010, no new laboratory confirmed case of pH1N1 was seen in the province. No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for Weeks 30 and 31. A total of 556 respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported in 2010 up to Week 31, which includes 58 influenza outbreaks. For week 31, health units either reported no influenza activity or did not report their activity level. The ILI rate is lower than the average rate for week 31 from previous years and is within the expected range for the summer months.

Publication of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin

An abbreviated version of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin will be produced during the summer months. If there is an increase in influenza activity before the expected increase in the fall, the full version will be produced. The Bulletin will be published on alternate weeks until October 2010. Influenza activity level maps will be available during weeks the Bulletin is not published at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_09/flumap_mn.html

For a definition of ILI activity levels and links to websites providing current influenza information from other sources, please refer to the attached Appendix- I. If you would like to provide feedback on the Bulletin, please contact Christine D'Souza (christine.dsouza1@ontario.ca, 416-212-5323) or Michael Whelan (michael.whelan@ontario.ca, 416-327-9174).

Table 1: Summary of confirmed influenza cases and institutional influenza outbreaks by health region (Weeks 30 & 31, 2009-2010)

Confirmed influenza cases*†	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Pandemic (H1N1) 2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A (Not Subtyped/No Subtype)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A (Seasonal H1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A (Seasonal H3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A** (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Institutional outbreaks of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 ‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Institutional outbreaks of Influenza (Other Subtypes/Not Subtyped)‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

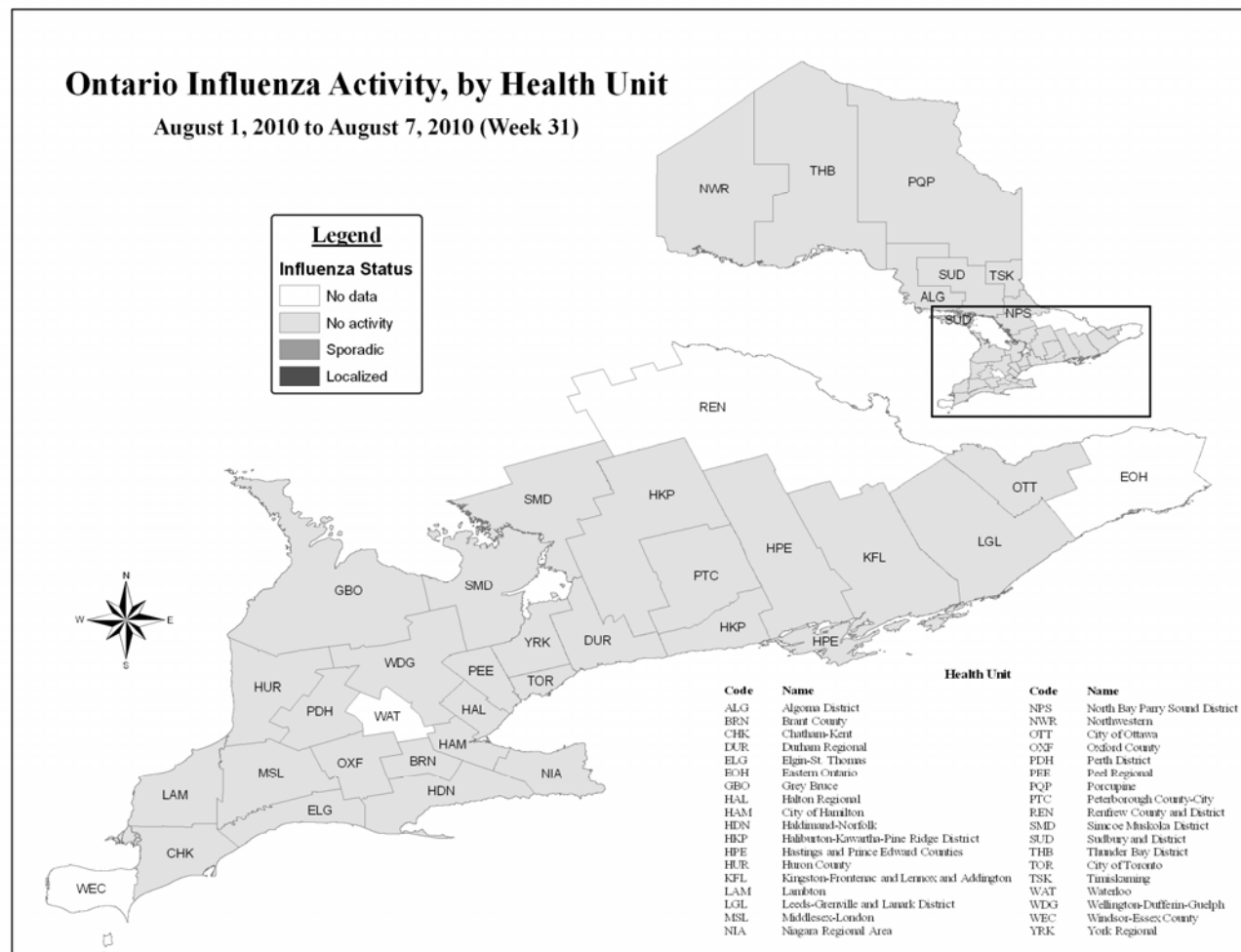
SOURCE: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted [11/08/2010].

* Includes reports of confirmed influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset for the first case in the surveillance period.

‡ Confirmed outbreaks in institutions with onset date of symptoms during the surveillance period.

** Includes indeterminate, untypeable and other subtypes.

Figure 1: Influenza Activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for Week 31, 2010



SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

* Influenza activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC by the Tuesday following the end of the surveillance week at 4 pm. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmations, ILI reports from various sources, and laboratory confirmed institutional outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions for the 2009-2010 season included in the Appendix-1]

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Previous issues of the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* can be accessed at:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/flu/flu_09/flubul_mn.html

When referencing material from the Ontario Influenza Bulletin please use the following format:
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario Influenza Bulletin 2009-2010 Season, Surveillance Week ##. <URL>
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion
OAHPP Weekly Laboratory Surveillance Update
<http://www.oahpp.ca/SRI%20Bulletin.php>
3. Public Health Agency of Canada
Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/
4. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>
5. European Influenza Surveillance Scheme
http://www.eiss.org/cgi-files/bulletin_v2.cgi

INFORMATION ABOUT H1N1 INFLUENZA (HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA)

1. CDC (Human swine flu investigation)
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>
2. PHAC (Human swine flu investigation)
http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine_200904-eng.php
3. WHO Swine Flu general info
<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>
4. Ontario Ministry of Health (Important Health Notices)
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/emu/ihn.html>

INFORMATION ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA

For latest information on the status of avian influenza worldwide please use the following link:
Public Health Agency of Canada
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/h5n1/index.html>

Remaining Influenza Surveillance Weeks for 2009-2010 and date of submission of
Appendix C

WEEKS	START	END	Appendix C Submission to MOHLTC
WK32	8-Aug-10	14-Aug-10	17-Aug-10
WK33	15-Aug-10	21-Aug-10	24-Aug-10
WK34	22-Aug-10	28-Aug-10	31-Aug-10
WK35	29-Aug-10	4-Sep-10	7-Sep-10

APPENDIX - I

Definitions for influenza activity levels:

No Data: No activity report corresponding to the surveillance week was received at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Call Centre by the Tuesday (at 4 p.m.) following the end of the surveillance period.

No Activity: **No laboratory-confirmed* influenza and NO outbreaks detected** within the health unit/ influenza surveillance area, within the prior week, although sporadically occurring ILI may or may not be present.†

Sporadic: Sporadically (infrequently) occurring **ILI and at least one lab-confirmed influenza* case with NO outbreaks** detected within the health unit area.†

Localized: sporadically occurring **ILI and lab-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI** in schools§ and work sites, or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in < 50% of the health unit. Outbreaks affect a single and/or adjacent geographic area within the health unit jurisdiction, e.g. outbreaks in a nursing home and a school in close proximity to each other.†

Widespread: sporadically occurring **ILI and lab-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI** in schools and work sites, or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in > 50% of the health unit. Outbreaks affect multiple and non-adjacent geographic areas within the health unit jurisdiction, such as two or more regions of the health unit, two or more municipalities, two or more electoral wards, etc.†

* Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior week

† Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist

§Health units have been requested to consider laboratory confirmed pH1N1 outbreaks in camps in their region when evaluating ILI activity levels

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Definitions:

A) ILI in the general population:

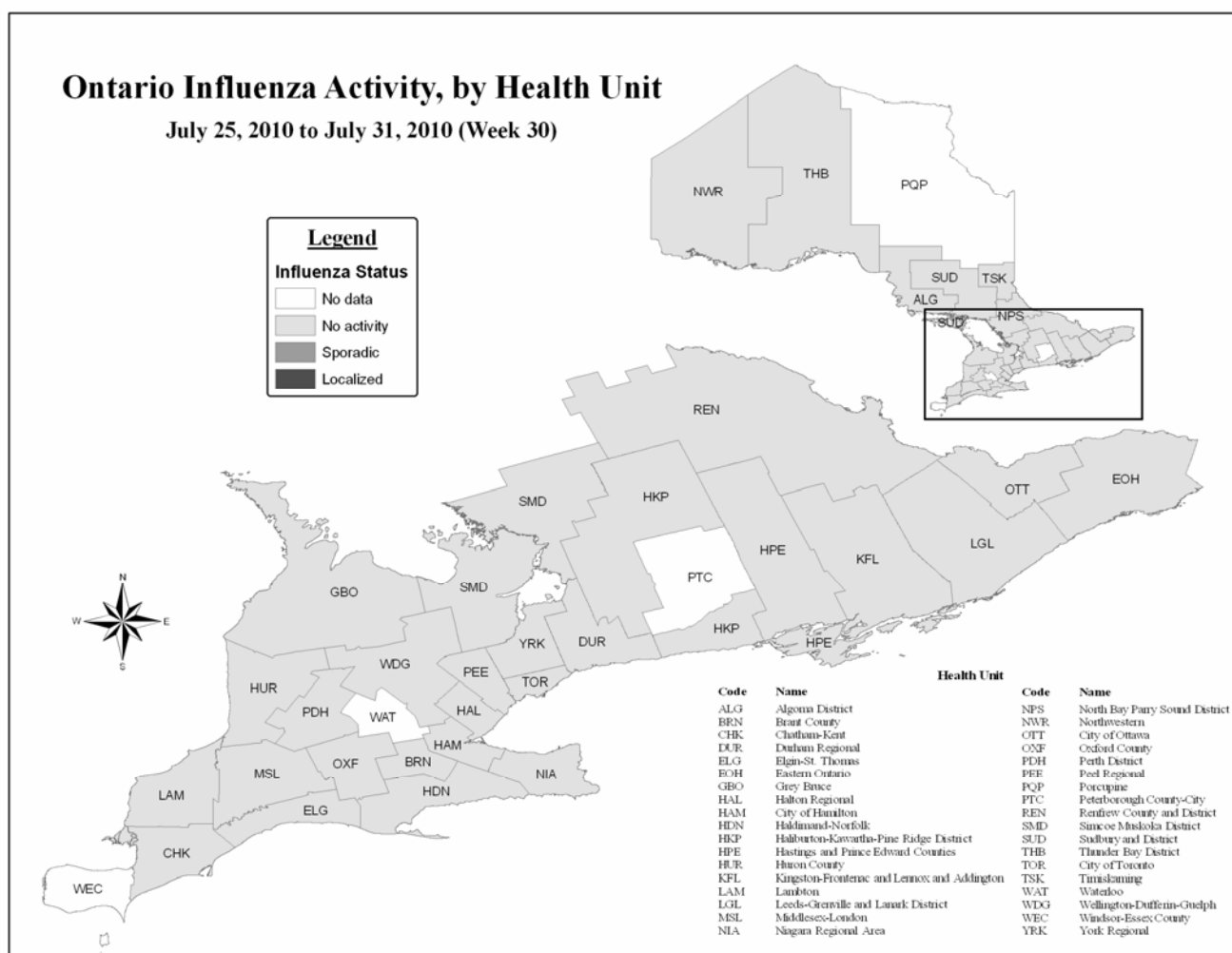
Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

B) ILI/Influenza outbreaks:

Schools and work sites: greater than 10% absenteeism on any day, most likely due to ILI.

Residential institutions: two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period, **including at least one laboratory confirmed case.**

Weekly Ontario Influenza Activity Map



SOURCE: MOHLTC [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

Influenza Activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to the MOHLTC every week. Activity levels are assigned based on laboratory confirmation of influenza, influenza like illness (ILI) reports from various sources including hospitals, institutions experiencing respiratory infection outbreaks, physicians' offices, etc.

Activity level definitions for the 2009-10 influenza season are as follows:

No Data: No activity report corresponding to the surveillance week was received at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Call Centre by the Tuesday (at 4 p.m.) following the end of the surveillance period. **No Activity:** No laboratory-confirmed* influenza and NO outbreaks detected within the health unit/ influenza surveillance area, within the prior week, although sporadically occurring ILI may or may not be present.† **Sporadic:** Sporadically (infrequently) occurring ILI and at least one lab-confirmed influenza* case with NO outbreaks detected within the health unit area.† **Localized:** sporadically occurring ILI and lab-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools§ and work sites, or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in < 50% of the health unit. Outbreaks affect a single and/or adjacent geographic area within the health unit jurisdiction, e.g. outbreaks in a nursing home and a school in close proximity to each other.† **Widespread:** sporadically occurring ILI and lab-confirmed influenza* together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and work sites, or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in > 50% of the health unit. Outbreaks affect multiple and non-adjacent geographic areas within the health unit jurisdiction, such as two or more regions of the health unit, two or more municipalities, two or more electoral wards, etc.†

* Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior week

† Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist

§ Health units have been requested to consider laboratory confirmed pH1N1 outbreaks in camps in their region when evaluating ILI activity levels

Note: The Weekly Ontario Influenza Activity Map will be posted on this site bi-weekly, alternating with the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* (which contains the Influenza Activity map), until the end of October, 2010. As of November 5, 2010, the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* will be published weekly.