

### SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 32&33 (Aug 8, 2010– Aug 21, 2010)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from August 8, 2010 to August 21, 2010 (Weeks 32 & 33). **All data are for weeks 32 & 33 unless otherwise specified.** Data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on August 25, 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                                                                      | One influenza case (0 pH1N1) reported in weeks 32/33 compared to zero reported in weeks 30/31 (0 pH1N1)*. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza A at the Toronto Public Health Laboratory was 0% for week 32. This is the same as weeks 30/31 (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 33.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ILI Consultation Rate reported by Sentinel Physicians   | Slightly Lower                                                                 | The overall ILI consultation rate has decreased slightly from 5.73/1,000 patient visits in Week 31 to 5.22/1,000 patient visits in Week 33.<br><br>The ILI rate is lower than the average rate for week 33 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 15 to August 21, which is the same as the previous week (August 8 to August 14).                                                                                                                               |
| Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza           | No change                                                                      | No new deaths in influenza cases were reported from August 15 to August 21, which is the same as the previous week (August 8 to August 14).                                                                                                                                         |
| 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 32/33 compared to weeks 30/31.                                                                                                                                                                            |

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

# Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2009-2010

## Surveillance Weeks 32&33 (August 8, 2010 – August 21, 2010)

Overall, influenza activity in Ontario during weeks 32 and 33, 2010, was **similar** when compared to weeks 30 and 31, 2010. Ontario health units reported one new confirmed case of influenza for the current two weeks through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS). During weeks 32 and 33, 2010, no new laboratory confirmed cases of pH1N1 were seen in the province. No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for Weeks 32 and 33. A total of 565 respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported in 2010 up to Week 33, which includes 58 influenza outbreaks. For week 33, 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 33 from previous years and is within the expected range for the summer months. For a definition of ILI activity levels and links to websites providing current influenza information from other sources, please refer to the attached

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

Appendix- I. If you would like to provide feedback on the Bulletin, please contact Christine D'Souza ([christine.dsouza1@ontario.ca](mailto:christine.dsouza1@ontario.ca), 416-212-5323) or Michael Whelan ([michael.whelan@ontario.ca](mailto:michael.whelan@ontario.ca), 416-327-9174).

**Table 1:** Summary of confirmed influenza cases and institutional influenza outbreaks by health region (Weeks 32 & 33, 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             | 1 <sup>a</sup> | 0        | 0            | 0        | 0          | 0            | 1        |
| 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        |
| <b>Total new cases</b>                                                     | <b>0</b>      | <b>1</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>     | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Institutional outbreaks of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 ‡</b>                   | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Institutional outbreaks of Influenza (Other Subtypes/Not Subtyped)‡</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b> |

**SOURCE:** Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted [25/08/2010].

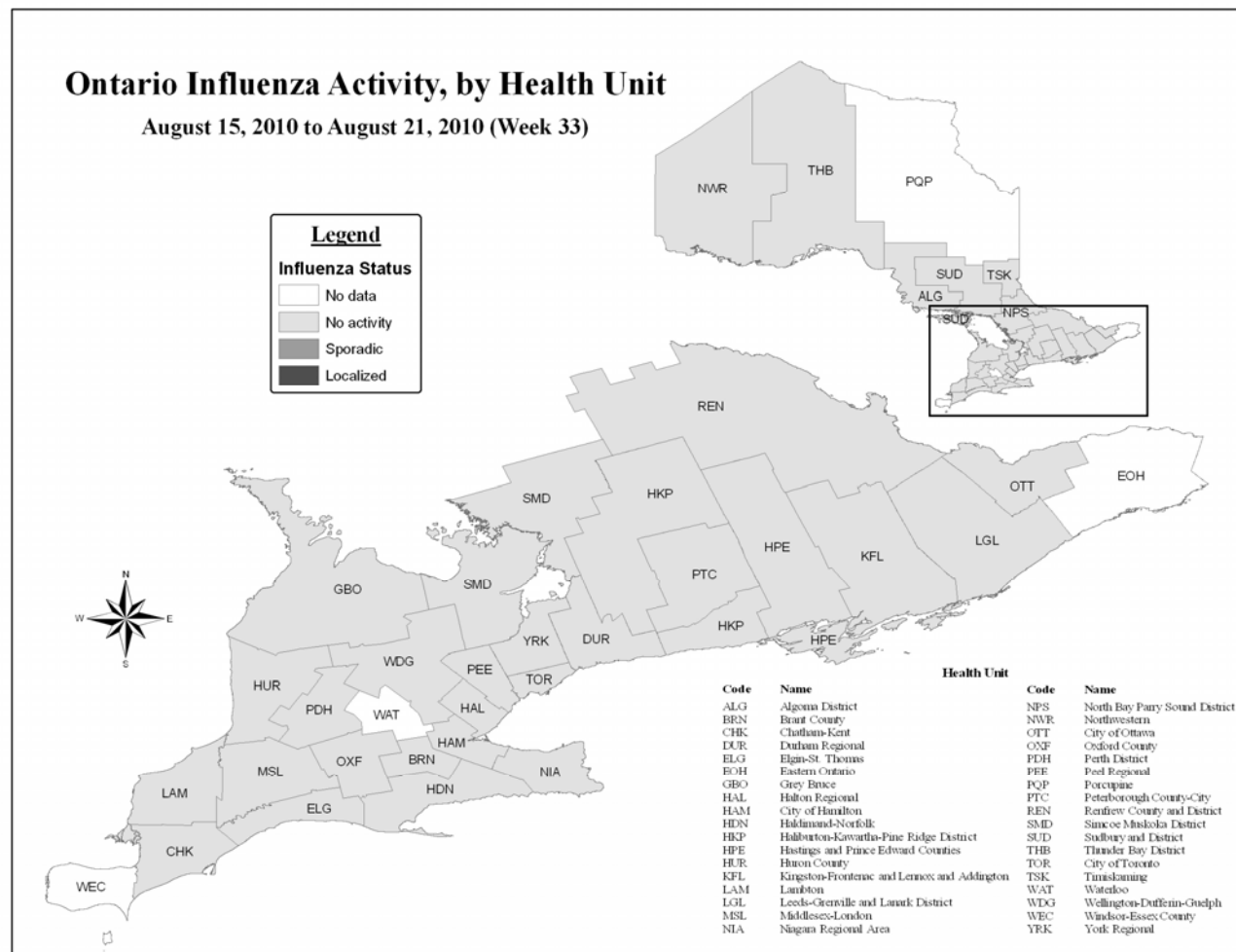
\* Includes reports of confirmed influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset for the first case in the surveillance period.

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

\*\* Includes indeterminate, untypeable and other subtypes.

<sup>a</sup> Please note that this is a travel related influenza case.

Figure 1: Influenza Activity\* levels in Ontario by health unit for Week 33, 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](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/](http://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](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](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<br>MOHLTC |
|-------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 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:

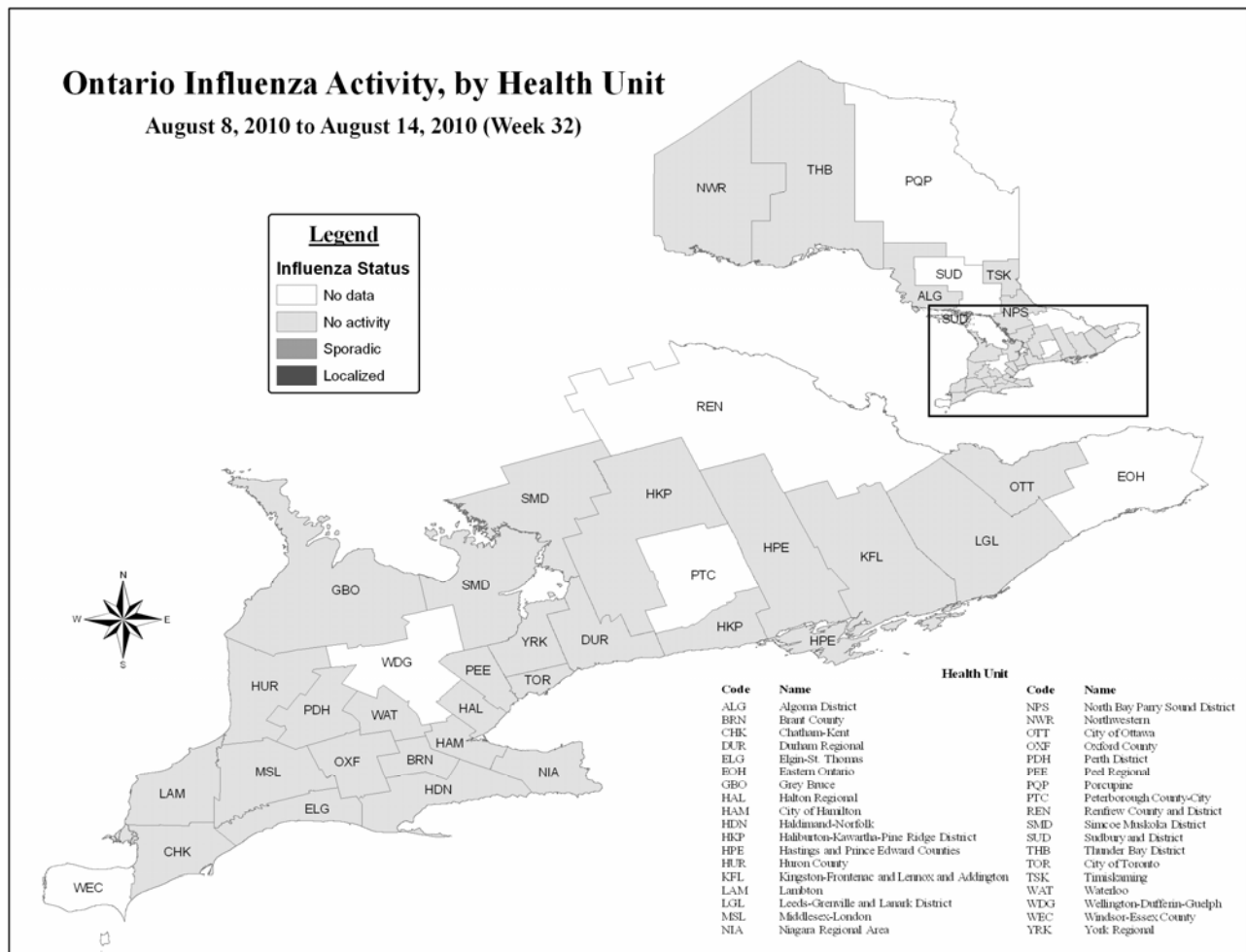
#### A) ILI in the general population:

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.**



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.