

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 36&37 (Sept 5, 2010– Sept 18, 2010)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from September 5, 2010 to September 18, 2010 (Weeks 36 & 37). **All data are for weeks 36 & 37 unless otherwise specified.** Data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on September 22, 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	Higher	Two influenza cases (0 pH1N1) reported in weeks 36/37 compared to zero reported in weeks 34/35 (0 pH1N1)*. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza A at the Toronto Public Health Laboratory was 4% for week 34/35. This is higher than weeks 34/35 (0%).
Influenza Outbreaks**	Similar	No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for the current reporting weeks.
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Higher	York region reported localized influenza activity and Hamilton reported sporadic influenza activity, while the remaining health units reported either no influenza activity or did not report for week 37.
ILI Consultation Rate reported by Sentinel Physicians	Higher	The overall ILI consultation rate has increased from 9.60/1,000 patient visits in Week 35 to 15.79/1,000 patient visits in Week 37. The ILI rate is higher than the average rate for week 37 from previous years and within the expected range for September and October.
Hospitalizations Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No new hospitalizations in influenza cases were reported from September 12 to September 18, which is the same as the previous week (September 5 to September 11).
Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No new deaths in influenza cases were reported from September 12 to September 18, which is the same as the previous week (September 5 to September 11).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Influenza activity in Ontario is <i>higher</i> compared to the previous week.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was higher in weeks 36/37 compared to weeks 34/35.

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

** York Region reported an influenza A (H3) outbreak in a school in week 37.

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Overall, influenza activity in Ontario during weeks 36 and 37, 2010, was **higher** when compared to weeks 34 and 35, 2010. Ontario health units reported two new confirmed cases of influenza for the current two weeks through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS). During weeks 36 and 37, 2010, no new laboratory confirmed case of pH1N1 was seen in the province. No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for Weeks 36 and 37; however an influenza A (H3) outbreak in a school was reported. A total of 27 respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported in 2010 up to Week 37, which includes no institutional influenza outbreaks. For week 37, York Region reported localized level influenza activity and Hamilton reported sporadic influenza activity, while the remaining health units either reported no influenza activity or did not report their activity level. The ILI rate is higher than the average rate for week 37 from previous years and is within the expected range for this time of year.

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 36 & 37, 2010-2011)

Confirmed influenza cases*†	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East ^a	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	1	0	0	1	2
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	1	0	0	1	2
Institutional outbreaks of Influenza A‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Institutional outbreaks of Influenza B‡	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 [22/09/2010].

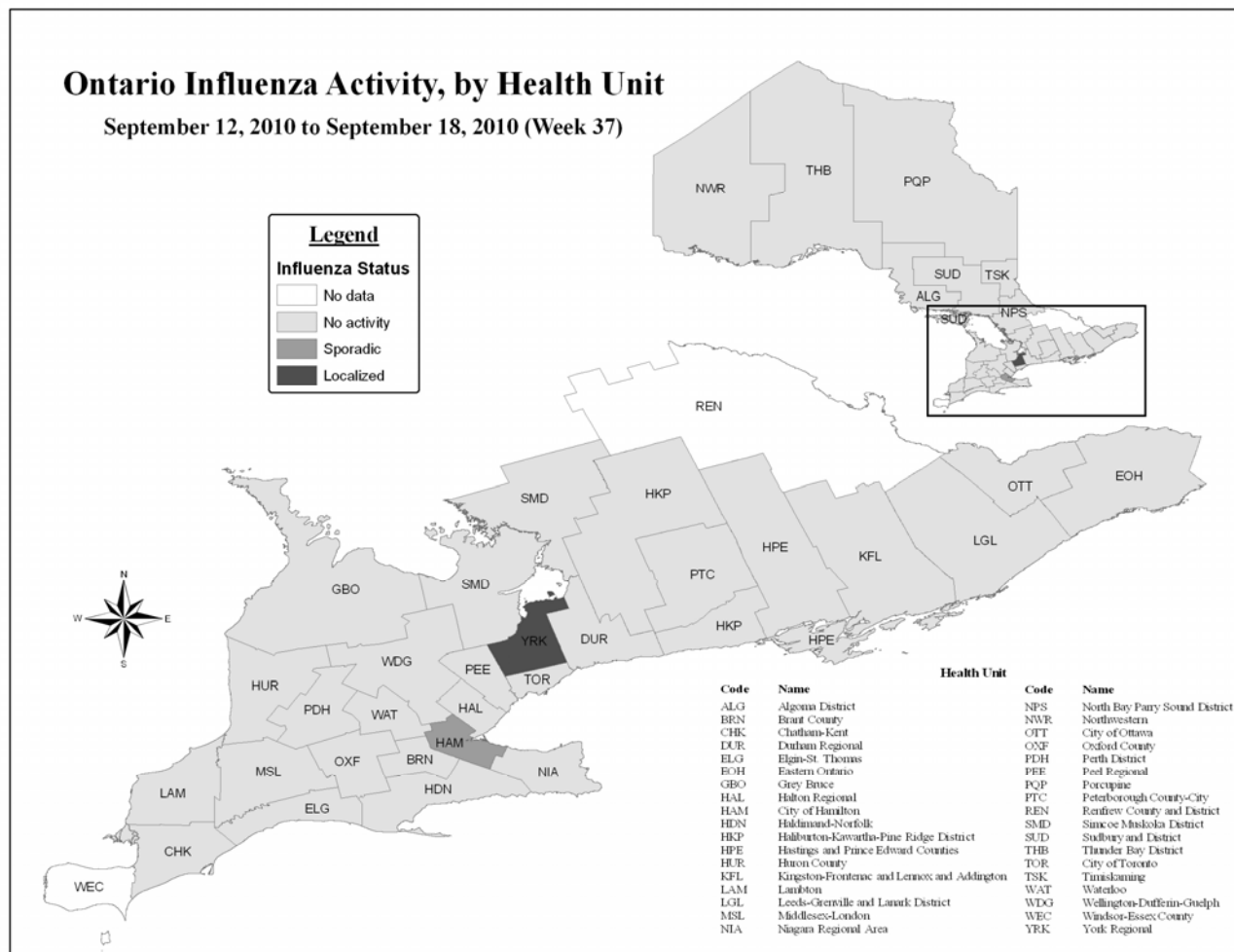
* Includes reports of confirmed influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset for the first case in the surveillance period.

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

** Includes indeterminate, untypeable and other subtypes.

^a An influenza A (H3) outbreak in a school was reported in Week 37 from York region.

Figure 1: Influenza Activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for Week 37, 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>

Influenza Surveillance Weeks 2010-2011 and date of submission of Appendix C

WEEKS	START	END	Appendix C Submission to MOHLTC
WK38	19-Sep-10	25-Sep-10	28-Sep-10
WK39	26-Sep-10	2-Oct-10	5-Oct-10
WK40	3-Oct-10	9-Oct-10	12-Oct-10
WK41	10-Oct-10	16-Oct-10	19-Oct-10
WK42	17-Oct-10	23-Oct-10	26-Oct-10
WK43	24-Oct-10	30-Oct-10	2-Nov-10
WK44	31-Oct-10	6-Nov-10	9-Nov-10
WK45	7-Nov-10	13-Nov-10	16-Nov-10
WK46	14-Nov-10	20-Nov-10	23-Nov-10
WK47	21-Nov-10	27-Nov-10	30-Nov-10
WK48	28-Nov-10	4-Dec-10	7-Dec-10
WK49	5-Dec-10	11-Dec-10	14-Dec-10
WK50	12-Dec-10	18-Dec-10	21-Dec-10
WK51	19-Dec-10	25-Dec-10	28-Dec-10
WK52	26-Dec-10	1-Jan-11	4-Jan-11
WK1	2-Jan-11	8-Jan-11	11-Jan-11
WK2	9-Jan-11	15-Jan-11	18-Jan-11
WK3	16-Jan-11	22-Jan-11	25-Jan-11
WK4	23-Jan-11	29-Jan-11	1-Feb-11
WK5	30-Jan-11	5-Feb-11	8-Feb-11
WK6	6-Feb-11	12-Feb-11	15-Feb-11
WK7	13-Feb-11	19-Feb-11	22-Feb-11
WK8	20-Feb-11	26-Feb-11	1-Mar-11
WK9	27-Feb-11	5-Mar-11	8-Mar-11
WK10	6-Mar-11	12-Mar-11	15-Mar-11
WK11	13-Mar-11	19-Mar-11	22-Mar-11
WK12	20-Mar-11	26-Mar-11	29-Mar-11
WK13	27-Mar-11	2-Apr-11	5-Apr-11
WK14	3-Apr-11	9-Apr-11	12-Apr-11
WK15	10-Apr-11	16-Apr-11	19-Apr-11
WK16	17-Apr-11	23-Apr-11	26-Apr-11
WK17	24-Apr-11	30-Apr-11	3-May-11
WK18	1-May-11	7-May-11	10-May-11
WK19	8-May-11	14-May-11	17-May-11
WK20	15-May-11	21-May-11	24-May-11
WK21	22-May-11	28-May-11	31-May-11
WK22	29-May-11	4-Jun-11	7-Jun-11
WK23	5-Jun-11	11-Jun-11	14-Jun-11

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WEEKS	START	END	Appendix C Submission to MOHLTC
WK24	12-Jun-11	18-Jun-11	21-Jun-11
WK25	19-Jun-11	25-Jun-11	28-Jun-11
WK26	26-Jun-11	2-Jul-11	5-Jul-11
WK27	3-Jul-11	9-Jul-11	12-Jul-11
WK28	10-Jul-11	16-Jul-11	19-Jul-11
WK29	17-Jul-11	23-Jul-11	26-Jul-11
WK30	24-Jul-11	30-Jul-11	2-Aug-11
WK31	31-Jul-11	6-Aug-11	9-Aug-11
WK32	7-Aug-11	13-Aug-11	16-Aug-11
WK33	14-Aug-11	20-Aug-11	23-Aug-11
WK34	21-Aug-11	27-Aug-11	30-Aug-11
WK35	28-Aug-11	3-Sep-11	6-Sep-11

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:

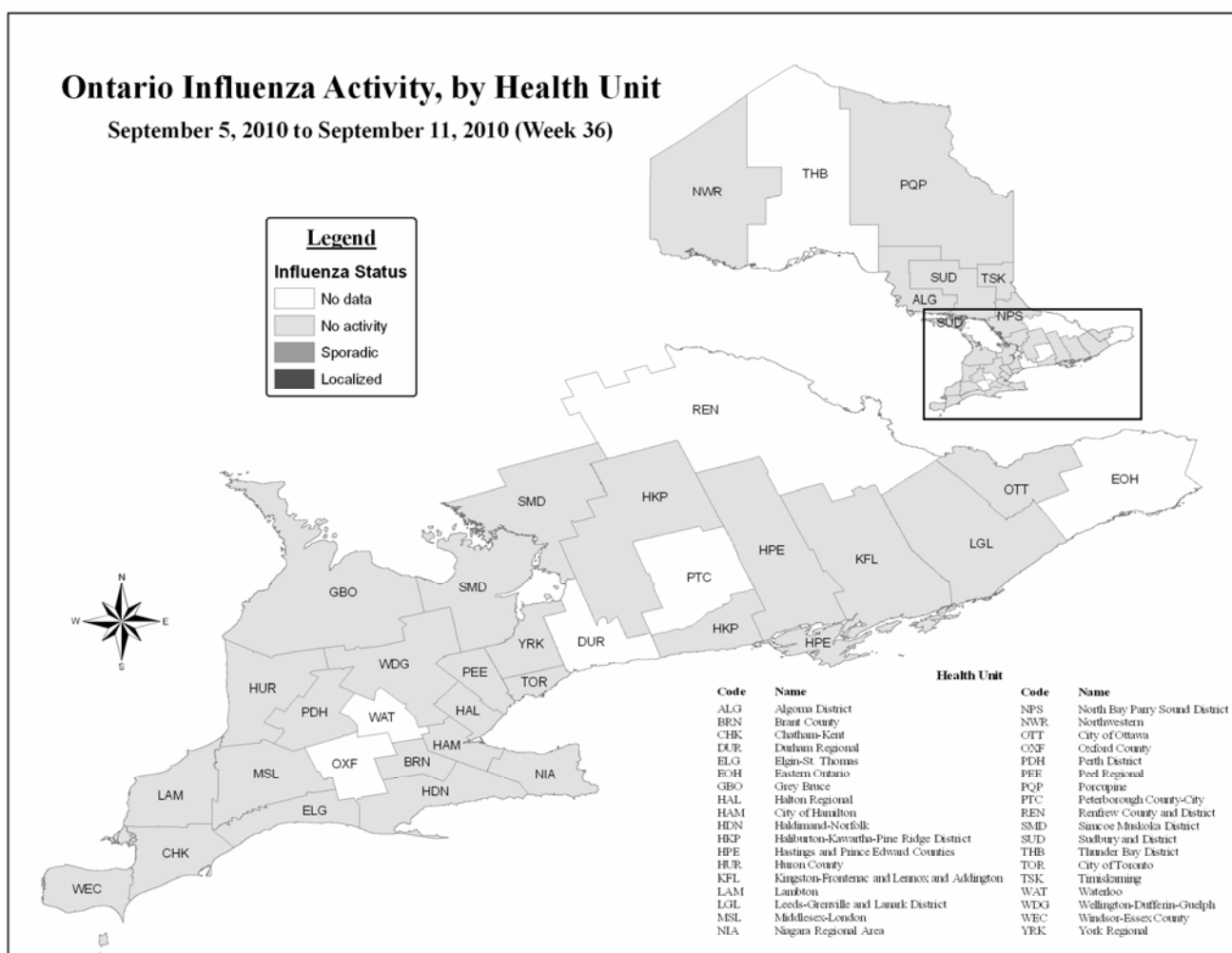
Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not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