

SURVEILLANCE WEEK 50 (December 12, 2010– December 18, 2010)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from December 12, 2010 to December 18, 2010 (Week 50). **All data are for week 50 unless otherwise specified.** Data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on December 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	178 influenza cases were reported in week 50, which is higher than week 49* (96 influenza cases). The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza A in Ontario was 19.1% for week 50. This is higher than week 49 (12.7%). Enteroviruses continue to circulate in Ontario.
Influenza Outbreaks	Higher	Nine new institutional influenza A outbreaks were reported for the current reporting week from Central East (6), Toronto (1), South West (1) and Central West (1) health regions.
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Higher	Toronto reported 'widespread' level influenza activity. Eastern, Central East, South West and Central West health regions reported 'localized' level influenza activity while the remaining health units reported either sporadic, no influenza activity or did not report for week 50.
ILI Consultation Rate reported by Sentinel Physicians	Slightly Higher	The overall ILI consultation rate has increased slightly from 31.37/1,000 patient visits in Week 49 to 32.52/1,000 patient visits in Week 50. The ILI rate is higher than the average rate for week 50 from previous years.
Hospitalizations Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	Higher	There were 49 new hospitalized cases reported from December 12 to December 18, which is higher than the number reported from December 5 to December 11.
Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	Higher	Two new deaths were reported from December 12 to December 18, which is the higher than December 5 to December 11.
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Influenza activity in Ontario is <i>higher</i> compared to the previous week.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was <i>higher</i> in week 50 compared to week 49.

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

Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2010-2011**Surveillance Week 50 (December 12, 2010 – December 18, 2010)**

Overall, influenza activity in Ontario during week 50, 2010, was higher when compared to week 49, 2010. Ontario health units reported 178 new confirmed cases of influenza for the current week through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS). A total of 221 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported in 2010 up to Week 50, including nine new influenza A outbreaks from Central East (6), Toronto (1), South West (1) and Central West (1) health regions. For week 50, Toronto reported widespread influenza activity, South West, Central West, Central East and Eastern health regions reported localized level influenza activity, while the remaining health units either reported sporadic activity, no influenza activity or did not report their activity level. The ILI rate is higher than the average rate for week 50 from previous years.

Holiday Schedule

There will be no bulletin released on December 31, 2010. An Ontario Influenza Bulletin covering weeks 51 and 52 (December 19, 2010 – January 1, 2011) will be published on January 7, 2011. Health units are advised to report data for weeks 51 and 52 on January 4, 2011 (please refer to page 23 for a modified schedule). Happy holidays and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2011!

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 (Week 50, 2010-2011)

Confirmed influenza cases*†	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Pandemic (H1N1) 2009	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	6
Influenza A (Not Subtyped/No Subtype)	3	1	1	16	19	7	20	67
Influenza A (Seasonal H1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A (Seasonal H3)	0	0	4	24	54	3	18	103
Influenza A** (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	3	1	5	42	77	10	40	178
Institutional outbreaks of Influenza A ‡	0	0	0	6	1	1	1	9
Institutional outbreaks of Influenza B ‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

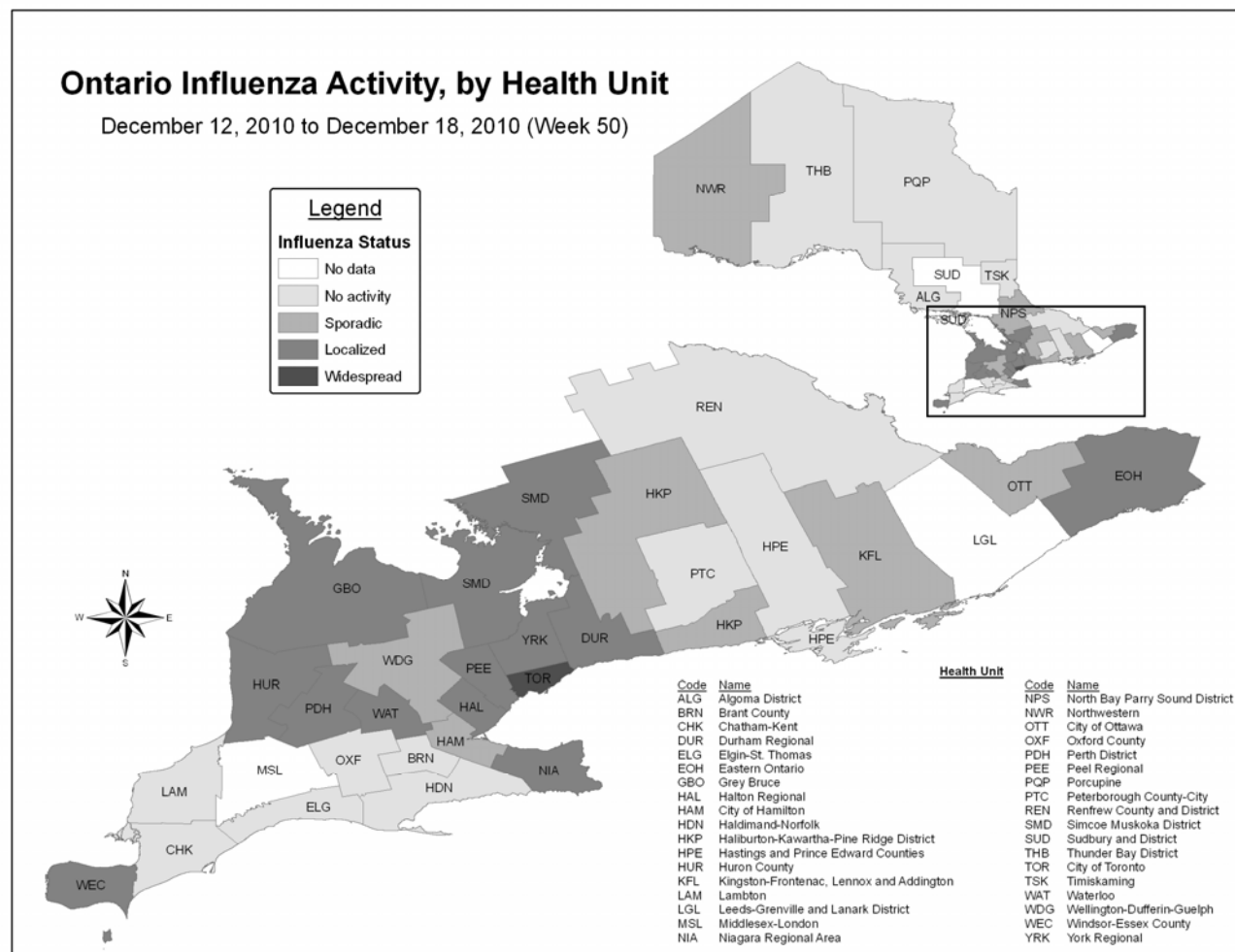
SOURCE: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted [22/12/2010].

* 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 50, 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 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 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
WK51	19-Dec-10	25-Dec-10	4-Jan-11
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
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.**