

### **SURVEILLANCE WEEK 20 (May 15, 2011– May 21, 2011) & 21 (May 22, 2011– May 28, 2011)**

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from May 15, 2011 to May 28, 2011 (Weeks 20 & 21). **All data are for weeks 20 & 21 unless otherwise specified.** Data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on June 1, 2011

#### **Publication of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin**

This abbreviated version of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin will be published on alternate weeks until November 4, 2011. Influenza activity level maps will be available during weeks the Bulletin is not published at:  
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/bulletins/2010/default.aspx>

### **Assessment of Influenza Activity in Ontario**

| Measure                                                 | Assessment of measure compared to previous week (Lower, Similar, Higher)     | Reasoning behind assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Laboratory Confirmed Cases                              | Lower                                                                        | Fourteen influenza cases were reported* in weeks 20 and 21 compared to 36 reported in weeks 18 and 19. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza (A and B) in Ontario was 2.63% in weeks 20 & 21 compared to 1.54% in weeks 18 & 19. Among other circulating respiratory viruses, Parainfluenza had the highest percent positivity in week 21 (9.23%) |
| Influenza Outbreaks                                     | No Change                                                                    | No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for the current reporting weeks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units      | Lower                                                                        | Two health regions reported 'sporadic' level activity in week 21 and the remaining 5 reported 'no activity'. By health unit, none reported widespread or localized activity and the remainder reported sporadic activity, no activity or did not report for week 21 (Figure 1).                                                                                      |
| ILI Consultation Rate reported by Sentinel Physicians   | Lower                                                                        | The overall ILI consultation rate has decreased from 13.71/1,000 patient visits in Week 20 to 11.37/1,000 patient visits in Week 21. The ILI consultation rate for week 21 is slightly higher than the average rate for week 21 from previous years.                                                                                                                 |
| Hospitalizations Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza | Lower                                                                        | 9 new hospitalizations of influenza cases were reported from May 15 to May 28, which is less than the 40 reported in the previous two week period (May 1 to May 14).                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza           | No change                                                                    | Two new deaths in influenza cases were reported from May 15 to May 28, which is the same as the two reported in the previous two week period (May 1 to May 14).                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| OVERALL ASSESSMENT                                      | Influenza activity in Ontario is <i>lower</i> compared to the previous week. | Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was lower in weeks 20 & 21 compared to weeks 18 & 19.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

\*The number of **reported** cases needs to be interpreted with caution because there is a lag between the onset of illness, hospital admission or death and when this information is reported to public health.

**Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2010-2011**  
**Surveillance Weeks 18 &19 (May 1, 2011 – May 14, 2011)**

Overall, influenza activity in Ontario during weeks 20 and 21, 2011, was *lower* when compared to weeks 18 and 19, 2011. Ontario health units reported 14 new confirmed cases of influenza for the weeks 20 and 21 through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS). No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for Weeks 20 and 21. A total of 925 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported in the 2010/2011 season up to Week 21, which includes 433 influenza outbreaks. For week 21, Central East and Southwest health regions reported 'sporadic' level activity; North West, North East, Eastern, Toronto and Central West health regions reported 'no activity'. The ILI consultation rate of 11.37/1,000 patient visits is slightly higher than the average rate for week 21 from previous years which is 10.20/1,000 patient visits.

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 Soma Sarkar ([soma.sarkar@ontario.ca](mailto:soma.sarkar@ontario.ca), 416-326-3095) 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 20 and 21, 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        | 0            | 0        | 0          | 1            | 1         |
| Influenza A (Not Subtyped/No Subtype)                                      | 0             | 0          | 0        | 1            | 0        | 0          | 0            | 1         |
| 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        | 3            | 4        | 3          | 2            | 12        |
| Influenza A & B                                                            | 0             | 0          | 0        | 0            | 0        | 0          | 0            | 0         |
| <b>Total new cases</b>                                                     | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b>     | <b>4</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>3</b>     | <b>14</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>  |

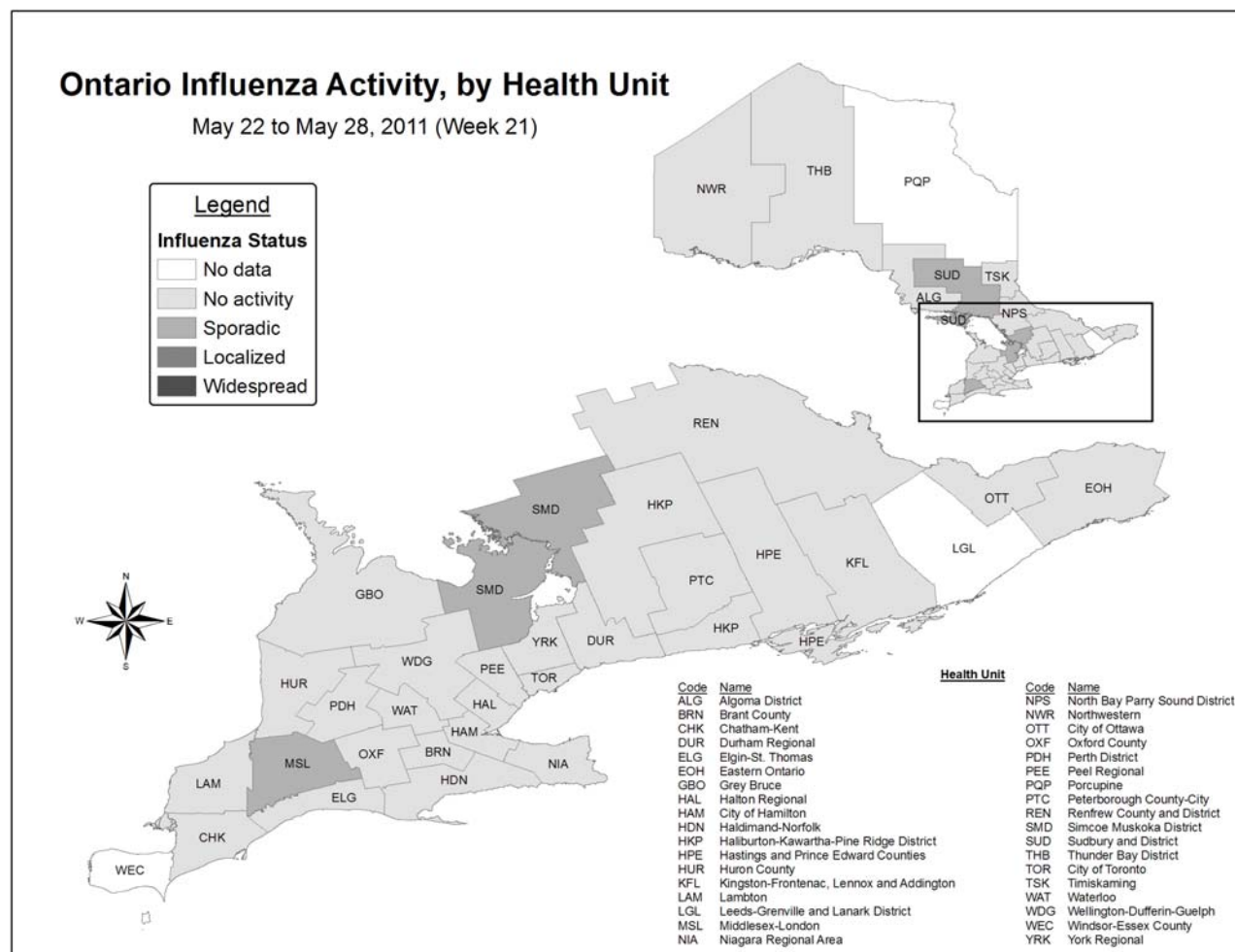
**SOURCE:** Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted [2011/06/01].

\* 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 21, 2011



**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/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/bulletins/2010/default.aspx>  
  
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/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/)
4. United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>
5. European Influenza Surveillance Scheme  
<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/activities/surveillance/EISN/Pages/home.aspx>

**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>

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

| <b>WEEKS</b> | <b>START</b> | <b>END</b> | <b>Appendix C Submission to MOHLTC</b> |
|--------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------------------|
| 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:

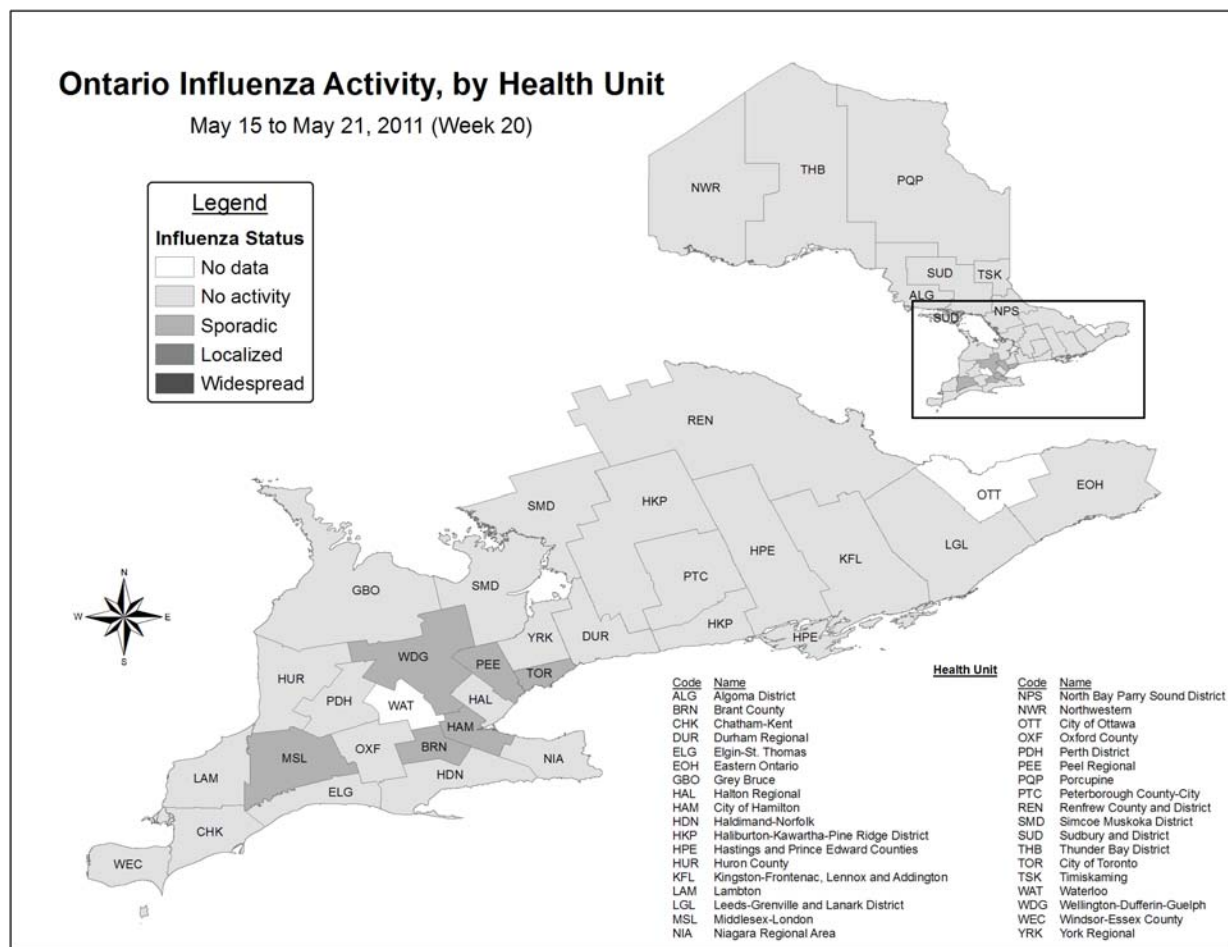
#### **A) ILI in the general population:**

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.**



**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 2010-11 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, 2011. As of November 4, 2011, the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* will be published weekly.