



Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2010-2011

SURVEILLANCE WEEK 32 (August 7– August 13, 2011) & 33 (August 14– August 20, 2011)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from August 7, 2011 to August 20, 2011 (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 24, 2011.

Effective July 4, 2011, the fax number for activity level submissions has changed to 647-260-7600. 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 two-week period (Lower, Similar, Higher)	Reasoning behind assessment
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	Similar	Two new influenza cases were reported through iPHIS* in weeks 32 & 33 compared to one new case in weeks 30 & 31. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza (A and B) in Ontario was 0.57% in weeks 32 & 33 compared to 0.20% in weeks 30 & 31. Among other circulating respiratory viruses, rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity in week 33 (10.56%).
Influenza Outbreaks	No change	No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for the current reporting weeks.
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Similar	For weeks 32 & 33, Toronto reported 'sporadic' level activity while the remaining health units reported no activity or did not report (Figure 1).
ILI Consultation Rate reported by Sentinel Physicians	Higher	The overall ILI consultation rate increased from 5.56/1,000 patient visits in Week 31 to 10.52/1,000 patient visits in Week 33. The ILI consultation rate for week 33 is higher than the average rate for week 33 from previous years.
Hospitalizations Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No new hospitalizations in influenza cases were reported from August 7 to August 20; no new hospitalizations were reported in the previous two week period (July 24 to August 6).
Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No deaths in influenza cases were reported from August 7 to August 20, which is the same as the number of deaths reported in the previous two week period (July 24 to August 6).
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.

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

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Surveillance Weeks 32 & 33 (August 7, 2011 – August 20, 2011)

Overall, influenza activity in Ontario during weeks 32 and 33, 2011 was similar to weeks 30 and 31, 2011. Ontario health units reported two new confirmed cases of influenza from Toronto and North Bay Parry Sound District^a for weeks 32 and 33 through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS). No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for weeks 32 and 33. A total of 1,024 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported in the 2010/2011 season up to week 33, of which 437 were due to influenza. For week 33, Toronto reported 'sporadic' influenza activity while the remaining health regions reported 'no activity'. The ILI consultation rate of 10.52/1,000 patient visits in week 33 was slightly higher than the consultation rate for week 33 from the previous years, which was on average 7.97/1,000 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 Christine D'Souza (christine.dsouza@oahpp.ca, 647-260-7634) or Michael Whelan (michael.whelan@oahpp.ca, 647-260-7636).

Table 1: Summary of confirmed influenza cases and institutional influenza outbreaks by health region (Weeks 32 and 33, 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	0	0
Influenza A (Not Subtyped/No Subtype)	0	0	0	0	1	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	1 ^a	0	0	0	0	0	1
Influenza A & B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
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 by Public Health Ontario [2011/08/24].

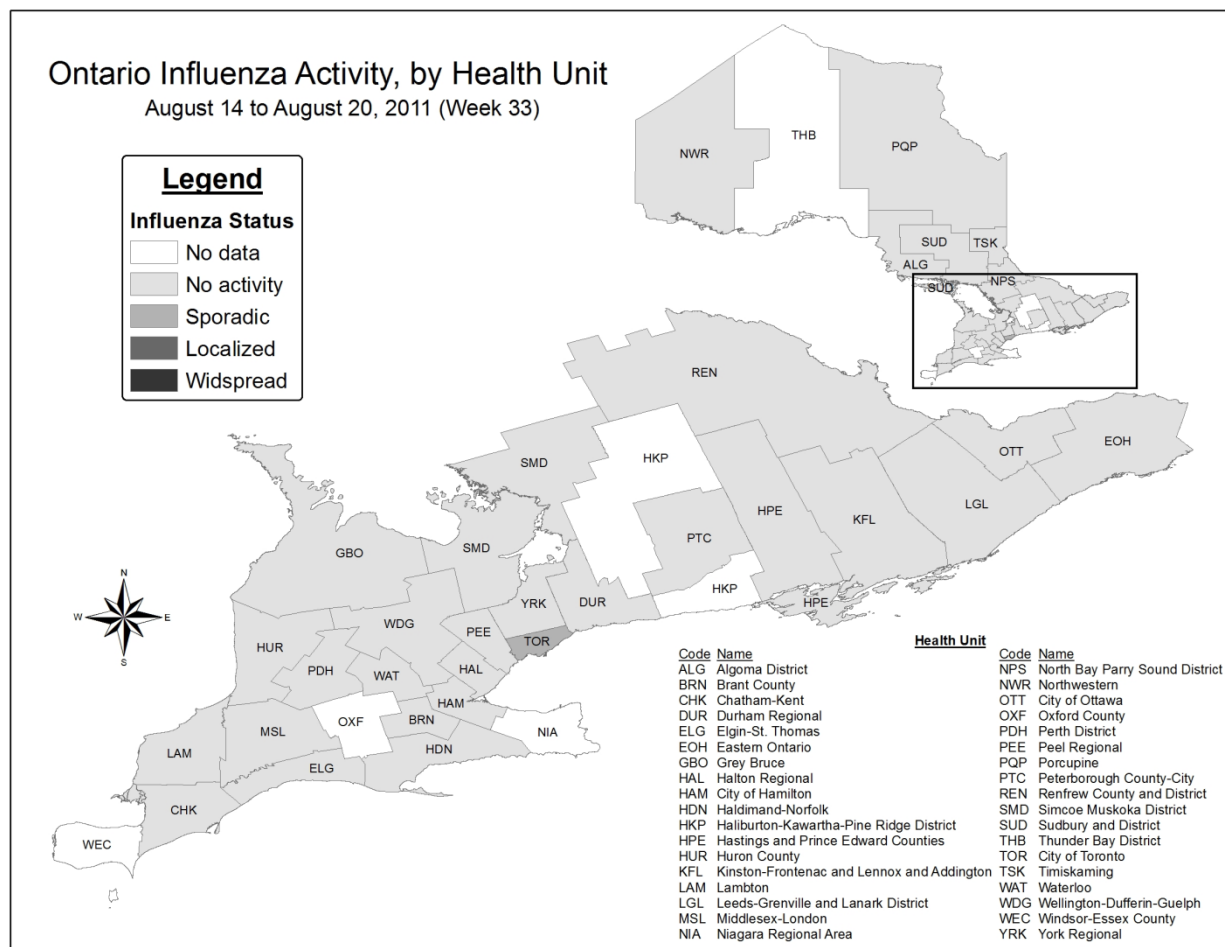
* Includes reports of confirmed influenza through iPHIS, as well as cases in institutional outbreaks, with dates of onset for the first case in the surveillance period.

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

** Includes indeterminate, untypeable and other subtypes.

^a North Bay Parry Sound District's cases had a date of onset in week 31 and therefore, does not affect the activity level reported for the current week.

Figure 1: Influenza Activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for Week 33, 2011**



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

* Influenza activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to PHO 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 Appendix-1.

**A technical issue with receiving the Appendix C forms this week may have contributed to the higher than expected number of health units that did not report any data.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Previous issues of the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin* can continue to 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 formats for the bulletin you are referencing:

Bulletins issued on or prior to June 30, 2011:

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario Influenza Bulletin 2010-2011 Season, Surveillance Week ##. <URL>

Bulletins issued after July 1, 2011:

Public Health Ontario, Ontario Influenza Bulletin 2010-2011 Season, Surveillance Week ##. <URL>

2. Public Health Ontario
PHO Weekly Laboratory Surveillance Update
<http://www.oahpp.ca/h1n1/index.html#2>
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/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
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

WEEKS	START	END	Appendix C Submission to MOHLTC
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 by Public Health Ontario 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.

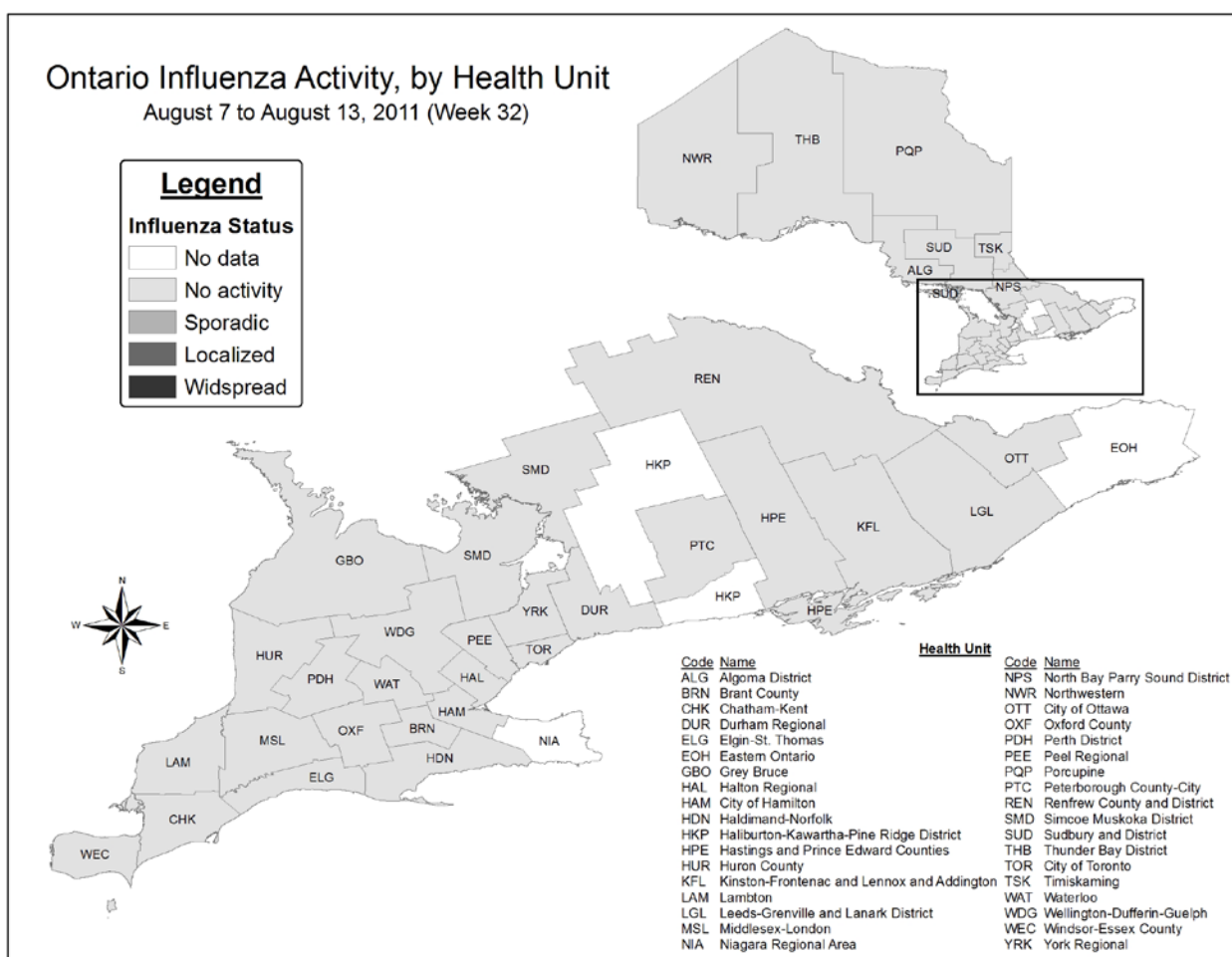
B) ILI/Influenza outbreaks:

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 | 2010-11



SOURCE: Public Health Ontario, 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.

For further information:

Past Ontario Influenza Bulletins and Influenza Activity Maps can be accessed online at:
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/bulletins/2010/default.aspx>.

For enquiries, please contact Christine D'Souza (christine.dsouza@oahpp.ca, 647-260-7634) or Michael Whelan (michael.whelan@oahpp.ca, 647-260-7636).