



Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2011-2012

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 40 and 41 (October 2 to October 15, 2011)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from October 2, 2011 to October 15, 2011 (Weeks 40 and 41). **All data are for weeks 40 and 41 unless otherwise specified.** Data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on October 19, 2011.

For the 2011-2012 season, an abbreviated version of the Bulletin will be published on alternate weeks until November 4, 2011. Influenza activity level maps will be available when the bulletin is not published at: <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/flubulletin.html>

Effective September 9, 2011, the new fax number for activity level submissions is 647-260-7757.

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	No new influenza cases with episode dates in weeks 40 and 41 were identified through iPHIS compared to one new case with an episode date in weeks 38 and 39. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza (A and B) in Ontario was 0.12% in weeks 40 and 41 compared to 0.00% in weeks 38 and 39*. Among other circulating respiratory viruses, rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity in week 41 (17.58%).
Influenza Outbreaks	No change	No new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for the current reporting weeks.
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Slightly Lower	Health units either reported no activity or did not report for weeks 40 and 41 (Figure 1).
ILI Consultation Rate reported by Sentinel Physicians	Lower	The overall ILI consultation rate decreased from 34.73/1,000 patient visits in week 39 to 19.22/1,000 patient visits in week 41. The ILI consultation rate for week 41 is similar to the average rate for week 41 from previous years.
Hospitalizations Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No new hospitalizations in influenza cases were reported from October 2 to October 15; no new hospitalizations were reported in the previous two week period (September 18 to October 1).
Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	No change	No deaths in influenza cases were reported from October 2 to October 15, which is the same as the number of deaths reported in the previous two week period (September 18 to October 1).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Influenza activity in Ontario is <i>similar</i> compared to the previous week.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity in weeks 40 and 41 was similar to weeks 38 and 39.

*The percent positivity for week 39 is 0 because the influenza case was lab confirmed during week 40.

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Overall, influenza activity in Ontario during weeks 40 and 41, 2011 was similar to weeks 38 and 39, 2011. No new cases of influenza with episode dates in weeks 40 and 41 were identified through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) and no new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported for weeks 40 and 41. A total of 68 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported in the 2011/2012 season up to week 41, of which none were due to influenza. For week 41, health units reported either 'no activity' or did not submit a report. The ILI consultation rate of 19.22/1,000 patient visits in week 41 was similar to the consultation rate for week 41 from previous years, which was on average 18.67/1,000 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 40 and 41, 2011-2012)

Confirmed influenza cases [†]	HEALTH REGION							TOTAL
	North West	North East	Eastern	Central East	Toronto	South West	Central West	
Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09	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	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A** (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza A and B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total new cases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Institutional outbreaks of Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 ‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Institutional outbreaks of Influenza (Other Subtypes/Not Subtyped)‡	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

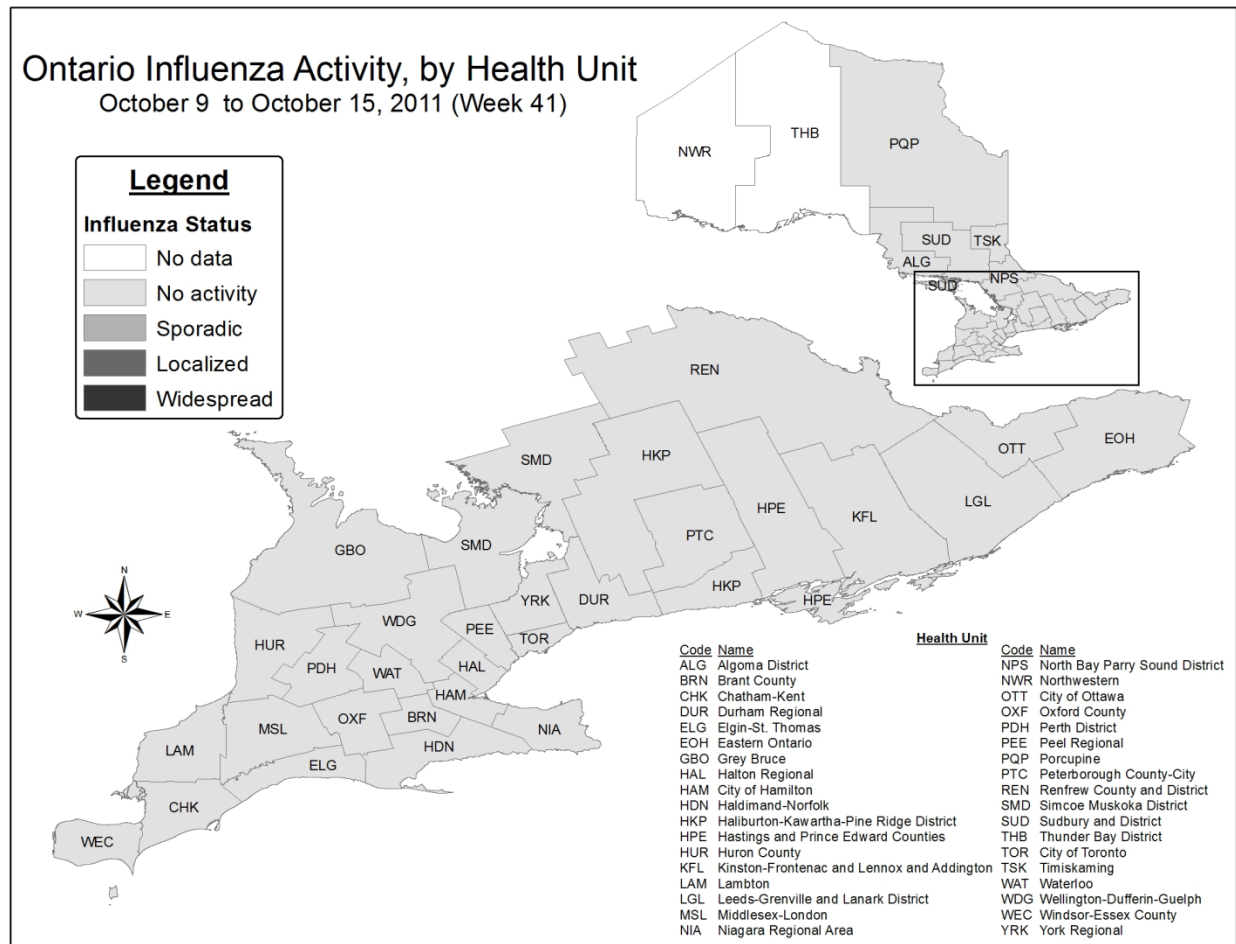
SOURCE: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2011/10/19].

* 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 41, 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 2011-2012 season included in Appendix-1.

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 PANDEMIC INFLUENZA (Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09)

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 2011-2012 and date of submission of Appendix C

WEEKS	START	END	Appendix C Submission to Public Health Ontario
WK36	4-Sep-11	10-Sep-11	13-Sep-11
WK37	11-Sep-11	17-Sep-11	20-Sep-11
WK38	18-Sep-11	24-Sep-11	27-Sep-11
WK39	25-Sep-11	1-Oct-11	4-Oct-11
WK40	2-Oct-11	8-Oct-11	11-Oct-11
WK41	9-Oct-11	15-Oct-11	18-Oct-11
WK42	16-Oct-11	22-Oct-11	25-Oct-11
WK43	23-Oct-11	29-Oct-11	1-Nov-11
WK44	30-Oct-11	5-Nov-11	8-Nov-11
WK45	6-Nov-11	12-Nov-11	15-Nov-11
WK46	13-Nov-11	19-Nov-11	22-Nov-11
WK47	20-Nov-11	26-Nov-11	29-Nov-11
WK48	27-Nov-11	3-Dec-11	6-Dec-11
WK49	4-Dec-11	10-Dec-11	13-Dec-11
WK50	11-Dec-11	17-Dec-11	20-Dec-11
WK51	18-Dec-11	24-Dec-11	27-Dec-11
WK52	25-Dec-11	31-Dec-11	3-Jan-12
WK1	1-Jan-12	7-Jan-12	10-Jan-12
WK2	8-Jan-12	14-Jan-12	17-Jan-12
WK3	15-Jan-12	21-Jan-12	24-Jan-12
WK4	22-Jan-12	28-Jan-12	31-Jan-12
WK5	29-Jan-12	4-Feb-12	7-Feb-12
WK6	5-Feb-12	11-Feb-12	14-Feb-12
WK7	12-Feb-12	18-Feb-12	21-Feb-12
WK8	19-Feb-12	25-Feb-12	28-Feb-12
WK9	26-Feb-12	3-Mar-12	6-Mar-12
WK10	4-Mar-12	10-Mar-12	13-Mar-12
WK11	11-Mar-12	17-Mar-12	20-Mar-12
WK12	18-Mar-12	24-Mar-12	27-Mar-12
WK13	25-Mar-12	31-Mar-12	3-Apr-12
WK14	1-Apr-12	7-Apr-12	10-Apr-12
WK15	8-Apr-12	14-Apr-12	17-Apr-12
WK16	15-Apr-12	21-Apr-12	24-Apr-12
WK17	22-Apr-12	28-Apr-12	1-May-12
WK18	29-Apr-12	5-May-12	8-May-12
WK19	6-May-12	12-May-12	15-May-12
WK20	13-May-12	19-May-12	22-May-12
WK21	20-May-12	26-May-12	29-May-12
WK22	27-May-12	2-Jun-12	5-Jun-12

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WEEKS	START	END	Appendix C Submission to Public Health Ontario
WK23	3-Jun-12	9-Jun-12	12-Jun-12
WK24	10-Jun-12	16-Jun-12	19-Jun-12
WK25	17-Jun-12	23-Jun-12	26-Jun-12
WK26	24-Jun-12	30-Jun-12	3-Jul-12
WK27	1-Jul-12	7-Jul-12	10-Jul-12
WK28	8-Jul-12	14-Jul-12	17-Jul-12
WK29	15-Jul-12	21-Jul-12	24-Jul-12
WK30	22-Jul-12	28-Jul-12	31-Jul-12
WK31	29-Jul-12	4-Aug-12	7-Aug-12
WK32	5-Aug-12	11-Aug-12	14-Aug-12
WK33	12-Aug-12	18-Aug-12	21-Aug-12
WK34	19-Aug-12	25-Aug-12	28-Aug-12
WK35	26-Aug-12	1-Sep-12	4-Sep-12

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

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.

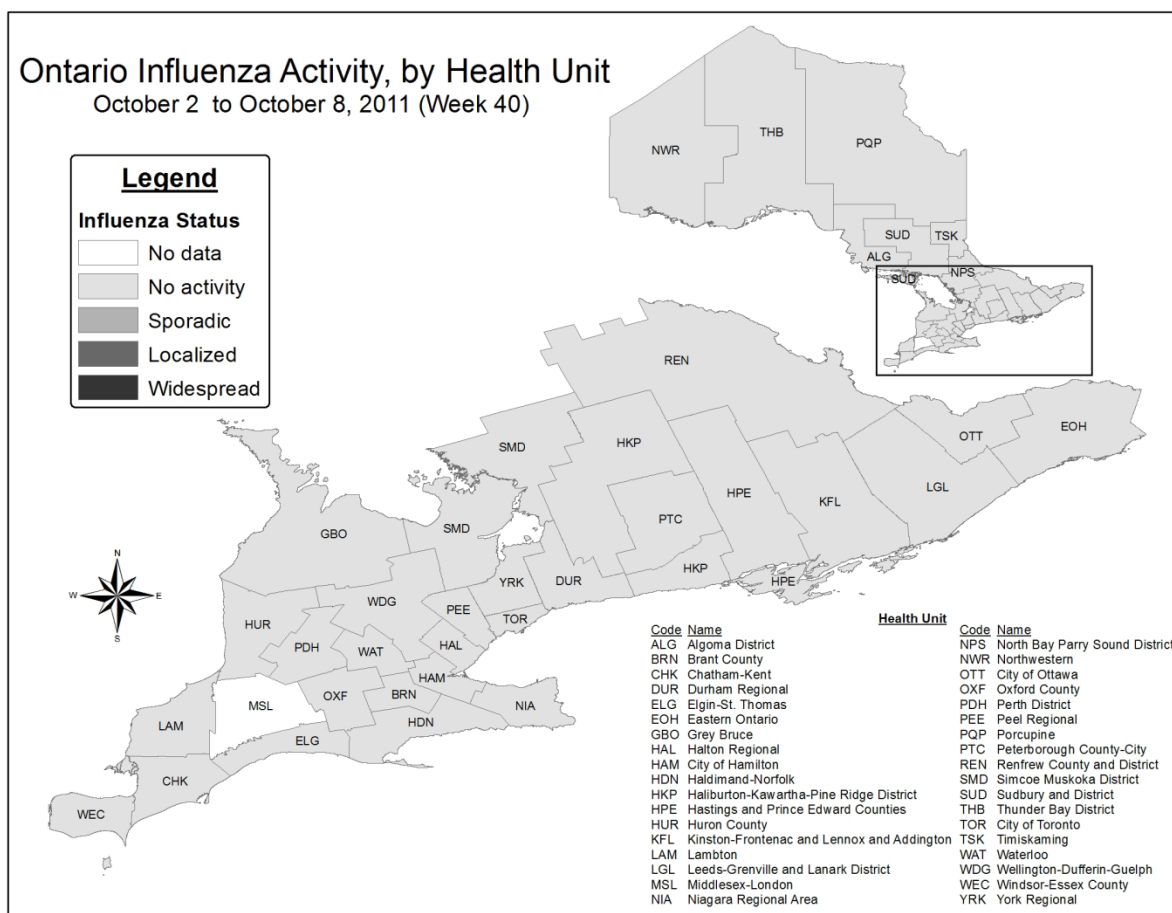
B) ILI/Influenza outbreaks:

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 | 2011-12



SOURCE: Public Health Ontario, Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database

Influenza Activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to Public Health Ontario 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 2011-12 INFLUENZA SEASON ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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- **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.†
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- **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

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:

As of September 1, 2011, Ontario Influenza Bulletins will be posted at <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/flubulletin.html>.

Bulletins and archives from previous seasons will continue to be available 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).