



Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2011-2012

SURVEILLANCE WEEK 10 (March 4, 2012 – March 10, 2012)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from March 4, 2012 to March 10, 2012 (week 10). **All data are for week 10** and data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on March 14, 2012 unless otherwise specified. 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 and Other Respiratory Virus Activity in Ontario

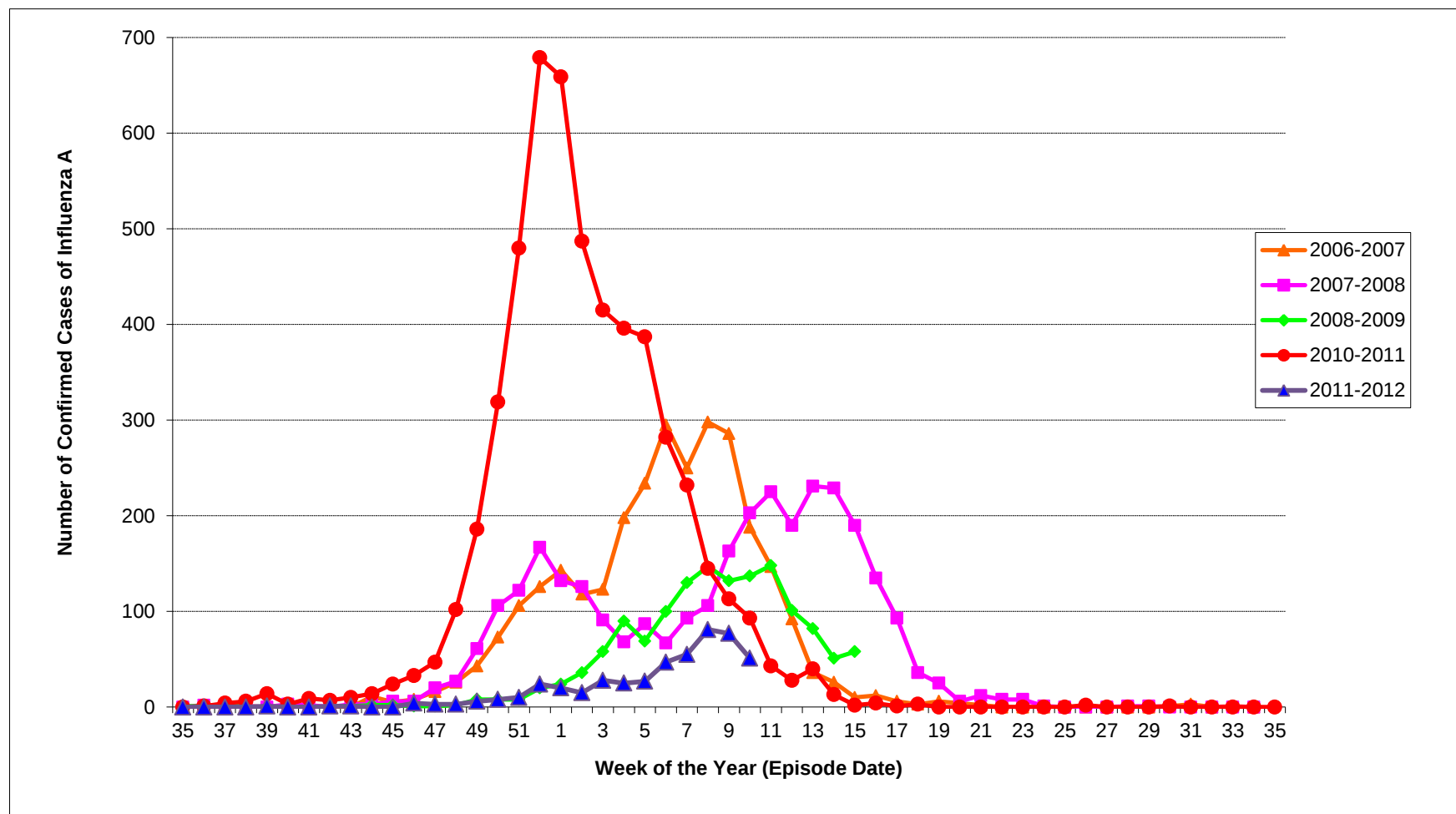
Measure of Activity	Assessment of measure compared to previous week (Lower, Similar, Higher)	Reasoning behind assessment
Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Cases	Higher	Four hundred and thirty-three (433) new influenza cases were reported* in week 10, which is higher than the number reported in week 9 (306). The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza in Ontario was 23.34% (6.17% for influenza A and 17.17% for influenza B) for week 10, which is higher than week 9 (19.66%) (Figure 3).
Respiratory virus activity	Influenza B activity is higher	Among all circulating respiratory viruses, influenza B had the highest percent positivity in week 10 at 17.17% (Table 3), which is higher than week 9 (13.58%).
Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	Similar	Sixteen (16) new institutional respiratory outbreaks were reported for week 10, including six influenza B outbreaks. Thirty-nine (39) institutional influenza outbreaks have been reported to date this season.
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Similar	For week 10, Central East, Central West, Eastern, South West and Toronto regions reported 'localized' level influenza activity, while the North East and North West regions reported 'sporadic' level influenza activity.
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Consultation Rate reported by Sentinels	Lower	The provincial ILI consultation rate decreased from 55.41/1,000 patient visits in week 9 to 49.59/1,000 patient visits in week 10. This rate is higher than the average rate for week 10 from previous years.
OVERALL ASSESSMENT FOR VIRUS ACTIVITY	Influenza activity in Ontario was <i>higher</i> compared to the previous week.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was <i>higher</i> during week 10 compared to week 9.
Measure of Severity for Influenza		
Hospitalizations Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	Lower	There were 61 hospitalizations reported among cases from March 4 to March 10, which is lower than the number (103) reported from February 26 to March 3*.
Deaths Among Lab Confirmed Cases of Influenza	Higher	Seven (7) deaths were reported from March 4 to March 10, which is higher than the number (0) reported from February 26 to March 3*.

*This is the number of cases by **reported** date from iPHIS and needs to be interpreted with caution as there is a lag between the onset of illness, hospital admission or death and when this information is reported to public health.

Summary of current and season to date influenza activity

- Year-to-date overall influenza activity for the 2011-2012 season has been lower than the same period in previous years:
 - A total of 1432 influenza cases have been reported for the 2011-2012 surveillance season to date, of which 433 were reported during week 10.
 - The majority of influenza cases reported for the 2011-2012 season to date were subtyped as influenza B, which accounts for 65.5% (938/1432) of cases this season.
 - Compared to the same period in the 2010-2011 season, fewer influenza cases and outbreaks have been reported this season from September 1, 2011 to March 10, 2012. While influenza A activity is the lowest it has been over five seasons, more influenza B activity is being observed this season compared to the 2010-2011 season.
 - Children under 5 years old (376 cases) and adults 65 years of age and older (294 cases) account for 46.8% (670/1432) of influenza cases reported to date. The highest number of cases (269) has occurred in the 1 to 4 year old age group, which represents 18.8% of cases.
 - Among influenza cases that have been hospitalized, 33.0% (115/349) were children under 5 years old and 25.2% (88/349) were in adults over the age of 65 (Table 2).
 - For the 2011-2012 season to date, 18 cases of influenza B with myositis (muscular inflammation causing severe pain in the legs) have been reported in iPHIS. Sixteen cases occurred between January 31, 2012 and March 10, 2012. Cases have been observed in six health units: Eastern Ontario (1), Halton Region (2), Peel Region (10), Simcoe-Muskoka (1), Toronto (3) and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (1)
 - Of the 18 influenza B cases with myositis, 14 were reported as having been hospitalized. None of these cases reported that they had received the current season's influenza vaccine.
- The cause(s) of ILI in Ontario from September 1, 2011 to March 10, 2012 has changed as the season progressed:
 - Since week 5, influenza B has been the dominant circulating influenza virus. Of the 218 influenza B isolates that have been characterized at the National Microbiology Laboratory, 126 (57.7%) are a different strain (B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like) and lineage from this season's trivalent influenza vaccine. The World Health Organization has recommended the inclusion of this strain in the vaccine for the 2012-2013 influenza season for the Northern Hemisphere.
 - Since week 1, 39 institutional influenza outbreaks have been reported: 10 influenza A, 28 influenza B, and one combined A and B outbreak.

Figure 1: Confirmed cases of influenza A in Ontario by episode date reported from Sep. 1, 2006 to Mar. 10, 2012[†]



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/03/15].

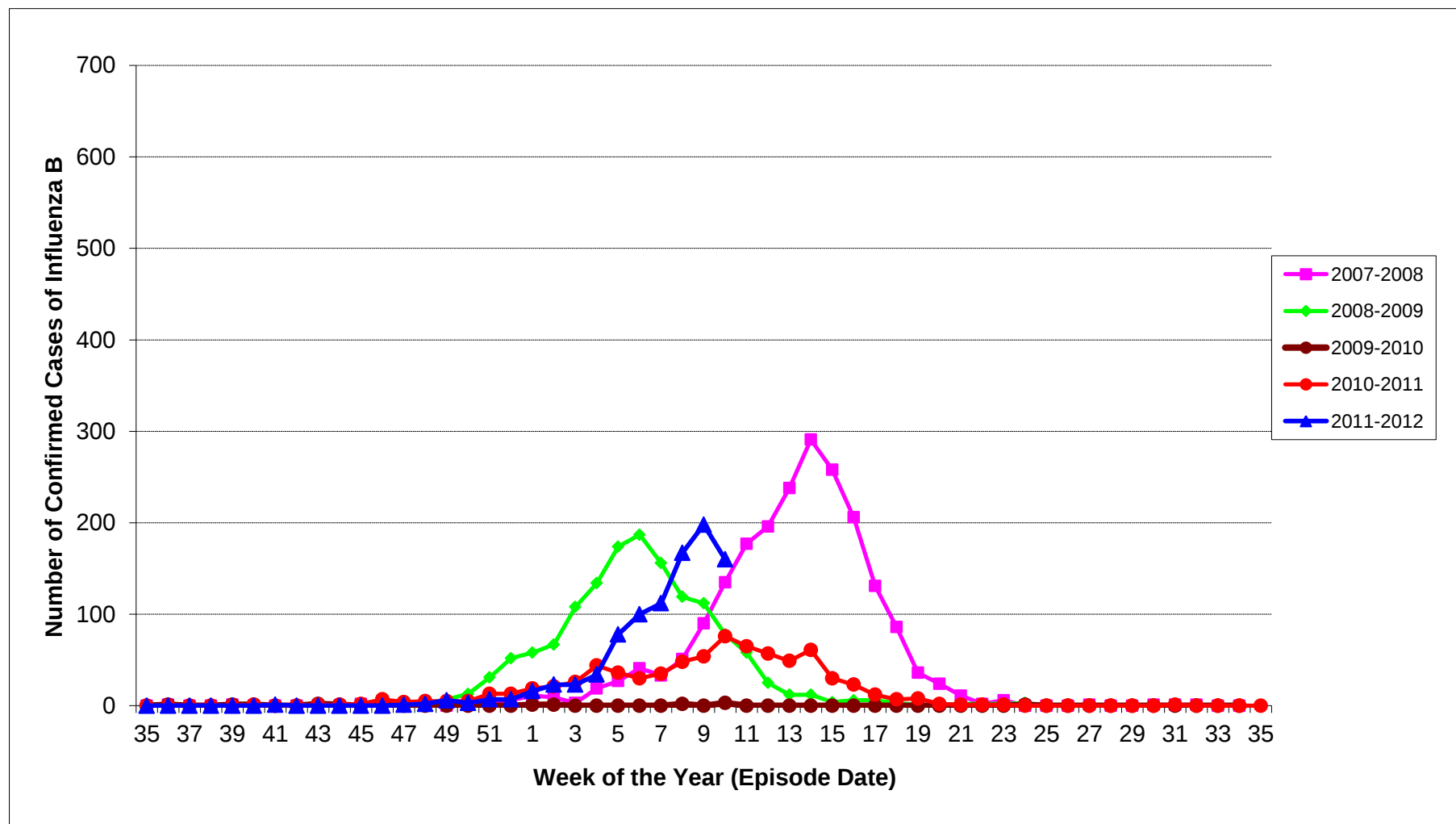
[†] Episode Date for a case corresponds to the earliest date on record for the case according to the iPHIS hierarchy (Symptom Date > Clinical Diagnosis Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date)

Note: Cases after week 14 in the 2008-09 season were excluded because seasonal influenza cases from this period may have been detected due to heightened surveillance for all influenza-like illness, therefore this period is not comparable to a regular influenza season. Additionally, all cases from the 2009-10 influenza season were excluded from this graph due to its incomparability to a regular influenza season as a result of the influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 pandemic.

Note: week 53 of the 2008-09 season has been removed for continuity in displaying trends.

Note: Interpret tail of 2011-2012 line with caution due to reporting lags.

Figure 2: Confirmed cases of influenza B in Ontario by episode date reported from Sep. 1, 2007 to Mar. 10, 2012[†]



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/03/15].

[†] Episode Date for a case corresponds to the earliest date on record for the case according to the iPHIS hierarchy (Symptom Date > Clinical Diagnosis Date > Specimen Collection Date > Lab Test Date > Reported Date)

Note: Interpret tail of 2011-2012 line with caution due to reporting lags.

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Table 1: Confirmed cases with a reported date during week 10 and cumulative cases (in brackets) of influenza by health unit and health region since September 1, 2011

Region	Health Unit	Influenza A				Influenza A & B	Influenza B	TOTAL
		(H1N1) pdm09	No Subtype/Not Subtyped	Other*	H3			
North West	Northwestern	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Thunder Bay District	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	2 (3)
	TOTAL NORTH WEST	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	2 (3)
North East	Algoma	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	1 (2)
	North Bay Parry Sound District	0 (2)	1 (4)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	6 (16)	7 (23)
	Porcupine	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)	2 (2)
	Sudbury & District	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	2 (7)
	Timiskaming	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	2 (3)
	TOTAL NORTH EAST	1 (4)	1 (4)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	12 (27)	14 (37)
Eastern	City of Ottawa	2 (3)	8 (18)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	12 (27)	22 (49)
	Eastern Ontario	0 (1)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	7 (11)	8 (16)
	Hastings & Prince Edward Counties	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (3)	0 (0)	2 (5)	2 (9)
	Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington	1 (3)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (2)	1 (7)
	Leeds, Grenville And Lanark District	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	2 (3)
	Renfrew County And District	0 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (3)
	TOTAL EASTERN	3 (11)	9 (22)	0 (0)	0 (6)	0 (0)	23 (48)	35 (87)
Central East	Durham Region	0 (7)	2 (4)	0 (0)	0 (5)	0 (0)	3 (14)	5 (30)
	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge	1 (2)	1 (4)	0 (1)	0 (2)	0 (0)	5 (9)	7 (18)
	Peel Region	7 (42)	3 (25)	0 (3)	1 (11)	0 (1)	51 (175)	62 (257)
	Peterborough County-City	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (5)	5 (6)
	Simcoe Muskoka District	1 (4)	3 (6)	0 (0)	3 (7)	0 (0)	40 (90)	47 (107)
	York Region	0 (9)	2 (10)	0 (0)	0 (5)	0 (1)	7 (23)	9 (48)
	TOTAL CENTRAL EAST	9 (64)	11 (50)	0 (4)	4 (30)	0 (2)	111 (316)	135 (466)
Toronto	Toronto	17 (107)	8 (41)	0 (0)	13 (30)	0 (3)	88 (262)	126 (443)
	TOTAL TORONTO	17 (107)	8 (41)	0 (0)	13 (30)	0 (3)	88 (262)	126 (443)
South West	Chatham-Kent	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	1 (1)
	Elgin-St. Thomas	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)
	Grey Bruce	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	1 (2)
	Huron County	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (2)
	Lambton County	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (5)	2 (5)
	Middlesex-London	0 (0)	3 (7)	0 (0)	2 (8)	0 (0)	3 (11)	8 (26)
	Oxford County	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	3 (9)
	Perth District	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (11)	6 (13)
	TOTAL SOUTH WEST	2 (2)	5 (11)	0 (0)	3 (10)	0 (0)	13 (39)	23 (62)
Central West	Brant County	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (5)	0 (7)
	City Of Hamilton	2 (7)	3 (26)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	32 (90)	37 (124)
	Haldimand-Norfolk	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (5)	3 (6)
	Halton Region	3 (8)	5 (10)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	14 (67)	22 (87)
	Niagara Region	1 (3)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	14 (31)	15 (37)
	Waterloo Region	1 (4)	1 (9)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	14 (37)	17 (52)
	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (9)	0 (0)	3 (10)	4 (21)
	TOTAL CENTRAL WEST	7 (23)	9 (50)	0 (0)	2 (16)	0 (0)	80 (245)	98 (334)
	TOTAL ONTARIO	39 (211)	44 (179)	0 (4)	22 (95)	0 (5)	328 (938)	433 (1432)

Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/03/15].

*Includes indeterminate, untypeable and other subtypes

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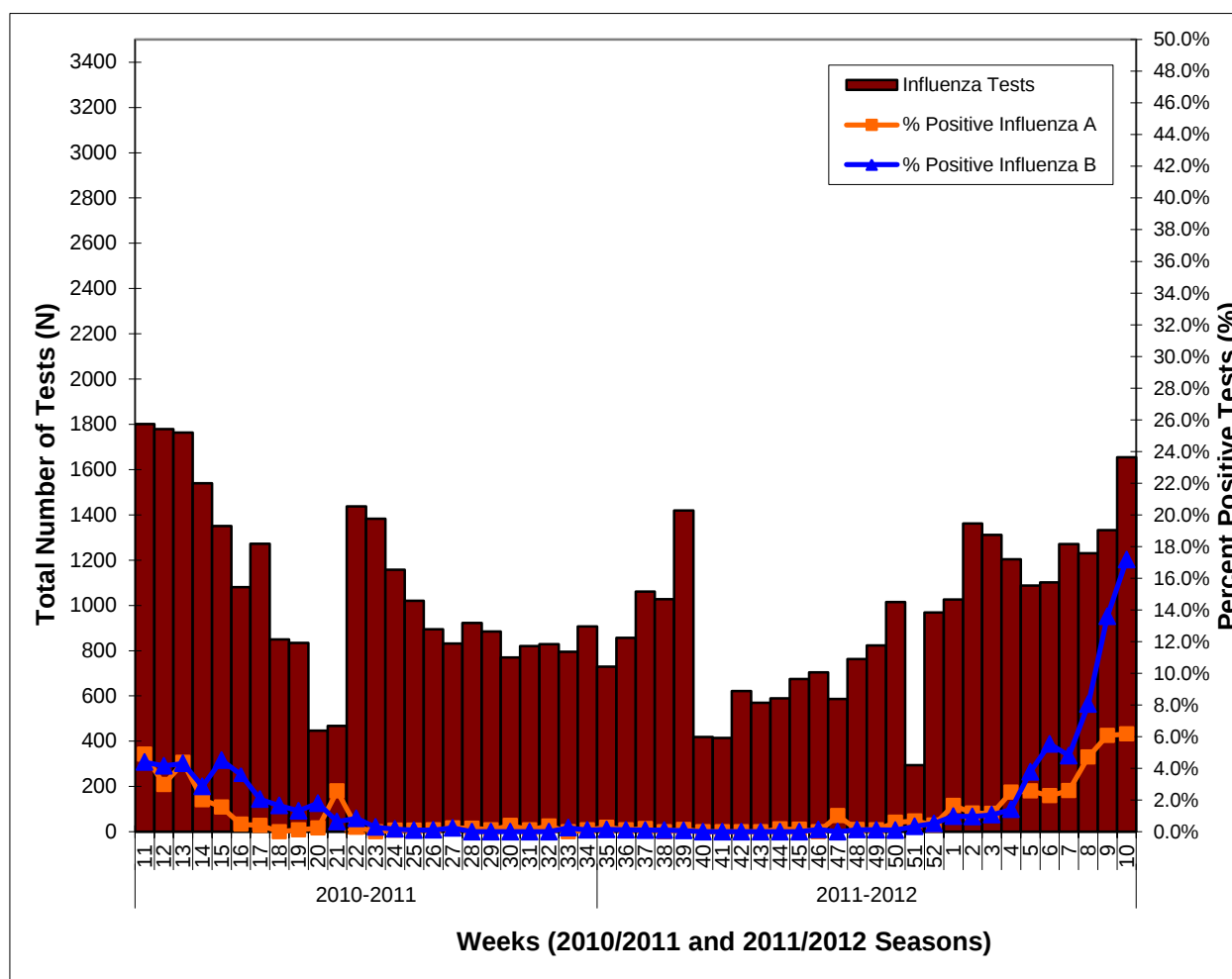
Table 2. Number of hospitalizations and deaths among influenza cases during week 10 and cumulative (in brackets) for the season by age group since September 1, 2011

Age Group	Number of Hospitalizations	Cumulative Rate per 100,000	Number of Deaths	Cumulative Rate per 100,000
<1	7 (39)	27.55	0 (0)	0.00
1-4	11 (76)	13.33	0 (1)	0.18
5-14	14 (60)	4.02	0 (0)	0.00
15-24	1 (6)	0.33	0 (0)	0.00
25-44	4 (35)	0.95	0 (0)	0.00
45-64	8 (45)	1.22	1 (1)	0.03
65+	16 (88)	4.80	6 (12)	0.65
Total	61 (349)	2.64	7 (14)	0.11

Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/03/14]. Population data obtained from IntelliHEALTH Ontario, retrieved by Public Health Ontario [2012/01/13].

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Figure 3: Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests in Ontario, by report week*



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada. These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of the Public Health Agency of Canada from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC for the current season: week 10, 2012. Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 12:00PM on March 14, 2012 was used.

* Total numbers reported include late reports from previous seasons; therefore totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Note: Cumulative numbers for season to date are available through FluWatch: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

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Table 3. Number of respiratory specimens tested by all methods for influenza and other respiratory viruses and percent positivity, week 10

Detected viruses	Number and percent positive specimens		Total number of specimens tested	
	Current n (%)	Cumulative n (%)	Current n	Cumulative n
Influenza A (all)	102 (6.17)	451 (1.85)	1654	24324
Influenza B	284 (17.17)	833 (3.42)	1654	24324
Parainfluenza virus	9 (0.71)	644 (3.18)	1260	20254
Adenovirus	14 (1.11)	345 (1.7)	1260	20254
Respiratory syncytial virus	168 (13.14)	2864 (13.9)	1279	20601
Entero/rhinovirus	17 (1.53)	861 (4.92)	1109	17514
Human metapneumovirus	27 (5.63)	177 (1.89)	480	9385
Coronavirus	11 (5.64)	314 (4.72)	195	6651

Source: CIRID, Public Health Agency of Canada. These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC for the current season: week 10, 2012. Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 11:00AM on March 14, 2012 was used.

Note: Total numbers reported include late reports from previous seasons; therefore totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Note: Cumulative numbers for season to date are available through FluWatch: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

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Table 4: Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks in Ontario: new outbreaks* in week 10 and total outbreaks for the season**

Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks		
New Outbreaks*	N	% (of outbreaks)
Influenza A (All subtypes)	0	0.0
Influenza B	6	37.5
Influenza A and B	0	0.0
Parainfluenza (All types)	0	0.0
RSV	0	0.0
Combined Outbreaks [†]	0	0.0
Other organisms ^α	0	0.0
Entero/rhinovirus	0	0.0
No organism identified/reported	10	62.5
TOTAL	16	100.0
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks of the Season to date**	N	
Influenza A (All subtypes)	10	2.5
Influenza B	28	6.9
Influenza A and B	1	0.2
Parainfluenza (All types)	28	6.9
RSV	35	8.6
Combined Outbreaks [†]	38	9.4
Other organisms ^α	50	12.3
Entero/rhinovirus	101	24.9
No organism identified/reported	114	28.1
TOTAL	405	100.0
Types of Institutions – All Outbreaks **		
Long-Term Care Homes	252	62.2
Hospitals	23	5.7
Retirement Homes	44	10.9
Other	2	0.5
Not Reported	84	20.7
TOTAL	405	100.0

Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/03/15]

* New outbreaks are those in which the date of onset of illness in the first case occurred and was recorded through iPHIS in the current surveillance period; i.e. March 4, 2012 – March 10, 2012

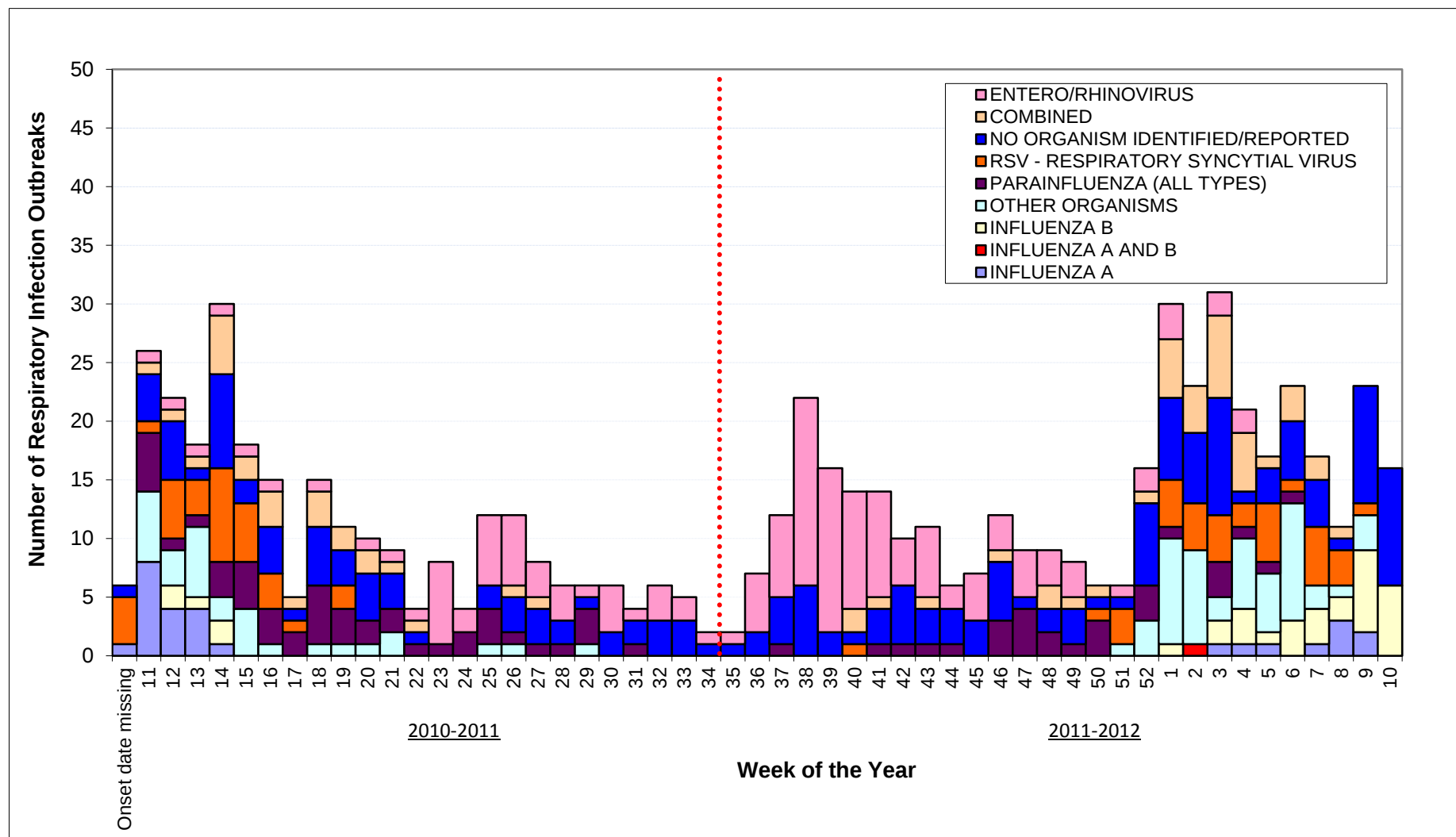
** Season to date includes all outbreaks in which the date of onset of illness in the first case occurred up to week 10, 2012.

[†] Combined outbreaks include outbreaks in which more than one non-influenza organism has been identified (e.g. RSV, parainfluenza, rhinovirus, etc.)

^α Other organisms include outbreaks involving other aetiological agents, such as human metapneumovirus, adenovirus and coronavirus.

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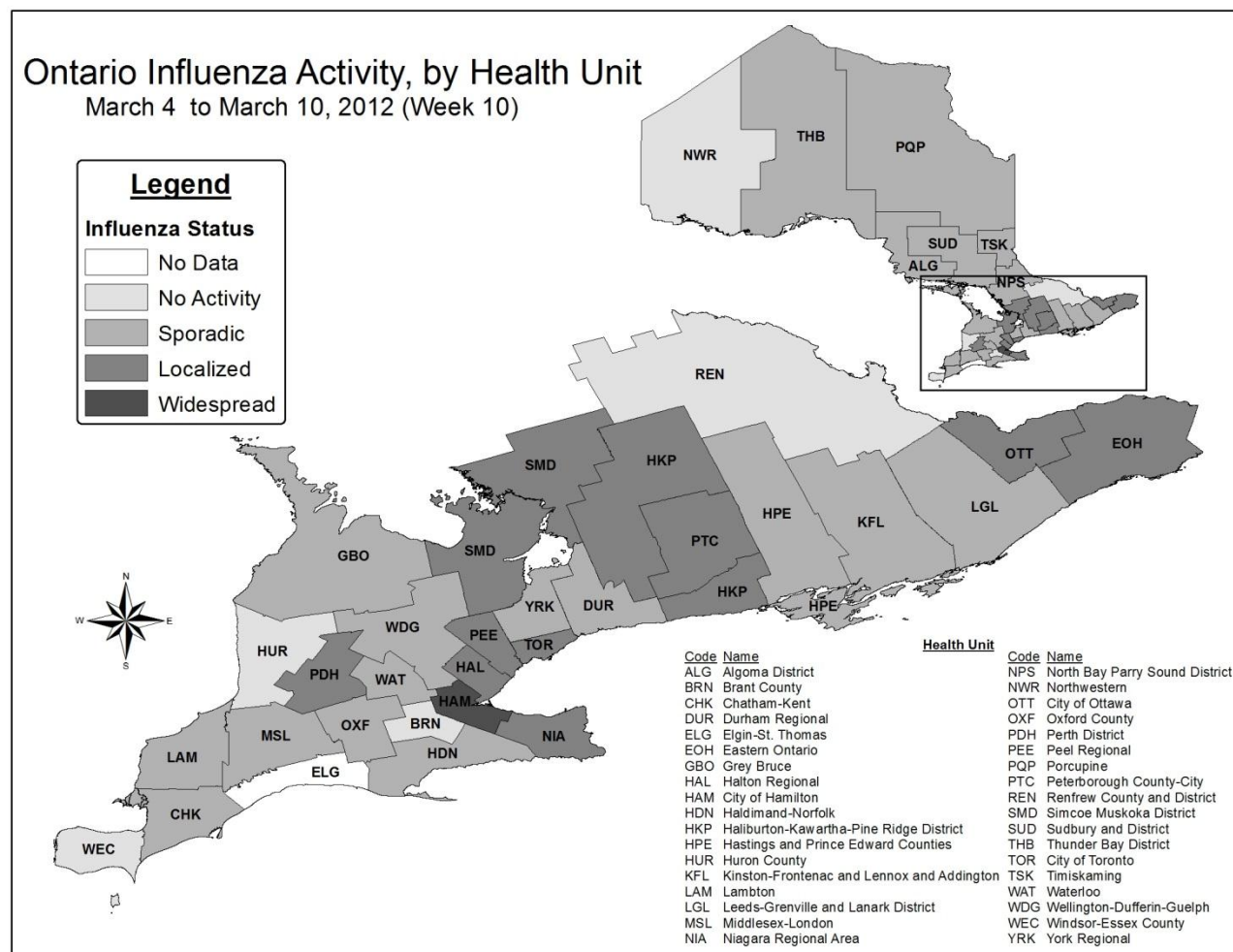
Figure 4: Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks in Ontario by onset of illness in the first case: Total outbreaks up to and including week 10 of the 2011-2012 season by causative organism



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/03/14]

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Figure 5: Influenza activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for week 10, 2012

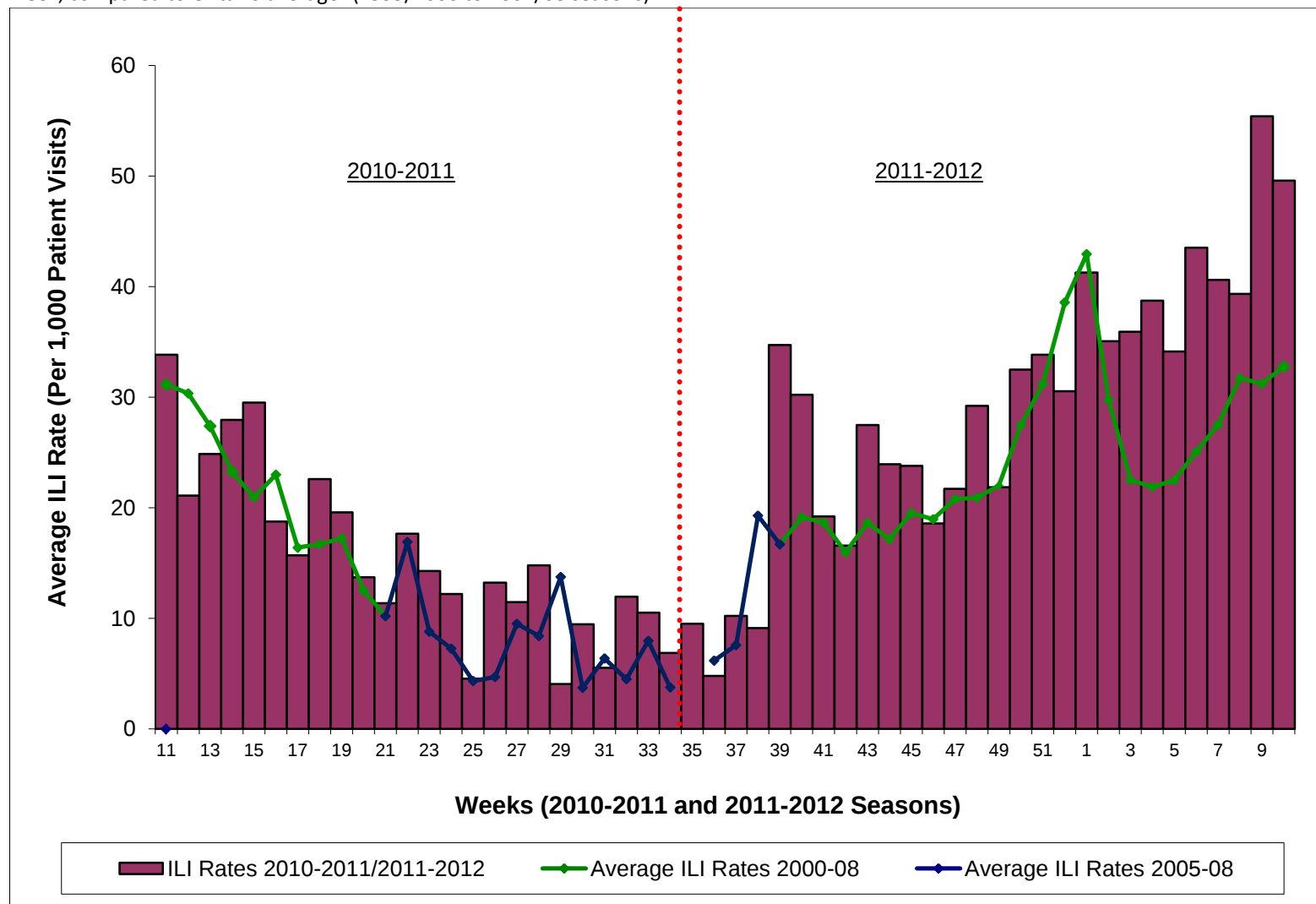


Source: PHO [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

* 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 respiratory infection outbreaks. Please click here for [detailed definitions for the 2011-2012 season](#).

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Figure 6: Average ILI consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinels* in Ontario up to week 10 of the 2011-2012 surveillance season, by report week, compared to Ontario average[†] (1999/2000 to 2007/08 seasons)



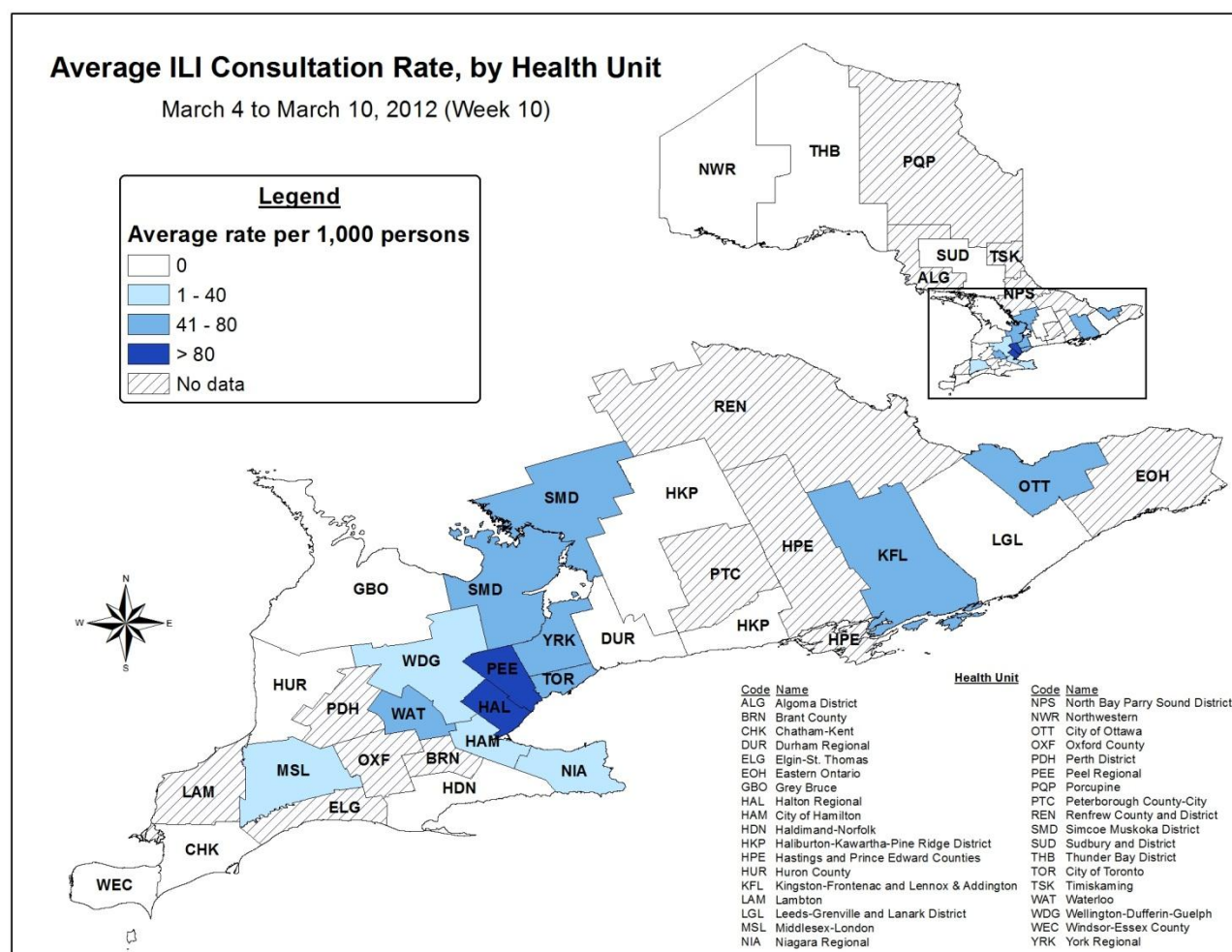
Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinel information is reported to Public Health Agency of Canada, 76 sentinels reported in week 10.

[†] No data were available for mean rate calculations for previous years for weeks 21 to 39 (1999-2000 through 2004-2005 seasons). During weeks 20-39, 2002-2003/2004-2005 seasons, ILI was reported once every two weeks, on even weeks only.

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Figure 7: Average ILI consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) by health unit as reported by sentinels * in Ontario, for week 10



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinels report ILI and patient data to the Public Health Agency of Canada; 76 sentinels reported in week 10, of which 72 were matched to a health unit and represented in the above map.

Note: The small numbers of sentinels reporting at the local level can make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data accordingly.

Table 5: Average influenza-like illness consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) by age group as reported by sentinels*in Ontario, for week 10

Age Category	0 – 4	5 – 19	20 – 64	65 +	Unknown	TOTAL
Number of ILI Consultations	8	45	49	6	0	108
ILI Consultation Rate (per 1,000 patient visits)	49.38	167.91	39.17	12.07	0.00	49.59

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada

* Sentinel information is reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada; 76 sentinels reported in week 10.

APPENDIX - I

Table 1: NML strain characterization, influenza isolates in Ontario and Canada, September 1, 2011 to March 15, 2012

	Ontario	Canada
Influenza A (H3N2) A/Perth/16/2009-like*	29	121
Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 A/California/07/09-like*	71	99
Influenza B B/Brisbane/60/2008-like*	92	167
Influenza B B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like	126	145

Source: Influenza and Respiratory Viruses Section, National Microbiology Laboratory (NML)

Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 1:30PM on March 15, 2012 was used.

* These strains are components of the seasonal trivalent vaccine for 2011-2012, which contains the same three components as the 2010-2011 vaccine.

Table 2: Amantadine, Oseltamivir and Zanamivir susceptibility assays completed on Canadian influenza isolates by NML, September 1, 2011 to March 15, 2012

Influenza strains	Amantadine				Oseltamivir				Zanamivir			
	Ontario		Canada		Ontario		Canada		Ontario		Canada	
	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S
Influenza A (H3N2)	36	1	165	1	0	24	0	112	0	23	0	111
Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	78	0	116	0	0	79	0	104	0	79	0	103
Influenza B	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	217	0	304	0	217	0	303

(R-Resistant, S- Susceptible, NA-Not applicable)

Source: Influenza and Respiratory Viruses Section, National Microbiology Laboratory (NML)

Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 1:30PM on March 15, 2012 was used.