



Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2011-2012

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 24 and 25 (June 10, 2012 – June 23, 2012)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from June 10, 2012 to June 23, 2012 (weeks 24 and 25). Unless otherwise specified, **the data presented are for weeks 24 and 25** and data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on Wednesday June 27, 2012. In order to enable our readers to better assess influenza activity in Ontario, we have combined various sources of information in the following table. **Please note that Public Health Ontario is now publishing abbreviated versions of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin on alternating weeks until November 2012. [Influenza Activity Maps](#) will be available on the weeks that the Bulletin is not published**

Assessment of Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Activity in Ontario

Measure of Activity	Assessment of measure compared to previous two-week period (Lower, Similar, Higher)	Reasoning behind assessment
Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Cases*	Lower	Ten (10) new influenza cases were reported in weeks 24 and 25, which is lower than the number reported in weeks 22 and 23 (26). The percent positivity for influenza in Ontario was lower in weeks 24 and 25 at 1.48% compared to 2.45% for weeks 22 and 23. (Table 1).
Respiratory virus activity	Enterovirus/rhinovirus activity is lower	Among all circulating respiratory viruses (Table 1), enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity in weeks 24 and 25 at 7.80%, which is lower than weeks 22 and 23 at 9.68%.
Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	Lower	Seven (7) new institutional respiratory outbreaks were reported for weeks 24 and 25. This is lower than the number of new institutional respiratory outbreaks reported in weeks 22 and 23 (9). One hundred and thirty-eight (138) institutional influenza outbreaks have been reported to date this season (Figure 1).
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Similar	For week 25, Central West region reported 'localized' level influenza activity, while North East, Eastern, Central East, Toronto, and South West regions reported 'sporadic' level activity. North West region reported no activity (Figure 2).
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Consultation Rate reported by Sentinels	Slightly higher	The provincial ILI consultation rate increased from 6.36/1,000 patient visits in week 24 to 8.17/1,000 patient visits in week 25. This rate is higher than the average rate for week 25 from previous years (Figure 3).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT FOR VIRUS ACTIVITY	Influenza activity in Ontario was lower compared to the previous week.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was lower during weeks 24 and 25 compared to weeks 22 and 23.

*This is the number of cases by **reported** date from iPHIS and should be interpreted with caution as there is a lag between the onset of illness and reporting to public health.

Highlights of current respiratory virus activity for weeks 24 and 25 compared to weeks 22 and 23

- Enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity for weeks 24 and 25 at 7.80%. Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity among specimens submitted for testing in weeks 24 and 25. Percent positivity for parainfluenza virus increased from 5.08% in weeks 22 and 23 to 5.75% in weeks 24 and 25.
- In weeks 24 and 25, a total of 7 new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported, including 3 outbreaks of enterovirus/rhinovirus, 1 outbreak of parainfluenza and 3 outbreaks with no organism identified or reported. For the 2011-2012 season to date, 644 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported, including 138 outbreaks of influenza A and B.

Table 1. Number of respiratory specimens tested by all methods for influenza and other respiratory viruses and percent positivity, Ontario: Weeks 24 and 25

Detected viruses	Number and percent positive specimens			Total number of specimens tested		
	Week 24 n (%)	Week 25 n (%)	Cumulative n (%)	Week 24 n	Week 25 n	Cumulative n
Influenza A (all)	1 (0.33)	2 (0.84)	953 (2.43)	302	238	39220
Influenza B	4 (1.32)	1 (0.42)	2758 (7.03)	302	238	39220
Parainfluenza virus	15 (5.7)	13 (5.8)	801 (2.43)	263	224	33007
Adenovirus	3 (1.14)	2 (0.89)	488 (1.48)	263	224	32982
Respiratory syncytial virus	2 (0.75)	1 (0.44)	3477 (10.39)	266	227	33466
Enterovirus/rhinovirus	18 (6.84)	20 (8.93)	1335 (4.6)	263	224	29017
Human metapneumovirus	5 (7.25)	3 (3.9)	488 (3.33)	69	77	14672
Coronavirus	2 (2.9)	1 (1.3)	478 (4.51)	69	77	10606

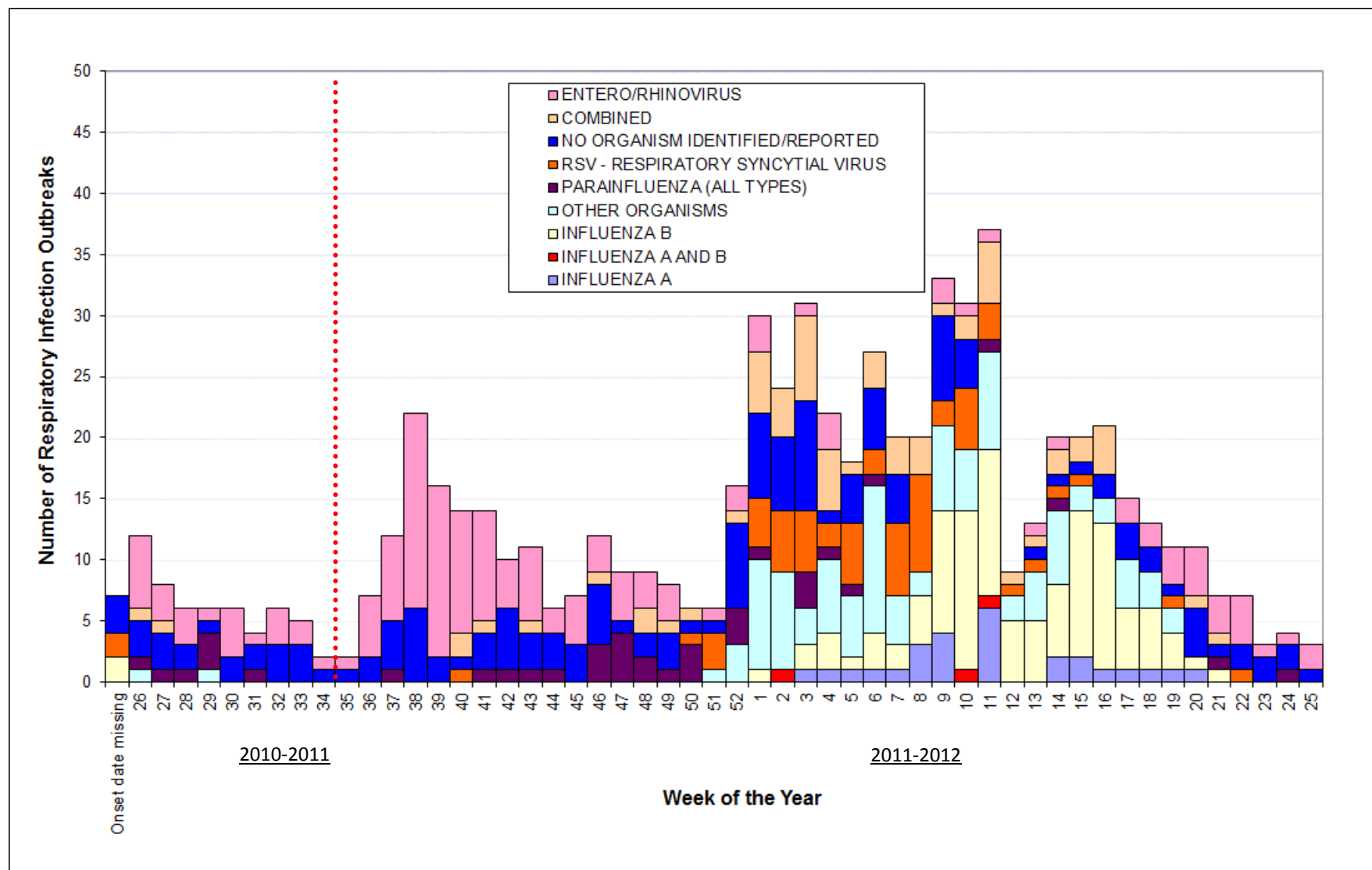
Source: CIRID, Public Health Agency of Canada. These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC for the current season: Weeks 24 & 25, 2012. Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 12:00 PM on June 27, 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/>

Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2011-2012 (June 10, 2011 – June 23, 2012)

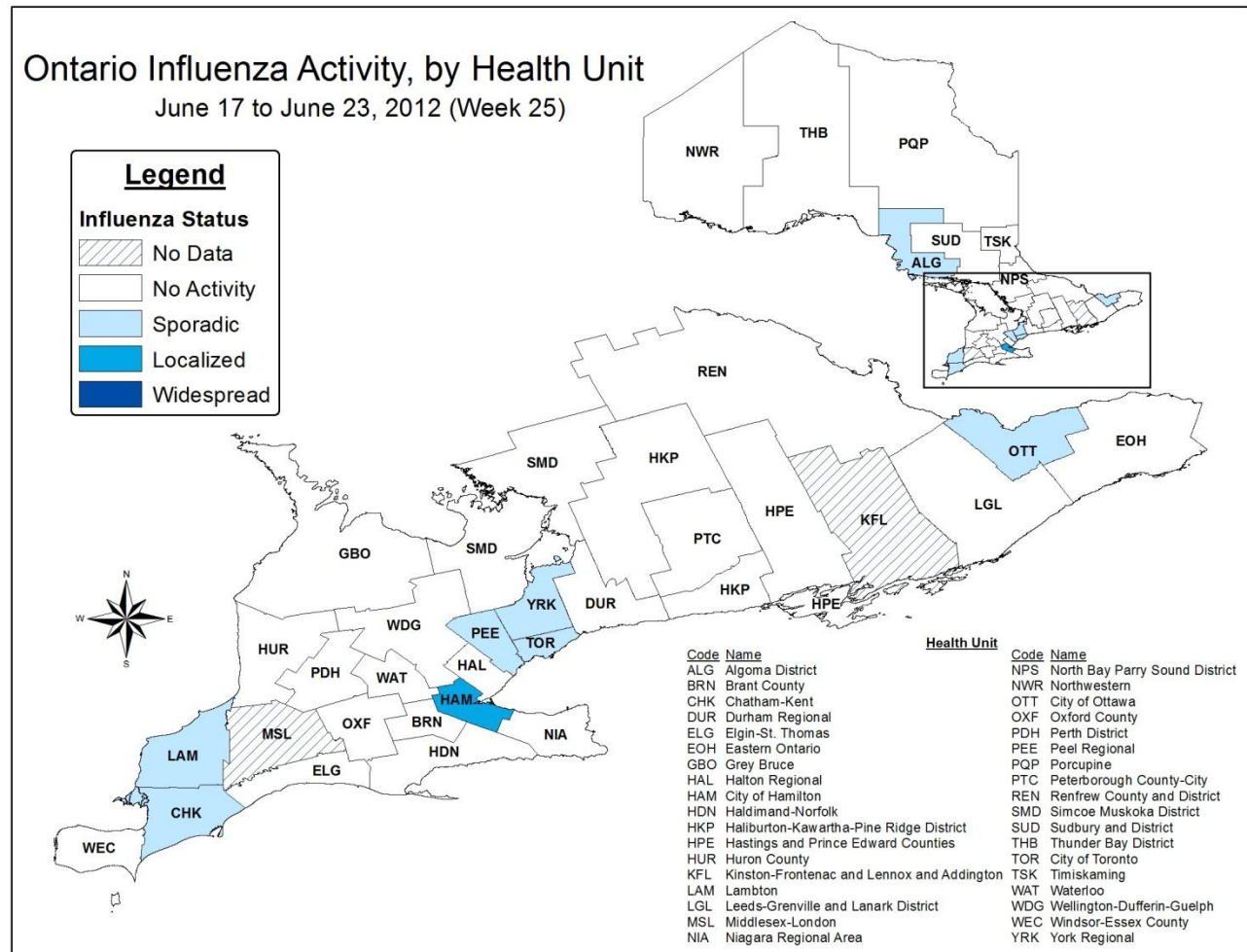
Figure 1: Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks in Ontario by onset of illness in the first case: Total outbreaks up to and including week 25 of the 2011-2012 season by causative organism



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/06/27]

Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2011-2012 (June 10, 2011 – June 23, 2012)

Figure 2: Influenza activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for week 25, 2012

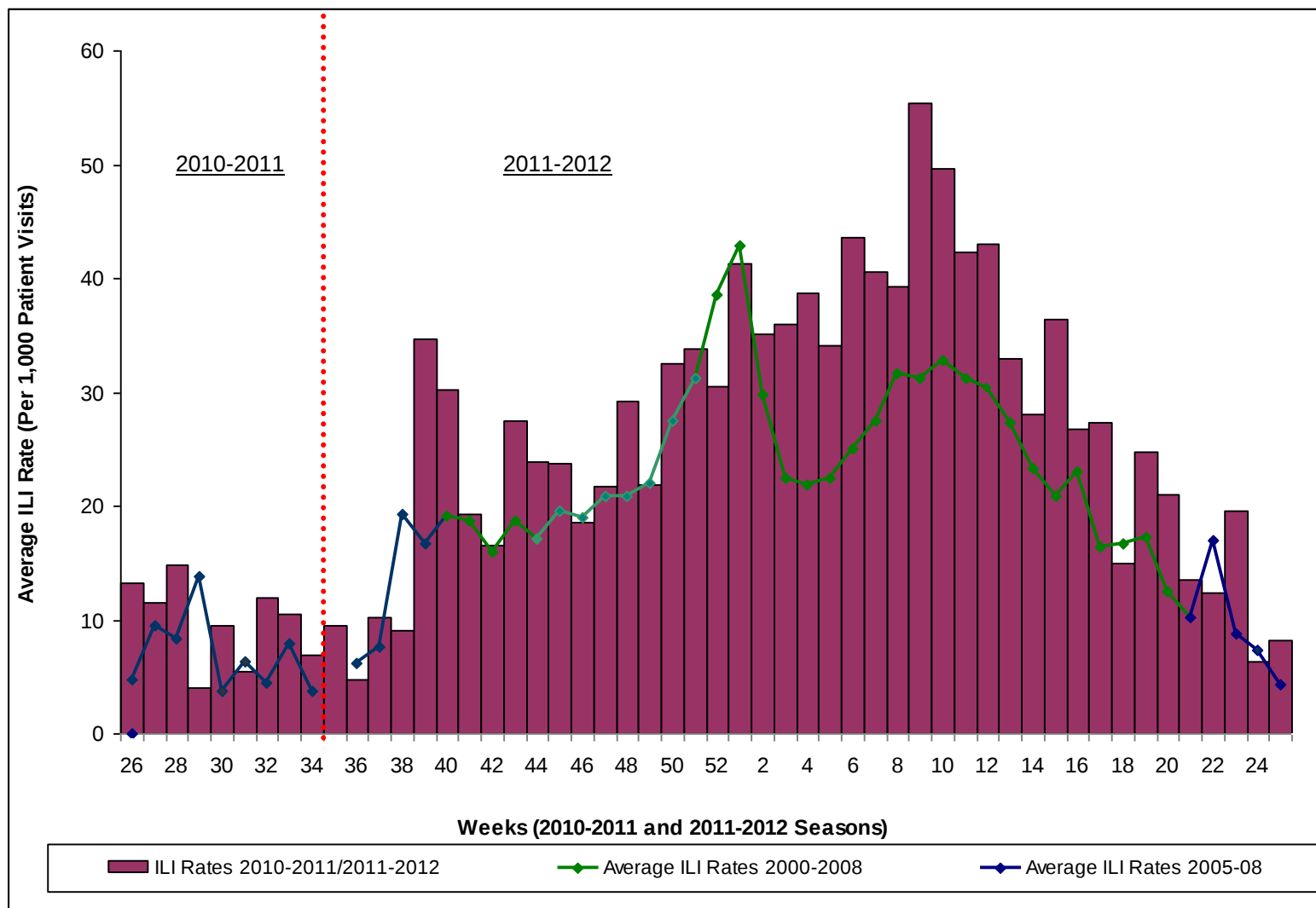


Source: PHO [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

* 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](#).

Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2011-2012 (June 10, 2011 – June 23, 2012)

Figure 3: Average ILI consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinels* in Ontario up to week 25 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, 56 sentinels reported in week 25.

[†] 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