



Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2011-2012

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 26 and 27 (June 24, 2012 – July 7, 2012)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from June 24, 2012 to July 7, 2012 (weeks 26 and 27). Unless otherwise specified, **the data presented are for weeks 26 and 27** and data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on Wednesday July 11, 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	One (1) new influenza case was reported in weeks 26 and 27, which is lower than the number reported in weeks 24 and 25 (10). The percent positivity for influenza in Ontario was lower in weeks 26 and 27 at 0.15% compared to 1.48% for weeks 24 and 25. (Table 1).
Respiratory virus activity	Enterovirus/rhinovirus activity is Higher	Among all circulating respiratory viruses (Table 1), enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity in weeks 26 and 27 at 13.21%, which is higher than weeks 24 and 25 at 7.80%.
Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	Higher	Eleven (11) new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported in weeks 26 and 27. This is higher than the number of new institutional respiratory outbreaks reported in weeks 24 and 25 (7). 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	Lower	For week 27, Toronto region reported 'sporadic' level influenza activity, while North West, North East, Eastern, Central East, Central West, and South West regions reported no influenza activity. (Figure 2).
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Consultation Rate reported by Sentinels	Slightly higher	The provincial ILI consultation rate increased from 12.33/1,000 patient visits in week 26 to 14.18/1,000 patient visits in week 27. This rate is higher than the average rate for week 27 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 26 and 27 compared to weeks 24 and 25.

*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 26 and 27 compared to weeks 24 and 25

- Enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity for weeks 26 and 27 at 13.21%. Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity among specimens submitted for testing in weeks 26 and 27. Percent positivity for parainfluenza virus increased from 5.75% in weeks 24 and 25 to 7.74% in weeks 26 and 27.
- In weeks 26 and 27, a total of 11 new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported, including 2 outbreaks of parainfluenza, 1 outbreak of enterovirus/rhinovirus, 1 combined outbreak and 7 outbreaks with no identified or reported organism. For the 2011-2012 season to date, 663 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 26 and 27

Detected viruses	Number and percent positive specimens			Total number of specimens tested		
	Week 26 n (%)	Week 27 n (%)	Cumulative n (%)	Week 26 n	Week 27 n	Cumulative n
Influenza A (all)	0 (0)	0 (0)	953 (2.38)	363	298	39975
Influenza B	1 (0.28)	0 (0)	2759 (6.9)	363	298	39975
Parainfluenza virus	17 (5.33)	30 (10.42)	853 (2.53)	319	288	33708
Adenovirus	4 (1.25)	0 (0)	492 (1.46)	319	288	33683
Respiratory syncytial virus	1 (0.31)	1 (0.34)	3479 (10.18)	322	290	34172
Enterovirus/rhinovirus	32 (13.22)	38 (13.19)	1406 (4.76)	242	288	29558
Human metapneumovirus	1 (0.58)	0 (0)	489 (3.25)	172	98	15036
Coronavirus	3 (3.16)	0 (0)	483 (4.47)	95	98	10810

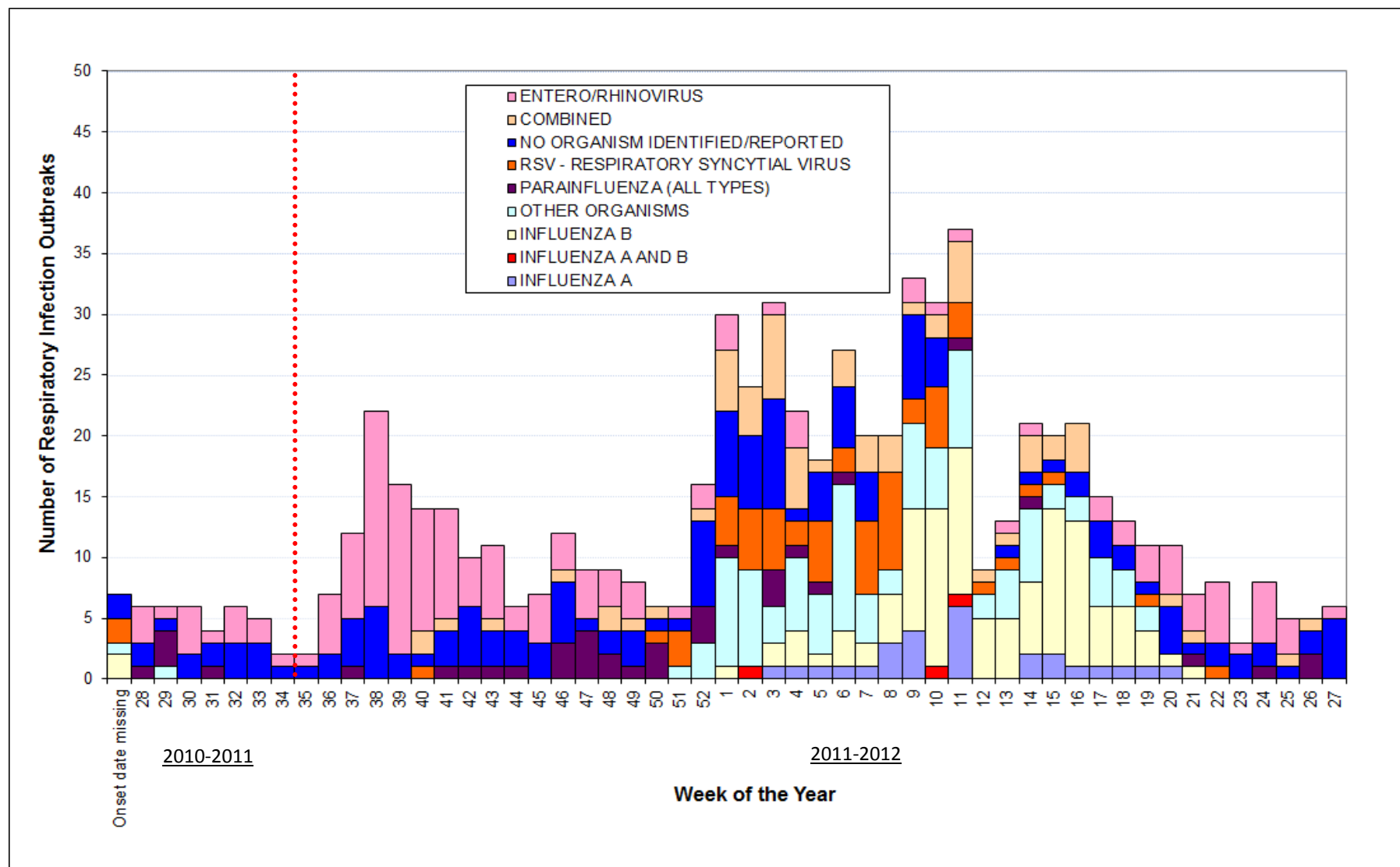
Source: CIRID, Public Health Agency of Canada. These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC for the current season: Weeks 26 & 27, 2012. Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 12:00 PM on July 11, 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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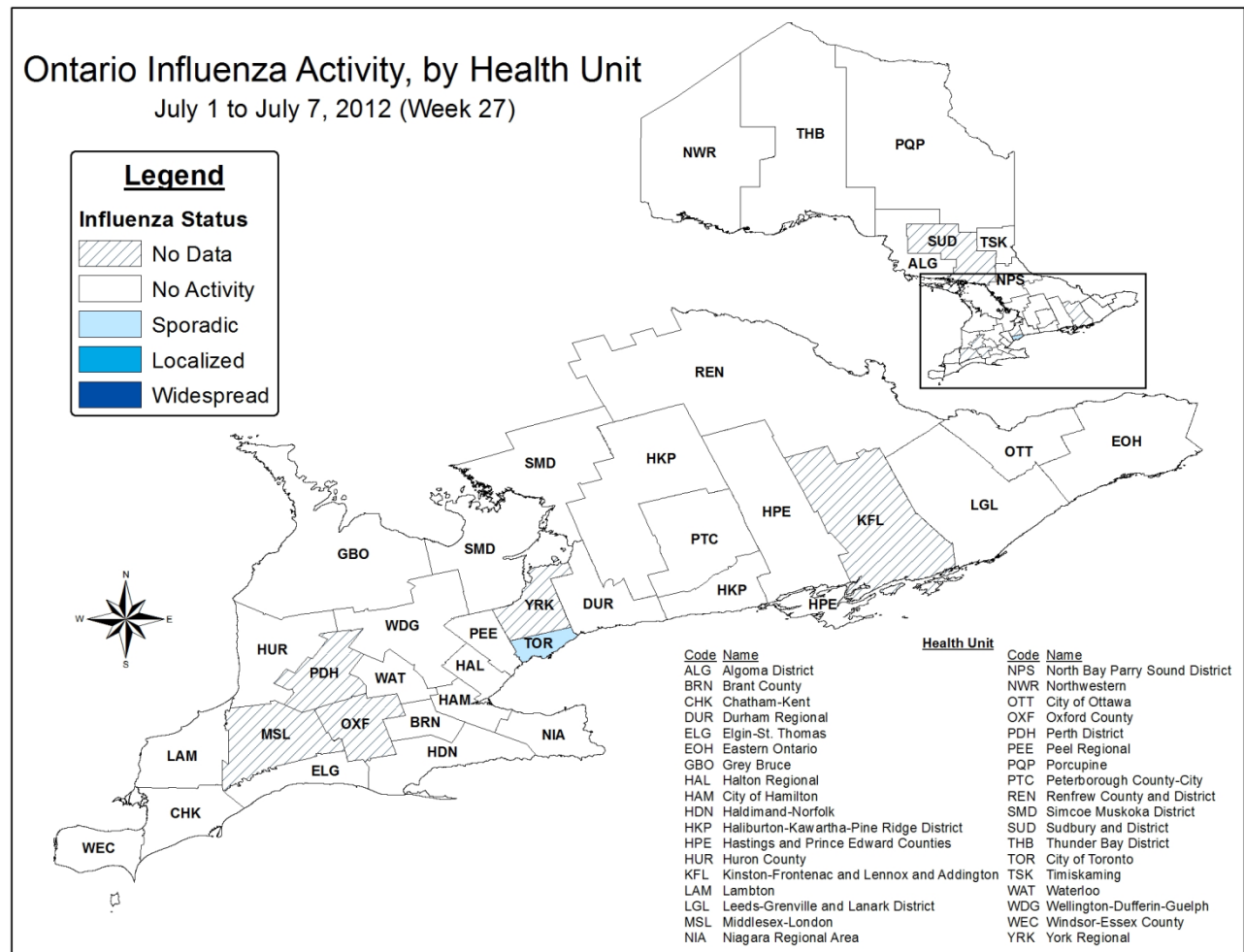
Figure 1: Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks in Ontario by onset of illness in the first case: Total outbreaks up to and including week 27 of the 2011-2012 season by causative organism



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/07/11]

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Figure 2: Influenza activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for week 27, 2012

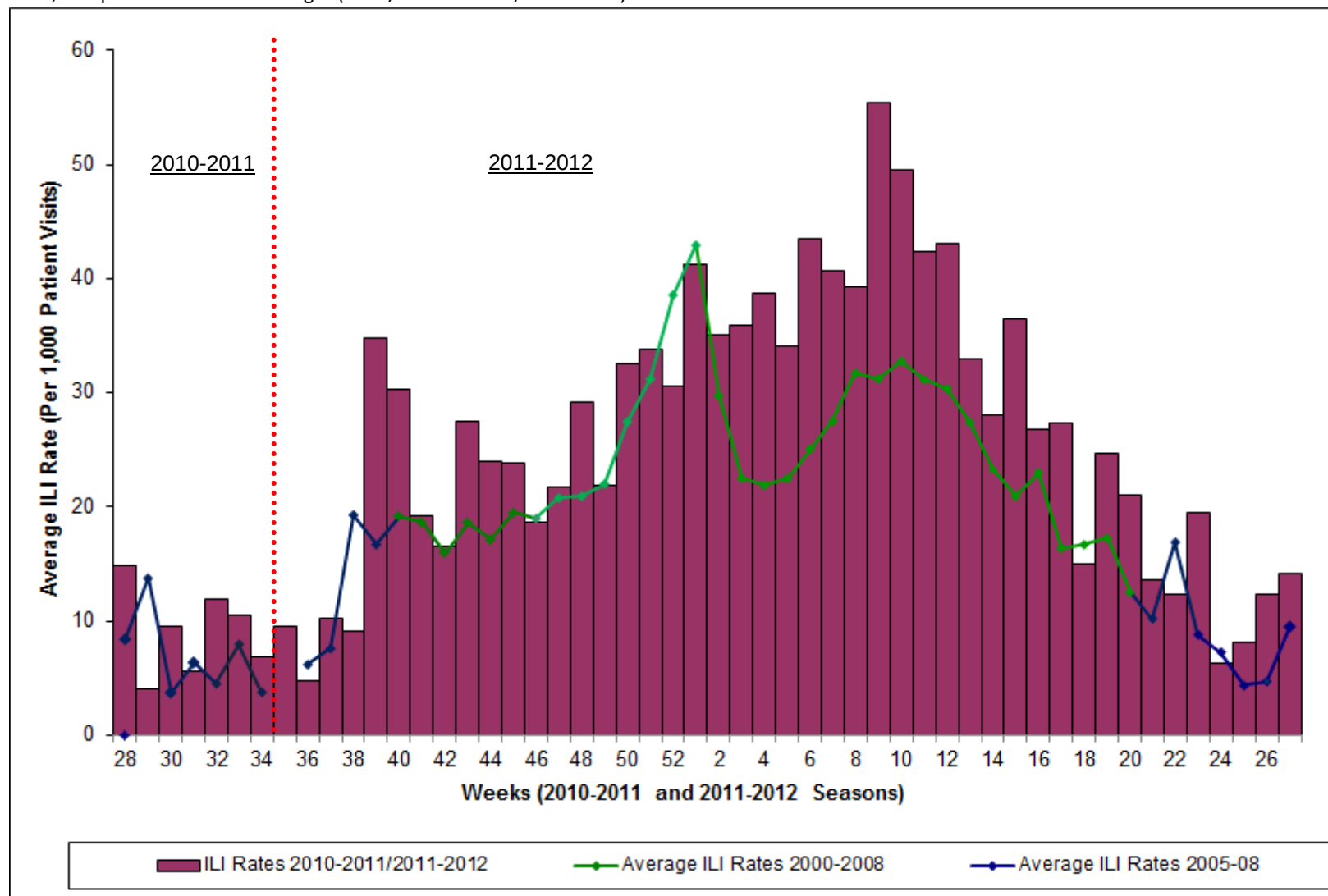


Source: PHO [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

* 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 3: Average ILI consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinels* in Ontario up to week 27 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, 49 sentinels reported in week 27.

† 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