



## Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2011-2012

### SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 28 and 29 (July 8, 2012 – July 21, 2012)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from July 8, 2012 to July 21, 2012 (weeks 28 and 29). Unless otherwise specified, **the data presented are for weeks 28 and 29**; data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on Wednesday July 25, 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](#) are 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*                                | Higher                                                                              | Seven (7) new influenza cases were reported in weeks 28 and 29, which is higher than the number reported in weeks 26 and 27 (1). The percent positivity for influenza in Ontario was higher in weeks 28 and 29 at 1.58% compared to 0.15% for weeks 26 and 27 (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 28 and 29 at 12.36%, which is slightly lower than weeks 26 and 27 at 13.21%.                                                                                                                           |
| Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks                        | Lower                                                                               | Nine (9) new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported in weeks 28 and 29. This is lower than the number of new institutional respiratory outbreaks reported in weeks 26 and 27 (11). One hundred and thirty-nine (139) institutional influenza outbreaks have been reported to date this season (Figure 1). |
| Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units                   | Higher                                                                              | For week 29, Toronto region reported 'localized' level influenza activity and Central East region reported 'sporadic' level influenza activity, while North West, North East, Eastern, Central West, and South West regions reported no influenza activity. (Figure 2).                                                        |
| Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Consultation Rate reported by Sentinels | Higher                                                                              | The provincial ILI consultation rate increased from 9.60/1,000 patient visits in week 28 to 15.38/1,000 patient visits in week 29. This rate is slightly higher than the average rate for week 29 from previous years (Figure 3).                                                                                              |
| OVERALL ASSESSMENT FOR VIRUS ACTIVITY                                | Influenza activity in Ontario was <b>higher</b> compared to the previous week.      | Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was higher during weeks 28 and 29 compared to weeks 26 and 27.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

\*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 28 and 29 compared to weeks 26 and 27

- Enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity for weeks 28 and 29 at 12.36% (Table 1). Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity among specimens submitted for testing in weeks 28 and 29. Percent positivity for parainfluenza virus decreased from 7.74% in weeks 26 and 27 to 6.63% in weeks 28 and 29.
- In weeks 28 and 29, a total of nine new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported, including one outbreak of influenza A and eight outbreaks with no organisms reported (Figure 1). For the 2011-2012 season to date, 677 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported, including 139 influenza A or B outbreaks.
- While an increase in the provincial ILI sentinel consultation rate occurred from week 28 to 29, this variability may be due to the low number of sentinels reporting. The current season's rates for both weeks 28 and 29 are similar to the historical average (Figure 3).

**Table 1.** Number of respiratory specimens tested by all methods for influenza and other respiratory viruses and percent positivity, Ontario: Weeks 28 and 29

| Detected viruses            | Number and percent positive specimens |                  |                     | Total number of specimens tested |              |                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
|                             | Week 28<br>n (%)                      | Week 29<br>n (%) | Cumulative<br>n (%) | Week 28<br>n                     | Week 29<br>n | Cumulative<br>n |
| Influenza A (all)           | 3 (0.97)                              | 6 (1.85)         | 961 (2.36)          | 308                              | 325          | 40681           |
| Influenza B                 | 0 (0)                                 | 1 (0.31)         | 2760 (6.78)         | 308                              | 325          | 40681           |
| Parainfluenza virus         | 21 (7.37)                             | 17 (5.9)         | 893 (2.6)           | 285                              | 288          | 34353           |
| Adenovirus                  | 2 (0.7)                               | 4 (1.39)         | 498 (1.45)          | 285                              | 288          | 34328           |
| Respiratory syncytial virus | 3 (1.04)                              | 2 (0.68)         | 3486 (10.01)        | 289                              | 296          | 34829           |
| Enterovirus/rhinovirus      | 24 (11.21)                            | 31 (13.42)       | 1461 (4.87)         | 214                              | 231          | 30008           |
| Human metapneumovirus       | 4 (2.48)                              | 0 (0)            | 493 (3.2)           | 161                              | 146          | 15415           |
| Coronavirus                 | 1 (1.11)                              | 0 (0)            | 483 (4.39)          | 90                               | 89           | 10994           |

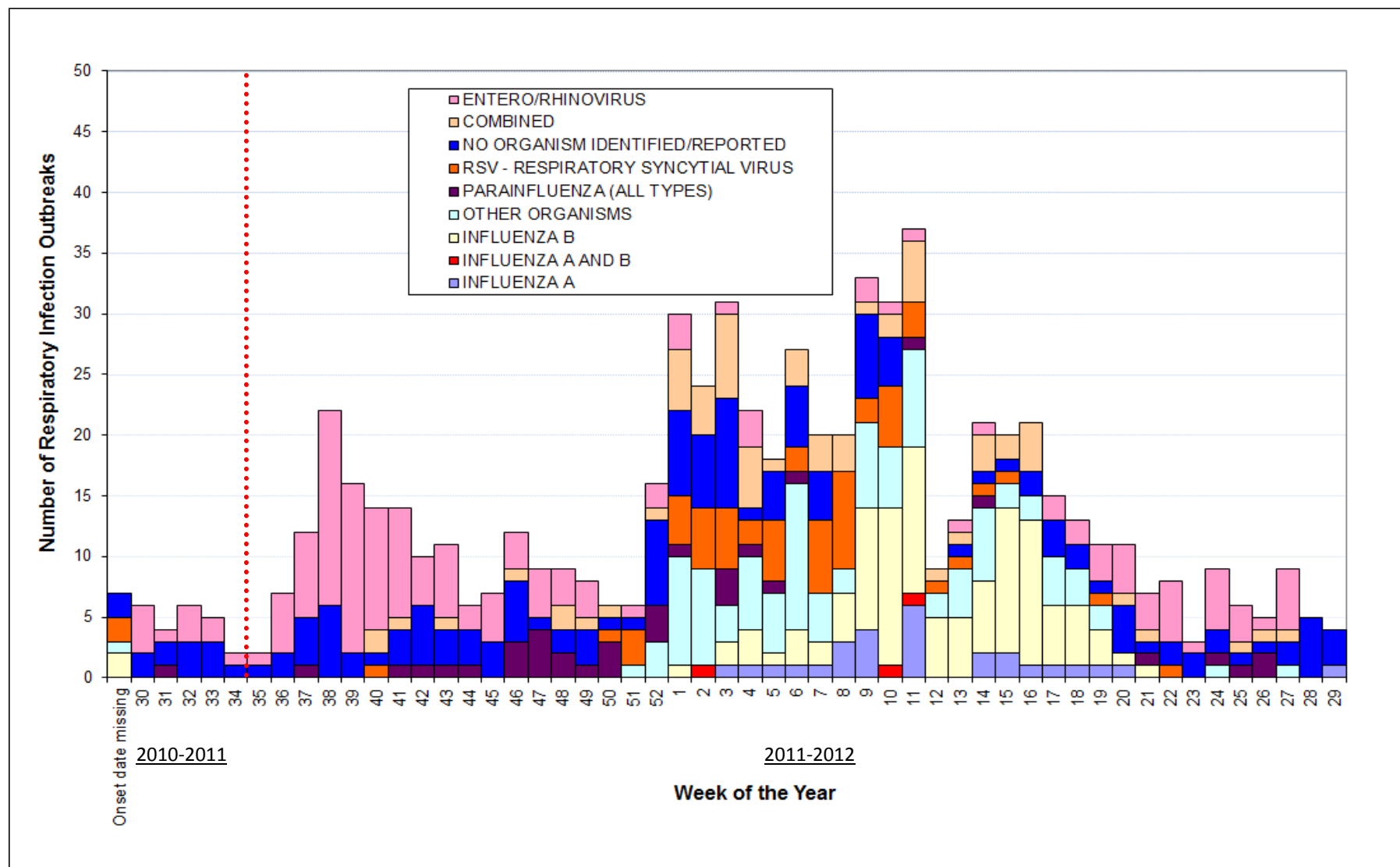
**Source:** CIRID, Public Health Agency of Canada. These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC for the current season: Weeks 28 & 29, 2012. Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 12:00 PM on July 26, 2012 was used.

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

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

## Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2011-2012 (July 8, 2012 – July 21, 2012)

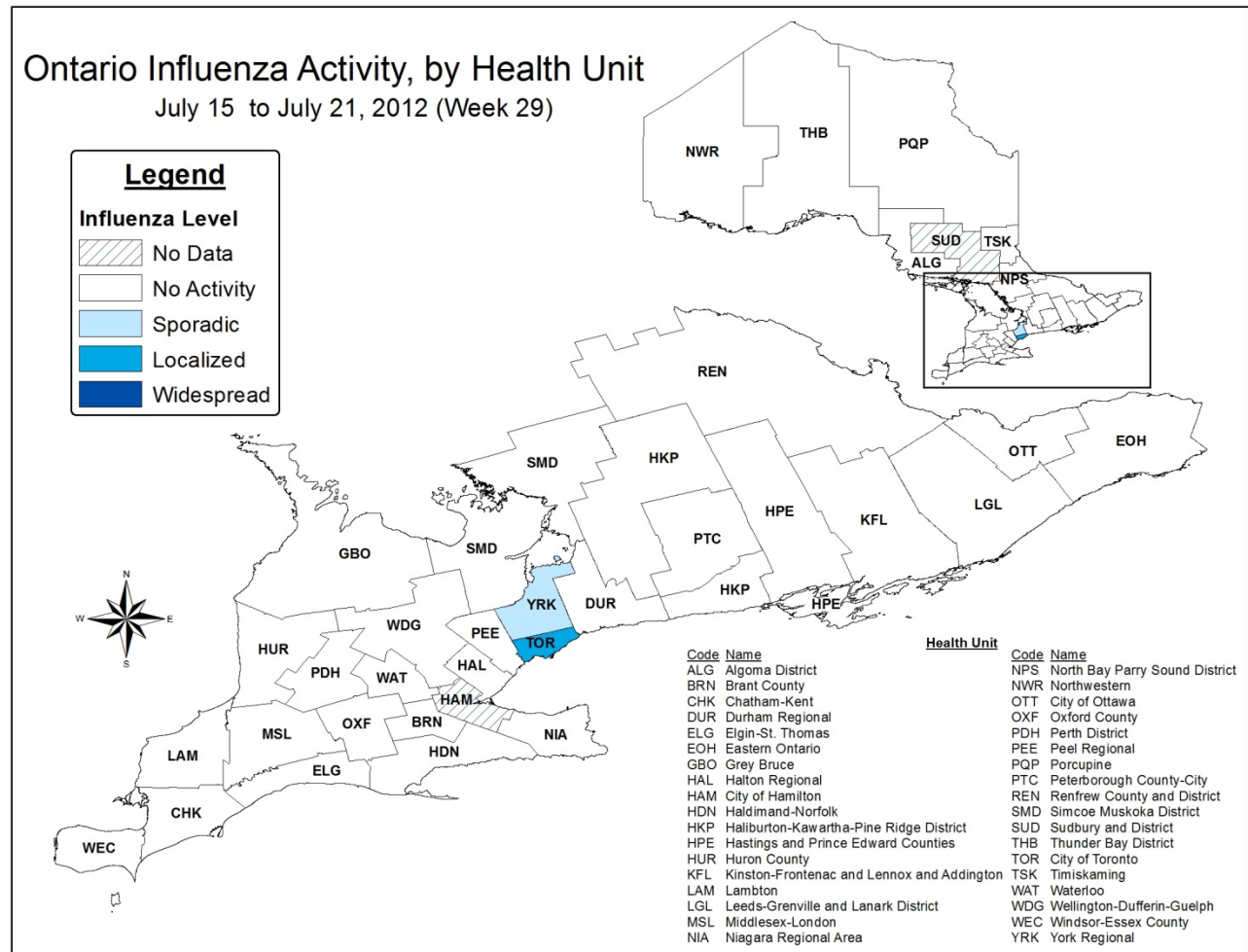
**Figure 1:** Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks in Ontario by onset of illness in the first case: Total outbreaks up to and including week 29 of the 2011-2012 season by causative organism



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/07/25]

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**Figure 2:** Influenza activity\* levels in Ontario by health unit for week 29, 2012

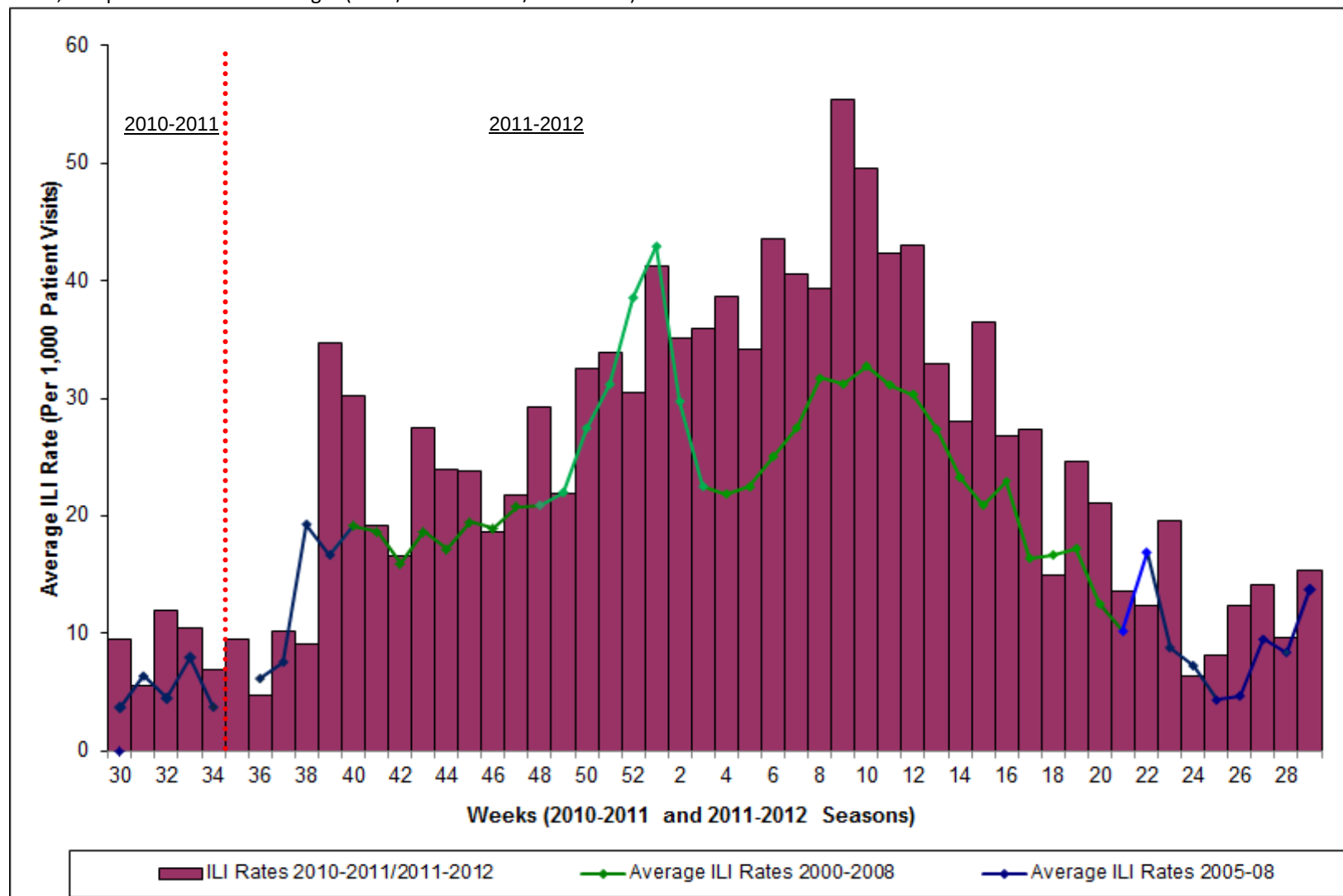


**Source:** PHO [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

\* 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 29 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, 43 sentinels reported in week 29.

† 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