



Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2011-2012

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 30 and 31 (July 22, 2012 – August 4, 2012)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from July 22, 2012 to August 4, 2012 (weeks 30 and 31). Unless otherwise specified, **the data presented are for weeks 30 and 31**; data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on Wednesday August 8, 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 assessment period (Lower, Similar, Higher)	Reasoning behind assessment
Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Cases*	Similar	Six (6) new influenza cases were reported in weeks 30 and 31, which is similar to the number reported in weeks 28 and 29 (7). The percent positivity for influenza in Ontario was similar in weeks 30 and 31 at 1.46% compared to 1.58% for weeks 28 and 29 (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 30 and 31 at 10.22%, which is lower than weeks 28 and 29 at 12.36%.
Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	Higher	Twelve (12) new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported in weeks 30 and 31. This is higher than the number of new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks reported in weeks 28 and 29 (9). One hundred and forty (140) institutional influenza outbreaks have been reported to date this season (Figure 1).
Influenza Activity Levels Reported by Health Units	Lower	For week 31, Windsor-Essex health unit in South West region reported 'localized' level influenza activity. All other regions reported no influenza activity (Figure 2).
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Consultation Rate reported by Sentinels	Lower	The provincial ILI consultation rate decreased from 7.12/1,000 patient visits in week 30 to 2.58/1,000 patient visits in week 31. This rate is lower than the average rate for week 31 from previous years (Figure 3).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT FOR VIRUS ACTIVITY	Influenza activity in Ontario was similar compared to the previous week.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was similar during weeks 30 and 31 compared to weeks 28 and 29.

*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 30 and 31 compared to weeks 28 and 29

- Enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity for weeks 30 and 31 at 10.22% (Table 1). Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity among specimens submitted for testing in weeks 30 and 31. Percent positivity for parainfluenza virus was similar for weeks 30 and 31 at 6.96% as for weeks 28 and 29 at 6.63%.
- In weeks 30 and 31, a total of twelve new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported, including one outbreak of influenza A, four outbreaks of enterovirus/rhinovirus and seven outbreaks with no organisms reported (Figure 1). For the 2011-2012 season to date, 696 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported, including 140 influenza A or B outbreaks.

Table 1. Number of respiratory specimens tested by all methods for influenza and other respiratory viruses and percent positivity, Ontario: Weeks 30 and 31

Detected viruses	Number and percent positive specimens			Total number of specimens tested		
	Week 30 n (%)	Week 31 n (%)	Cumulative n (%)	Week 30 n	Week 31 n	Cumulative n
Influenza A (all)	3 (1.46)	4 (1.46)	968 (2.35)	206	274	41249
Influenza B	0 (0)	0 (0)	2760 (6.69)	206	274	41249
Parainfluenza virus	14 (7.61)	18 (6.52)	933 (2.67)	184	276	34901
Adenovirus	0 (0)	2 (0.72)	500 (1.43)	184	276	34876
Respiratory syncytial virus	2 (1.05)	0 (0)	3488 (9.86)	191	276	35384
Enterovirus/rhinovirus	31 (16.85)	16 (5.8)	1509 (4.95)	184	276	30489
Human metapneumovirus	0 (0)	0 (0)	493 (3.13)	113	111	15727
Coronavirus	0 (0)	0 (0)	483 (4.3)	113	111	11239

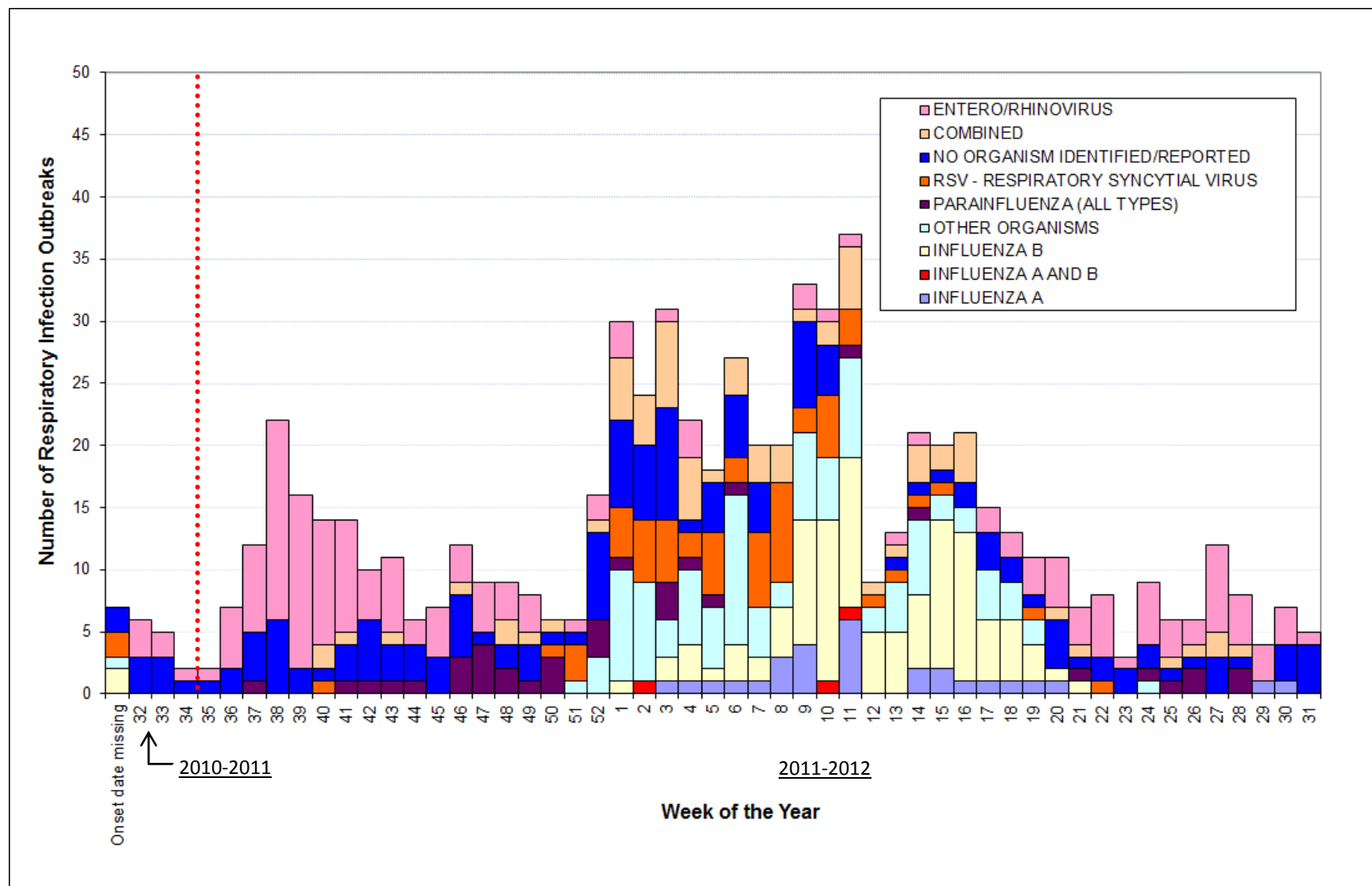
Source: CIRID, Public Health Agency of Canada. These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC for the current season: Weeks 30 & 31, 2012. Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 12:00 PM on August 8, 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 22, 2012 – August 4, 2012)

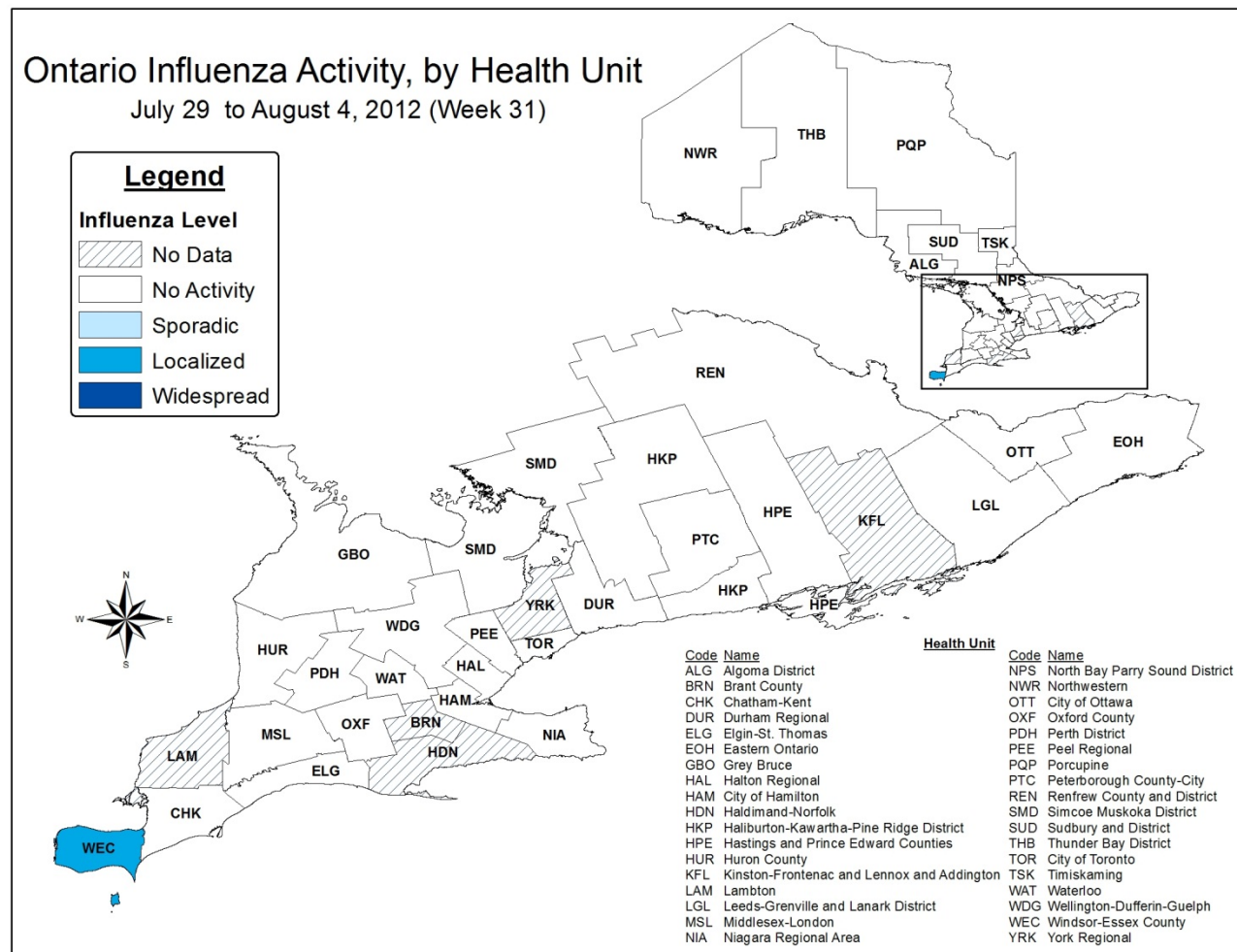
Figure 1: Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks in Ontario by onset of illness in the first case: Total outbreaks up to and including week 31 of the 2011-2012 season by causative organism



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/08/08]

Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 2011-2012 (July 22, 2012 – August 4, 2012)

Figure 2: Influenza activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for week 31, 2012

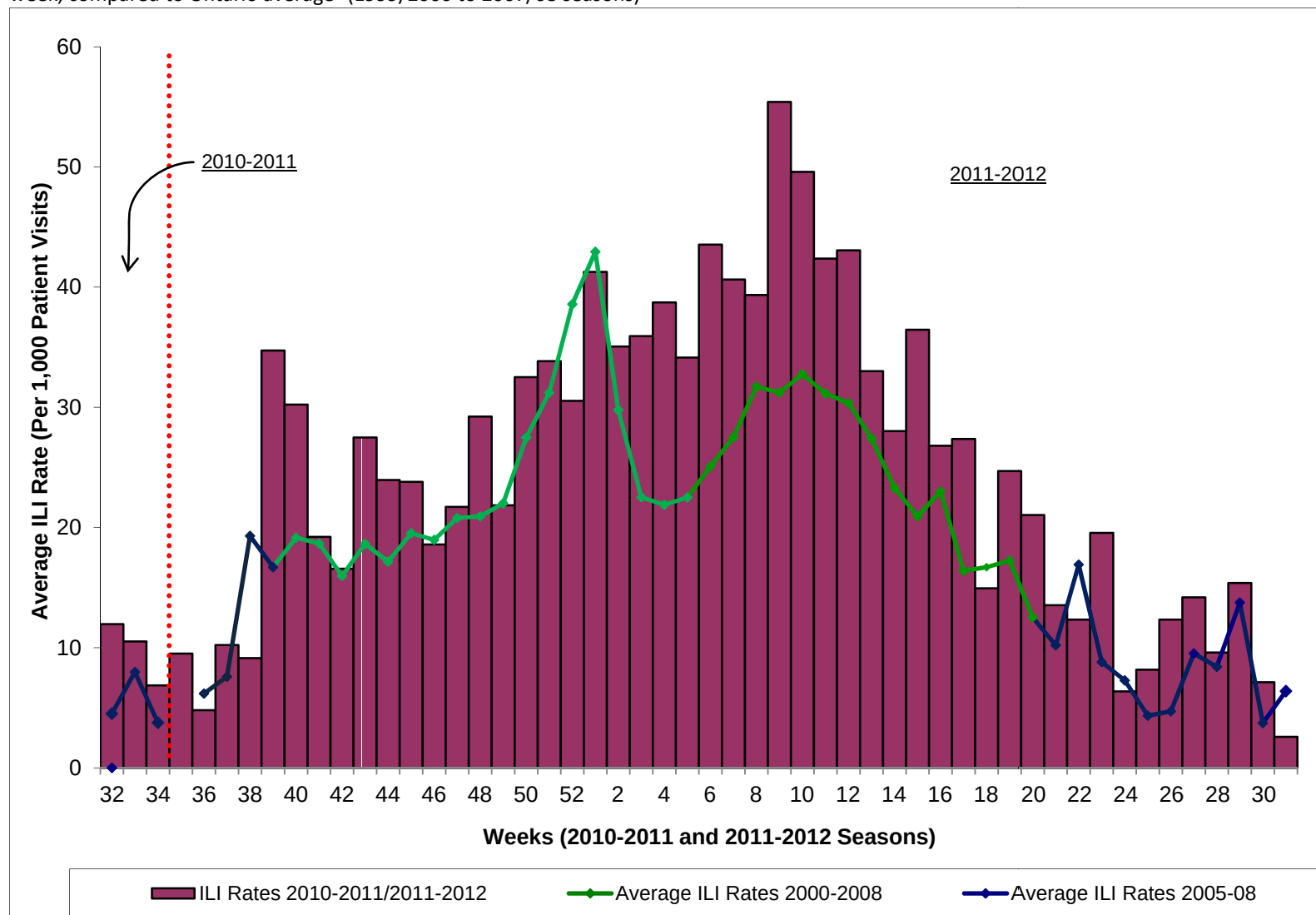


Source: PHO [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

* 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 (July 22, 2012 – August 4, 2012)

Figure 3: Average ILI consultation rate (per 1,000 patient visits) reported by sentinels* in Ontario up to week 31 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, 51 sentinels reported in week 31.

[†] 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