



Ontario Influenza Bulletin | 2011-2012

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 32 and 33 (August 5, 2012 – August 18, 2012)

This issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from August 5, 2012 to August 18, 2012 (weeks 32 and 33). Unless otherwise specified, **the data presented are for weeks 32 and 33**; data extraction and analysis for this issue of the Bulletin occurred on Wednesday August 22, 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*	Lower	No new influenza cases were reported in weeks 32 and 33, which is lower than the number reported in weeks 30 and 31 (6). The percent positivity for influenza in Ontario was lower in weeks 32 and 33 at 0.00% compared to 1.46% for weeks 30 and 31 (Table 1).
Respiratory virus activity	Entero/rhinovirus activity is lower	Among all circulating respiratory viruses (Table 1), entero/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity in weeks 32 and 33 at 9.87%, which is slightly lower than weeks 30 and 31 at 10.22%.
Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	Lower	Eight (8) new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported in weeks 32 and 33. This is lower than the number of new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks reported in weeks 30 and 31 (12 outbreaks). 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 33, all regions reported no influenza activity (Figure 2).
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Consultation Rate reported by Sentinels	Lower	The provincial ILI consultation rate decreased from 9.96/1,000 patient visits in week 32 to 5.17/1,000 patient visits in week 33. This rate is lower than the average rate for week 33 from previous years (Figure 3).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT FOR VIRUS ACTIVITY	Influenza activity in Ontario was lower compared to the previous weeks.	Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity was lower during weeks 32 and 33 compared to weeks 30 and 31.

*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 32 and 33 compared to weeks 30 and 31

- Enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity for weeks 32 and 33 at 9.87% (Table 1). Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity among specimens submitted for testing in weeks 32 and 33. Percent positivity for parainfluenza virus decreased from 6.96% for weeks 30 and 31 to 5.71% for weeks 32 and 33.
- In weeks 32 and 33, a total of eight new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported, with no organisms reported (Figure 1). For the 2011-2012 season to date, 716 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 32 and 33

Detected viruses	Number and percent positive specimens			Total number of specimens tested		
	Week 32 n (%)	Week 33 n (%)	Cumulative n (%)	Week 32 n	Week 33 n	Cumulative n
Influenza A (all)	0 (0)	0 (0)	968 (2.31)	312	294	41899
Influenza B	0 (0)	0 (0)	2760 (6.59)	312	294	41899
Parainfluenza virus	10 (3.46)	19 (8.68)	962 (2.72)	289	219	35409
Adenovirus	1 (0.35)	1 (0.46)	502 (1.42)	289	219	35384
Respiratory syncytial virus	0 (0)	0 (0)	3488 (9.71)	291	228	35909
Enterovirus/rhinovirus	31 (13.08)	14 (6.39)	1554 (5.02)	237	219	30945
Human metapneumovirus	2 (1.18)	1 (1.09)	496 (3.1)	170	92	15989
Coronavirus	0 (0)	0 (0)	483 (4.22)	118	92	11449

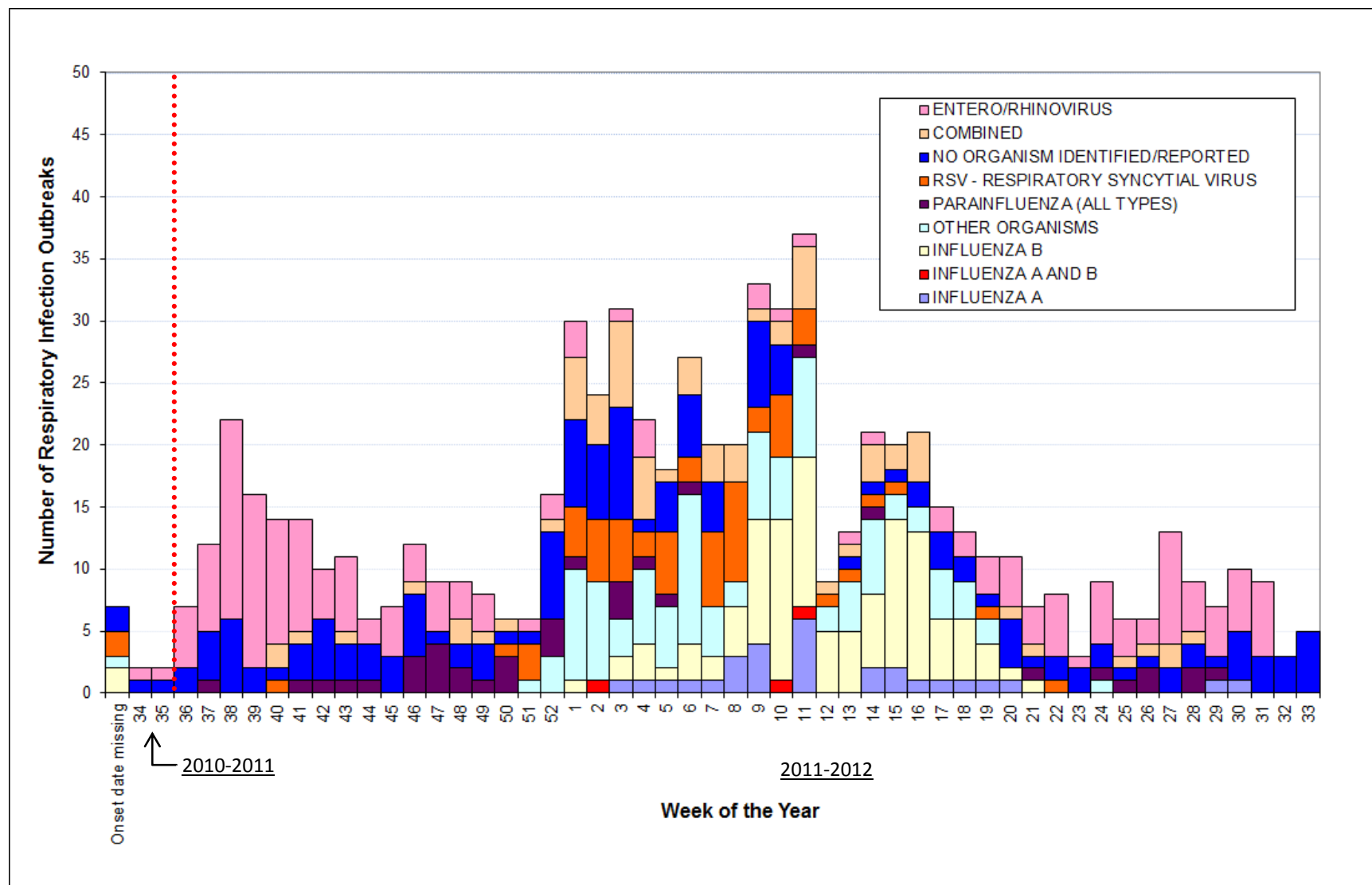
Source: CIRID, Public Health Agency of Canada. These data have been obtained from the Respiratory Virus Detection tables of Public Health Agency of Canada from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC for the current season: Weeks 32 & 33, 2012. Please note that the last version received from PHAC as of 12:00 PM on August 22, 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/>

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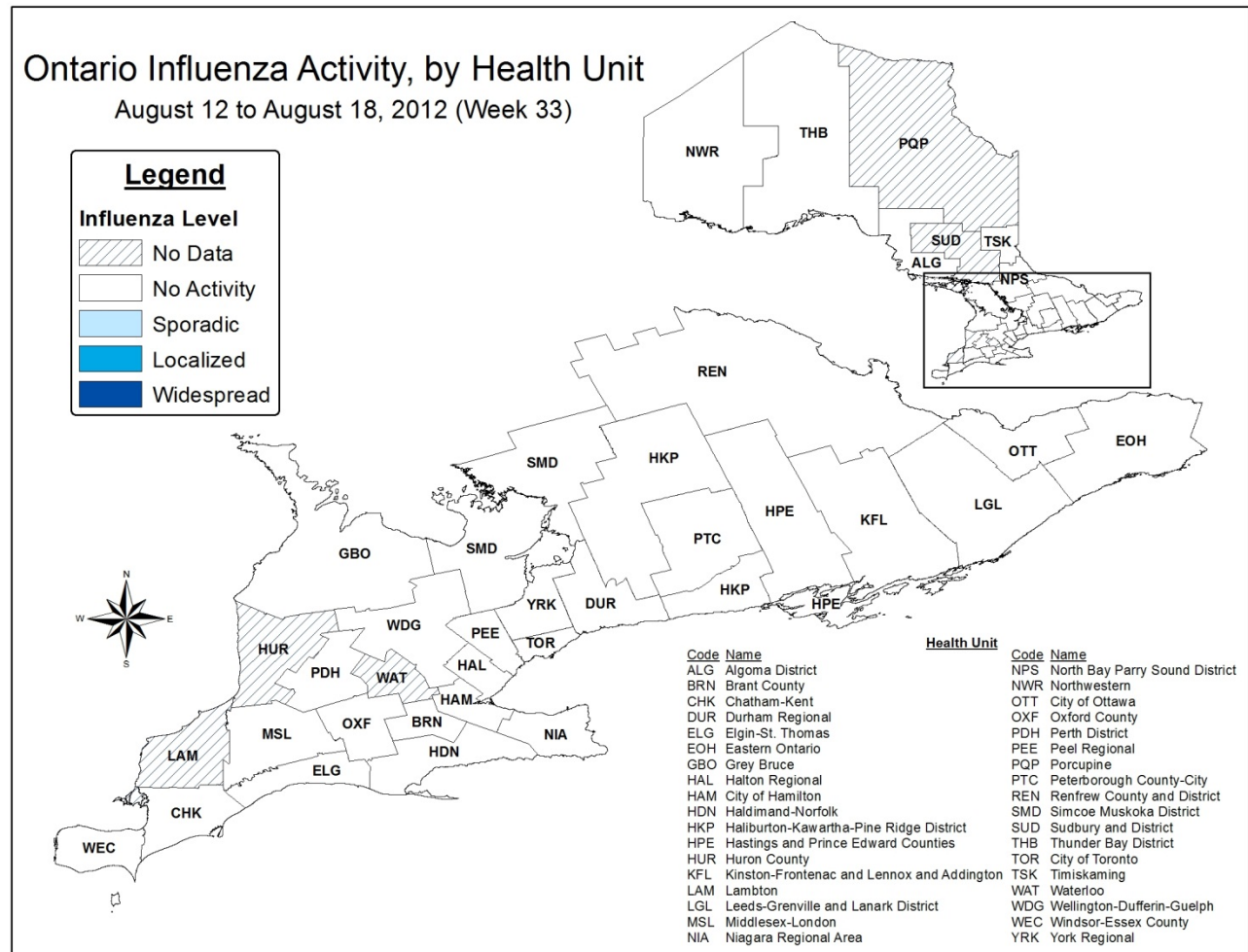
Figure 1: Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks in Ontario by onset of illness in the first case: Total outbreaks up to and including week 33 of the 2011-2012 season by causative organism



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2012/08/22]

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Figure 2: Influenza activity* levels in Ontario by health unit for week 33, 2012

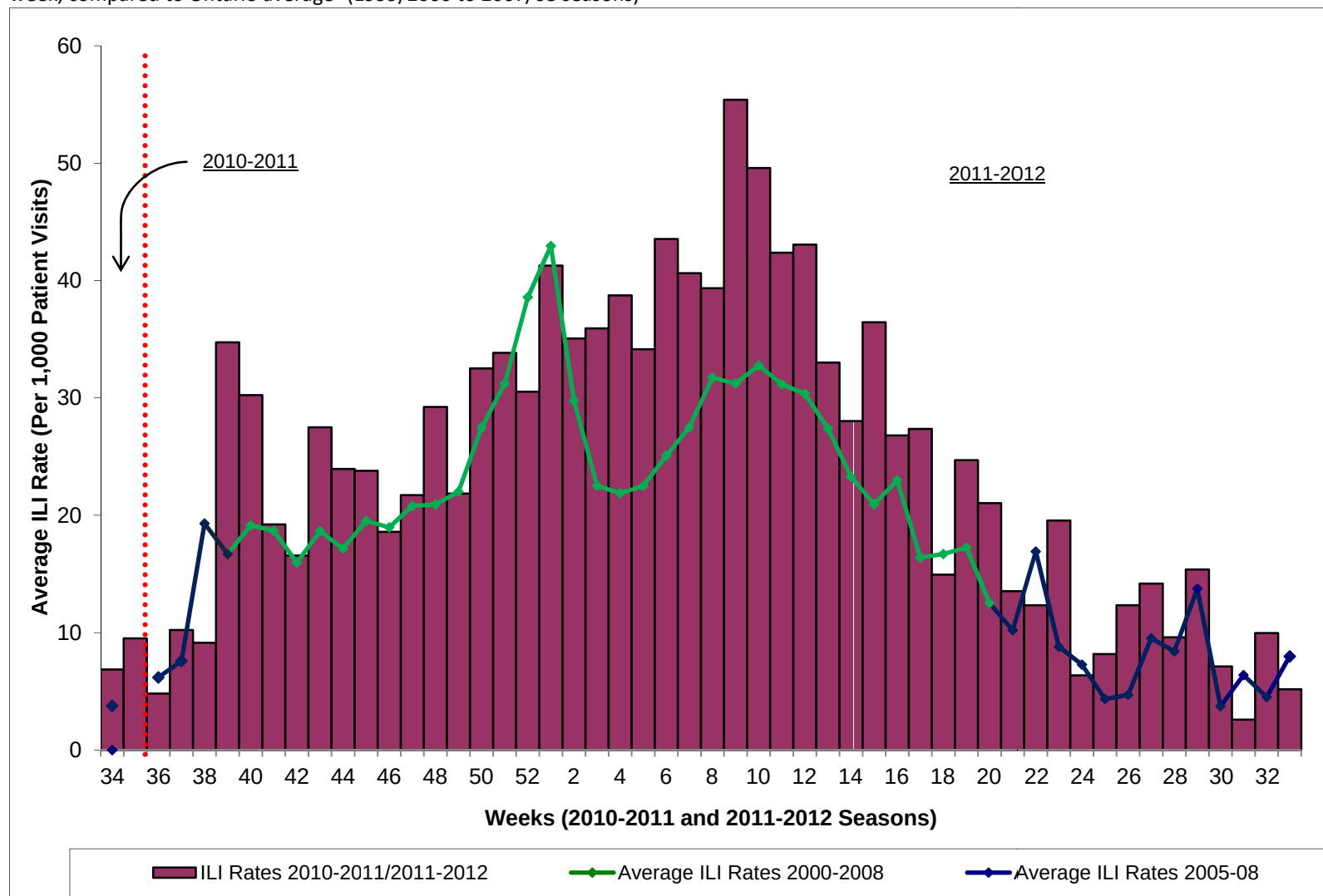


Source: Public Health Ontario [Provincial Influenza Activity Report (Appendix C) Database]

* Influenza activity levels are assigned by local public health units and reported to Public Health Ontario 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 33 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; 47 sentinels reported in week 33.

[†] 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.