

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROFILES

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A bi-monthly newsletter for Ontario public health units

Smallpox Statistics

Smallpox is one of the latest additions to the *Reportable Diseases* list in Ontario, due to the potential threat of bioterrorism. According to Health Canada, smallpox made its debut in Ontario in 1924, where 574 cases were reported. The number of cases peaked in 1927, where 1,525 cases were reported. The numbers then declined each subsequent year, with no reported cases between 1940 – 1961. The last reported case in Canada was in 1962. Fortunately, there have been no recent reported cases of smallpox.

Internationally, the last reported case of smallpox occurred in 1977 in Somalia. In May 1980, the World Health Organization and the World Health Assembly certified a global eradication of smallpox.

Reported Cases of Smallpox in Ontario (1924- 1962)	
Year	Number of Cases
1924	572
1925	205
1926	708
1927	1525
1928	864
1929	708
1930	647
1931	230
1932	91
1933	16
1934	1
1935	7
1936	1
1937	0
1938	6
1939	1
1940 – 1961	0
1962	1
* Source: Dr. Paul Varughese, Division of Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada, 2002.	

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Update: Reportable Diseases in Ontario

The 2002 edition of the *Reportable Diseases* list, was successfully distributed to the following recipients in Ontario: public health units, physicians, laboratories, professional healthcare faculties, long-term care facilities, hospitals, pharmacies, and schools.

Both the English and French versions of the list, including the prints without the background graphics, are also available on-line at the Public Health Branch website:

<http://www5.eagle.ca/PHB/phb.htm>

Influenza Strains in Canada

The A/Panama/2007/99(H3N2)-like strain and B/Sichuan/379/99-like strain, is included in this year's vaccine, and the B/Hong Kong/22/01-like strain belongs to the B/Victoria/504/2000 lineage, which is not included in this year's vaccine. The B/Hong Kong/22/01-like virus is a new antigenic variant of the B/Victoria/504/2000-like virus, which was an epidemic strain during the 1988 - 1989 flu season.

This year's influenza vaccine B component provides protection mainly against B/Yamagata/16/88-like viruses, but as several studies have shown, this strain also provides some protection against the B/Victoria/504/2000-like viruses. The type A strains identified in Canada, and in Ontario, are included in the current season's vaccine.

* Please visit the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website weekly for the current issue, or back issues, of the *Ontario Influenza Bulletin*: http://www.gov.on.ca/MOH/english/program/pubhealth/flu_bul/flubul_mn.html

Influenza Strains Circulating in Canada (1990 – 2002)

Influenza Season	Dominant Strain(s)	Additional Strains
1990 – 1991	B/Yamagata/16/88	A/England/427/88 A/Beijing/353/89 B/Guangdong/55/89 B/Hong Kong/22/89 B/Panama/45/90
1991 – 1992	A/Beijing/353/89(H3N2)	A/Taiwan/1/86(H1N1) B/Guangdong/55/89 B/Yamagata/16/88
1992 – 1993	A/Beijing/32/92(H3N2) B/Guangdong/55/89	A/Beijing/353/89 A/Shanghai/6/90 A/Texas/36/91(H1N1) A/Taiwan/1/86(H1N1) B/Yamagata/16/88
1993 – 1994	A/Beijing/32/92(H3N2)	A/Texas/36/91(H1N1) B/Qingdao/102/92
1994 – 1995	B/Qingdao/102/92(1) A/Shangdong/09/93(H3N2) A/Beijing/32/92(H3N2)	A/Johannesburg/33/94(H3N2) A/Texas/36/91(H1N1)
1995 – 1996	A/Texas/36/91(H1N1) A/Johannesburg/33/94(H3N2) B/Beijing/184/93	A/Taiwan/1/86(H1N1) A/Wuhan/356/95(H3N2)
1996 – 1997	A/Wuhan/356/95(H3N2)	B/Beijing/184/93