

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROFILES

Volume 2, Issue 5: October 2003

A bi-monthly newsletter from Disease Control Service, Public Health Branch for Ontario public health units

Grade 7 Hepatitis B Immunization for 2002 – 2003

The coverage rates for the 2002 – 2003 universal grade 7 hepatitis B vaccine are indicated in the table below:

Grade 7 Hepatitis B Program Coverage to 2000 – 2003									
	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Dose #1	93.00%	92.00%	96%	96.00%	95.00%	97.00%	93.00%	91%	91%
Dose #2	93%	90%	95%	94%	92%	94%	85%	84%	81%
Dose #3	87%	89%	94%	87%	84%	86%	N/A	N/A	N/A
# Eligible Students	141,529	141,215	144,612	140,217	146,354	144,566	147,931	154,352	160,343

Note: A two-dose schedule was implemented in the 2000/2001 school year.

Several health units experienced delays and cancellations of some second round clinics due to staff reassignments during the SARS outbreak in Ontario. This may account for the lower, second round coverage rate. Students who missed these clinics will be immunized as part of the 2003 – 2004 grade 8 fall catch-up program.

Source: STD/AIDS/Sexual Health Unit, Disease Control Service, Public Health Branch.

Influenza Surveillance Activity

Influenza surveillance has commenced for the 2003 – 2004 season. The National Advisory Committee on Influenza recommended components of the Canadian vaccine include: an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2)-like virus and either a B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like or B/Shangdong/7/97-like virus. The influenza A(H1N2) virus strain is a reassortment virus derived from the influenza A (H1N1) and A(H3N2) virus strains. This strain circulated widely during the 2001–2002 season and like last season the current vaccine is expected to provide protection against this virus. Visit the following web-sites for updates on influenza activity throughout the season, for local, national, and international data:

Ontario Influenza Bulletin: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/>

Quebec Flash Grippe: <http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/f/sujets/index.htm>

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Health Canada *FluWatch*: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/>

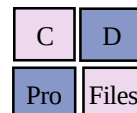
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Flu Reports*: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weeklychoice.htm>

European Influenza Surveillance Scheme

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(EISS): <http://www.eiss.org/index.cgi>

EuroGROG Bulletins (paneuropean)

<http://www.eurogrog.org/cgi-files/bulletin.cgi>

World Health Organization FluNet:

<http://rhone.b3e.jussieu.fr/flunet/www/>

Source: Influenza, ARO, Infection Control Unit, Disease Control Service, Public Health Branch.

Total Annual Influenza Deaths in Ontario

Influenza surveillance is a collaborative effort between provincial and territorial ministries of health, participating laboratories, The College of Family Physicians of Canada, sentinel physicians, and CIDPC. The 2003 – 2004 season of the *FluWatch* Reports now includes a section on SARS activity, reporting any local, national, and international data. Canada's last active probable SARS case was removed from the active list on September 19, 2003.

Source: Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada.

Number of Deaths Caused by Influenza in Ontario (1995 – 2000)*			
Year	# of Deaths (Male)	# of Deaths (Female)	Total
1995	23	39	62
1996	18	32	50
1997	44	71	115
1998	110	195	305
1999	66	158	224
2000	87	146	233

**Note: The figures for post-2000 are unavailable*

Comments: The number of deaths caused by influenza in 2000, are incompatible with the figures reported for the previous five years, due to refined category definitions in 2000.

Source: Health Planning System (HELPS), Population Health Service, Public Health Branch.

Health Canada Reporting SARS Updates in FluWatch

The Viral Respiratory Diseases Section, Division of Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC) produces weekly or biweekly *FluWatch* reports, summarizing influenza surveillance activities in Canada. Weekly reports are produced during the influenza season (October - May) and bi-weekly reports are produced during the off season (June - September).

Fall 2003 Public Health Education Days

The Fall 2003 Education Days will be held on Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5 at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, in downtown Toronto. Register for such informative sessions like Vaccine Cold Chain and the Power Outage, Tuberculosis Control, and West Nile Virus. The registration deadline is Friday November 14, 2003, so remember to register on-line:

<http://www.phb.ca/educationdays/Fall2003/Fall2003EdDaysHomePage.htm>

Source: Corporate Liaison and Resource Service, and Disease Control Service, Public Health Branch.

