



Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin | 2012-2013

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 24 and 25 (June 9, 2013 – June 22, 2013)

This issue of the Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from June 9, 2013 to June 22, 2013 (weeks 24 and 25). Unless otherwise specified, **data presented are for weeks 24 and 25**; data extraction and analysis for this issue occurred on Wednesday, June 26, 2013. 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 Respiratory Virus Bulletin on alternating weeks until November 2013. Influenza Activity Maps are available on the weeks that the Bulletin is not published.

Assessment of Influenza 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	There were 10 influenza cases (60% were influenza B) reported ¹ in weeks 24 and 25, compared to 22 cases reported in weeks 22 and 23. Percent positivity ² of laboratory tests for all influenza types in Ontario was 1.4% (0.4% influenza A; 1.0% influenza B) for weeks 24 and 25 combined, compared to 2.2% in weeks 22 and 23 combined.
Influenza outbreaks	Similar	No new influenza outbreaks were reported ³ in weeks 24 and 25. There were also four other outbreaks for which no aetiological agent was reported (Figure 2).
Influenza activity levels reported by health units	Similar	Three health units reported 'sporadic' levels of influenza activity in week 25 (Figure 3), which was the same as the number of health units reporting 'sporadic' activity in week 23.
ILI consultation rate reported by sentinels	Lower	The average provincial influenza-like-illness (ILI) consultation rate ⁴ in weeks 24 and 25 (17.63 per 1,000 patient visits) was lower than the average rate in weeks 22 and 23 (28.01 per 1,000 patient visits).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Lower	In weeks 24 and 25, overall the indicators show that influenza activity was lower than in weeks 22 and 23.

1. The number of **reported** cases needs to be interpreted with caution because there is a lag between the onset of illness, hospital admission or death and when this information is reported to public health. 2. Positivity reflects positive specimens reported to Public Health Ontario by the Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases (CIRID). 3. The number of new outbreaks reported for the current week is based on the onset date of illness for the first case in an outbreak. 4. Small numbers of sentinels reporting can make the ILI rates unstable. Please interpret these data correspondingly.

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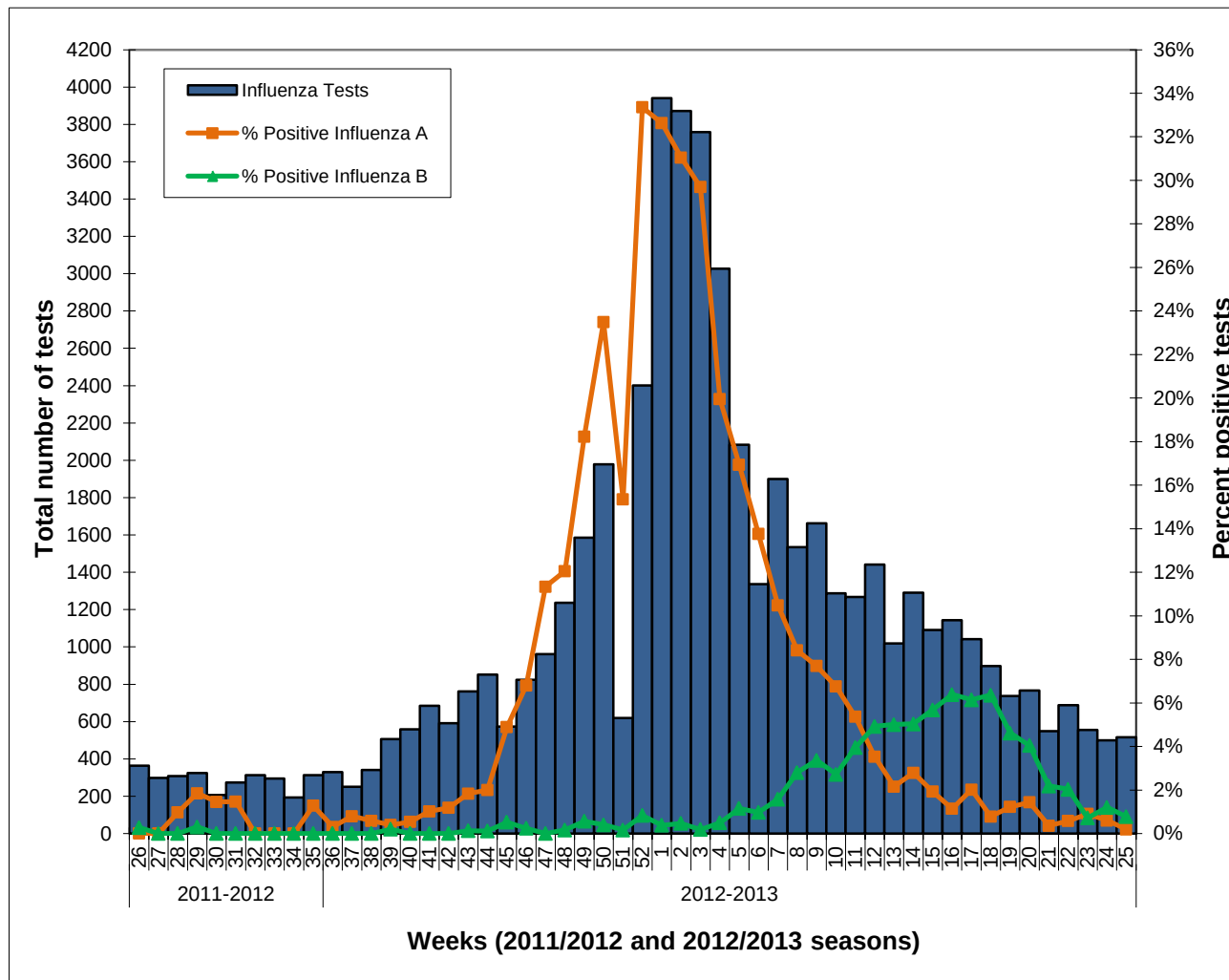
Highlights of all other respiratory virus activity in Ontario

For weeks 24 and 25 compared to weeks 22 and 23

- Among all other circulating respiratory viruses, entero/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity (11.4%) in weeks 24 and 25 combined, which was similar to weeks 22 and 23 combined (11.2%).¹
- Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity (5.8%) in weeks 24 and 25 combined, which was higher than weeks 22 and 23 combined (9.1%).¹
- In weeks 24 and 25, a total of five new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported, including one outbreak of entero/rhinovirus and four outbreaks with no organisms reported (Figure 2). For the 2012-2013 season to date, a total of 1,314 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported.

1. Positivity among specimens submitted for testing to laboratories reporting to the Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases (CIRID).

Figure 1. Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests by report week: Ontario, June 24, 2012 to June 22, 2013



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). These data have been obtained from the PHAC Respiratory Virus Detection tables from 16 labs in Ontario and do not include data from late reports to PHAC. Please note that the last versions of data received from PHAC as of 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 2013 were used.

Notes:

The data in the figure is based on when test results are reported.

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

The numbers reported in this table represent respiratory viruses identified in both Public Health Ontario Laboratories and other microbiology laboratories in Ontario.

These data represent the number of specimens tested which may not necessarily correspond with the number of patients as more than one specimen may have been submitted per patient.

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Table 1. Number and percent positivity (in brackets) of respiratory specimens tested by all methods for influenza and other respiratory viruses: Ontario, weeks 24 and 25 and cumulative for the 2012-2013 season

Detected viruses	Number and percent positive specimens			Total number of specimens tested		
	Week 24 n (%)	Week 25 n (%)	Cumulative n (%)	Week 24 n	Week 25 n	Cumulative n
Influenza (All)	9 (1.80)	5 (0.97)	9,235 (16.00)	499	516	57,725
Influenza A	3 (0.60)	1 (0.19)	8,283 (14.35)	499	516	57,725
Influenza B	6 (1.20)	4 (0.78)	952 (1.65)	499	516	57,725
Parainfluenza virus	25 (5.84)	25 (5.83)	1,472 (3.19)	428	429	46,206
Adenovirus	4 (0.93)	1 (0.23)	305 (0.66)	428	429	46,040
Respiratory syncytial virus	11 (2.20)	9 (1.75)	4,114 (8.02)	499	513	51,270
Enterovirus	21 (10.94)	20 (11.98)	1,533 (7.38)	192	167	20,785
Human metapneumovirus	5 (1.24)	6 (1.50)	1,137 (2.67)	403	400	42,571
Coronavirus	3 (1.94)	0 (0)	606 (3.78)	155	134	16,027

Source: Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). 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 24 and 25, 2013. Please note that the last versions of data received from PHAC as of 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 2013 were used.

Notes:

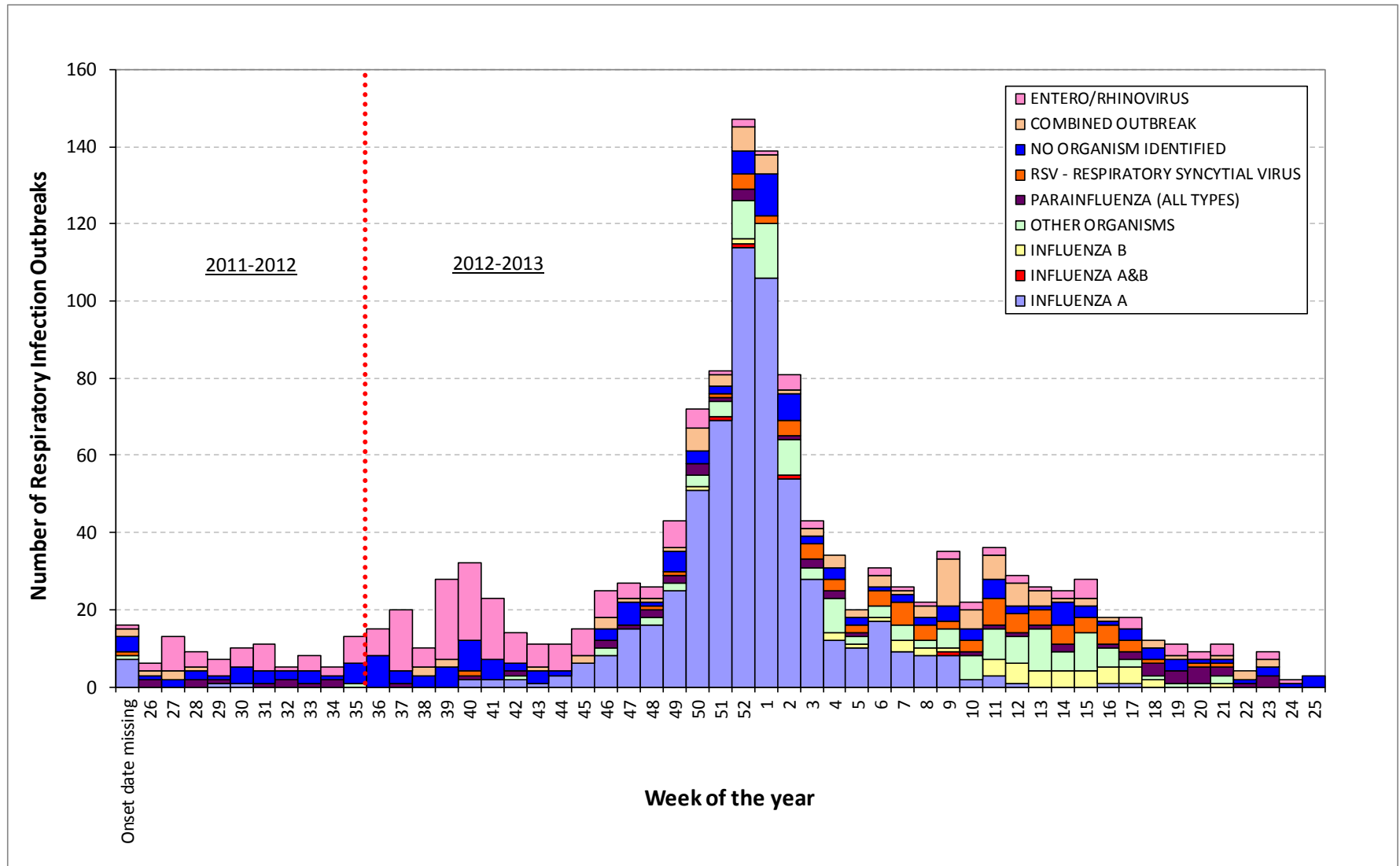
The data in this table is based on when test results are reported. Total numbers reported include late reports from previous weeks; therefore, totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

Cumulative numbers include reports from week 35, as reporting by PHAC includes week 35 as part of the 2012-2013 season. Cumulative numbers for the season to date are also available through FluWatch: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

The numbers reported in this table represent respiratory viruses identified at both Public Health Ontario Laboratories and other laboratories in Ontario.

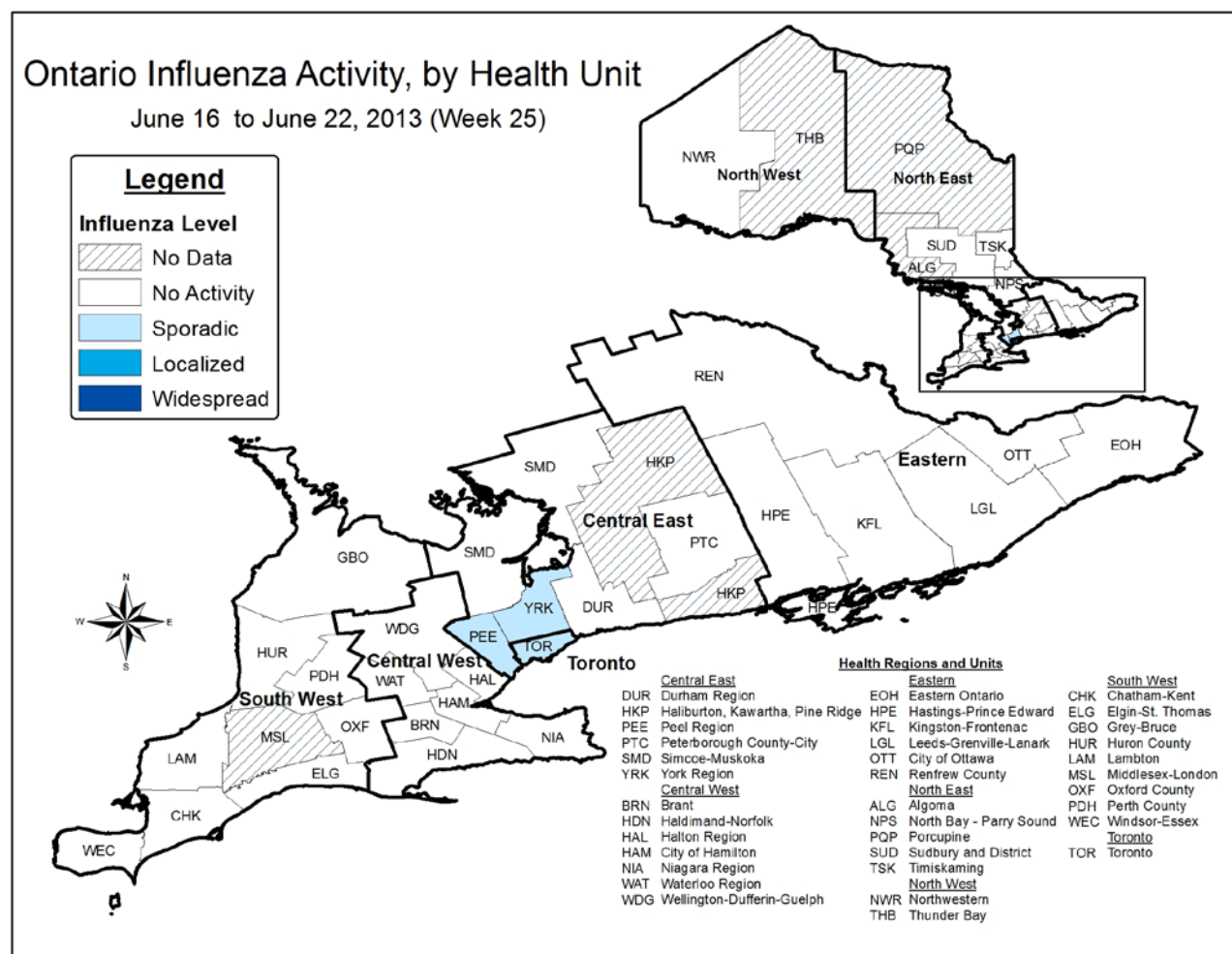
These data represent the number of specimens tested which may not necessarily correspond with the number of patients as more than one specimen may have been submitted per patient.

Figure 2. Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks by week of illness onset in the first case: Ontario, June 24, 2012 to June 22, 2013



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2013/06/26].

Figure 3. Influenza activity levels by health unit: Ontario, week 25



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

Note: 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 4:00 p.m. 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 2012-2013 season](#).