



Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin | 2012-2013

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 30 and 31 (July 21, 2013 – August 3, 2013)

This issue of the Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from July 21, 2013 to August 3, 2013 (weeks 30 and 31). Unless otherwise specified, **data presented are for weeks 30 and 31**; data extraction and analysis for this issue occurred on Wednesday, August 7, 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 during 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	Similar	There were two influenza cases (both influenza A) reported ¹ in weeks 30 and 31, compared to three cases reported in weeks 28 and 29. Percent positivity ² of laboratory tests for all influenza types in Ontario was 0% for weeks 30 and 31 combined, compared to 0.7% in weeks 28 and 29 combined.
Influenza outbreaks	Similar	No new influenza outbreaks were reported ³ in weeks 30 and 31. There were two other outbreaks for which no aetiological agent was reported (Figure 2).
Influenza activity levels reported by health units	Lower	Health units reported 'no activity' in week 31 (Figure 3), which was lower compared to two health units reporting 'sporadic' level influenza activity in week 29.
ILI consultation rate reported by sentinels	Similar	The average provincial influenza-like-illness (ILI) consultation rate ⁴ in weeks 30 and 31 (18.83 per 1,000 patient visits) was similar to the average rate in weeks 28 and 29 (17.15 per 1,000 patient visits).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	Similar	In weeks 30 and 31, overall the indicators show that influenza activity was similar to weeks 28 and 29.

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.

Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin, 2012-2013 (Weeks 30 and 31: July 21, 2013 – August 3, 2013)

Highlights of all other respiratory virus activity in Ontario

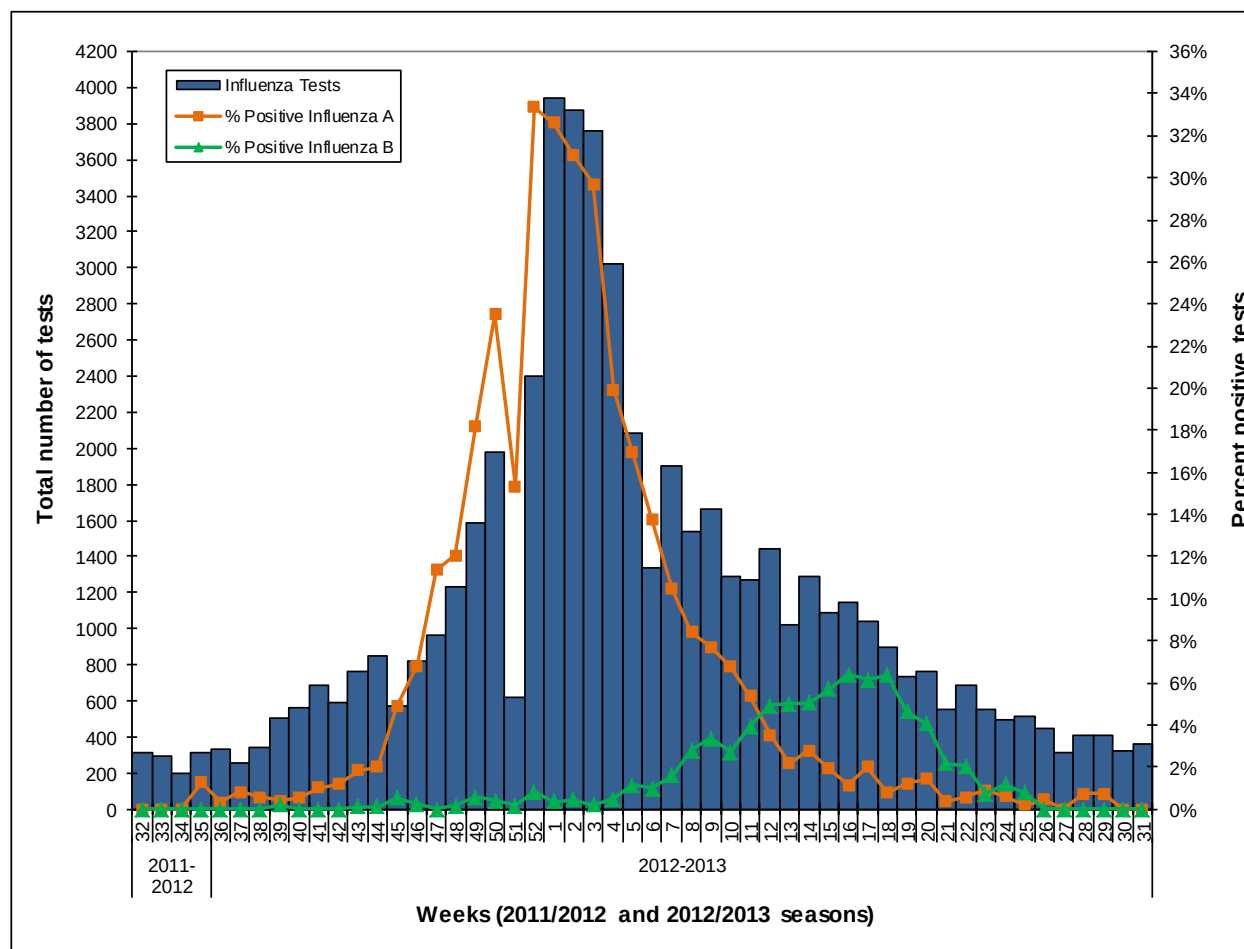
For weeks 30 and 31 compared to weeks 28 and 29

- Among all other circulating respiratory viruses, entero/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity (11.7%) in weeks 30 and 31 combined, which was lower than weeks 28 and 29 combined (19.7%).¹
- Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity (6.7%) in weeks 30 and 31 combined, which was lower than weeks 28 and 29 combined (7.0%).¹
- In weeks 30 and 31, a total of five new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were identified, including one combined outbreak², two entero/rhinovirus outbreaks, and two outbreaks with no organism reported (Figure 2). For the 2012-2013 season to date, a total of 1,364 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).

2. Combined outbreaks include outbreaks where more than one non-influenza organism has been identified (e.g. respiratory syncytial virus and, parainfluenza virus).

Figure 1. Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests by report week: Ontario, August 5, 2012 to August 3, 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 9:30 a.m. on August 7, 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.

Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin, 2012-2013 (Weeks 30 and 31: July 21, 2013 – August 3, 2013)

Table 1. Number and percent positivity (in brackets) of respiratory specimens tested by all methods for influenza and other respiratory viruses: Ontario, weeks 30 and 31 and cumulative for the 2012-2013 season

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 (All)	0 (0)	0 (0)	9,244 (15.35)	321	361	60,204
Influenza A	0 (0)	0 (0)	8,291 (13.77)	321	361	60,204
Influenza B	0 (0)	0 (0)	953 (1.58)	321	361	60,204
Parainfluenza virus	22 (6.81)	20 (6.64)	1,623 (3.36)	323	301	48,355
Adenovirus	2 (0.62)	2 (0.66)	320 (0.66)	323	301	48,189
Respiratory syncytial virus	3 (0.93)	4 (1.12)	4,133 (7.69)	323	358	53,741
Enterovirus	16 (11.51)	11 (12.09)	1,683 (7.77)	139	91	21,659
Human metapneumovirus	1 (0.33)	0 (0)	1,151 (2.58)	300	277	44,595
Coronavirus	1 (0.88)	0 (0)	611 (3.65)	113	63	16,748

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 30 and 31, 2013. Please note that the last versions of data received from PHAC as of 2:30 p.m. on August 7, 2013 were used.

Notes:

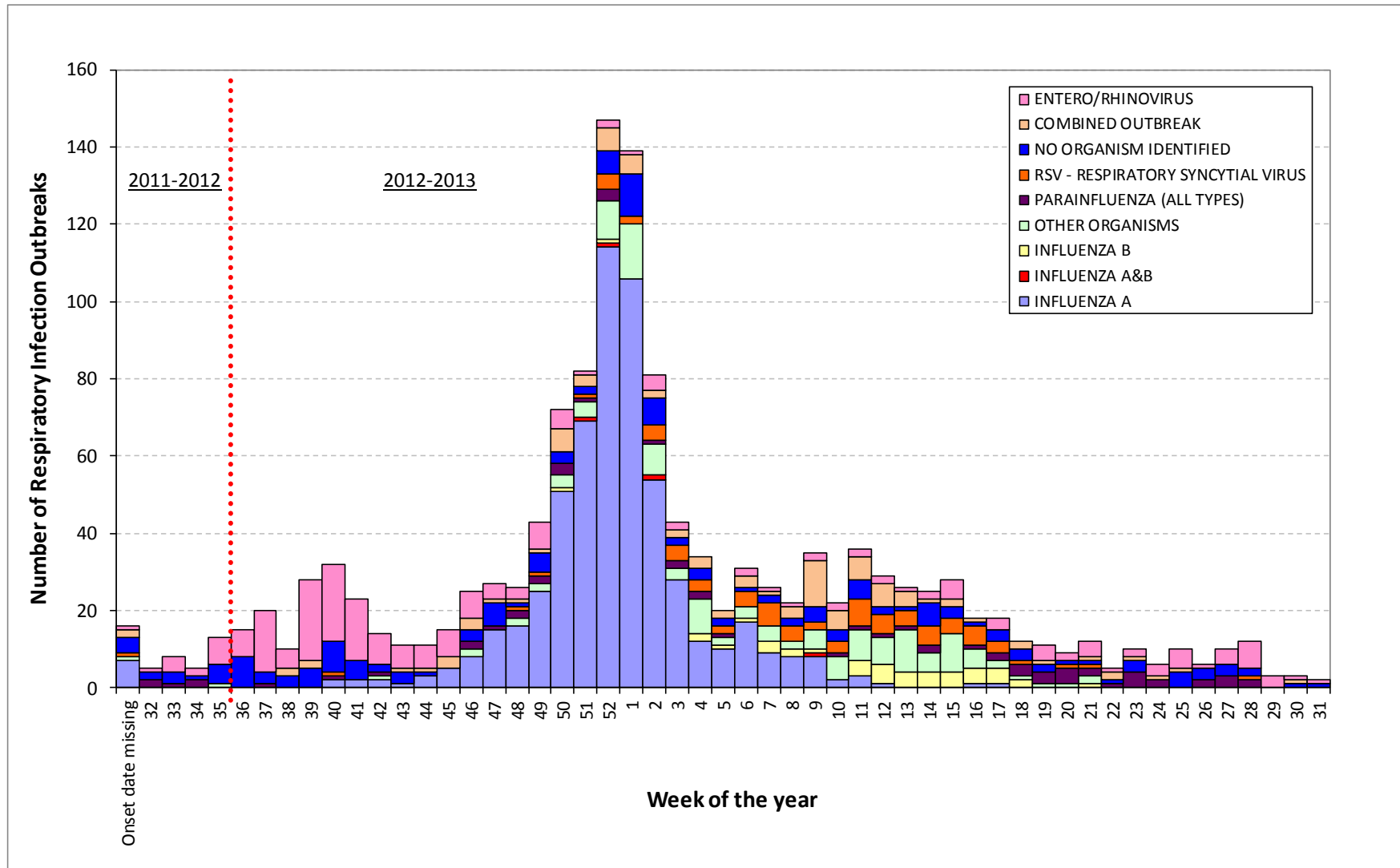
The data in this table is based on when test results are reported. Total numbers reported include late reports from previous weeks; therefore, totals may not be equal to the sum of the weekly numbers.

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, August 5, 2012 to August 3, 2013



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2013/08/07].

