



Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin | 2013-2014

SURVEILLANCE WEEKS 42 and 43 (October 13, 2013 – October 26, 2013)

This issue of the Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin provides information on the surveillance period from October 13, 2013 to October 26, 2013 (weeks 42 and 43). Unless otherwise specified, **data presented are for weeks 42 and 43**; data extraction and analysis for this issue occurred on Wednesday, October 30, 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 this is the final issue of the abbreviated biweekly Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin. Starting November 8, 2013, Public Health Ontario will publish the Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin weekly. Abbreviated biweekly versions of the bulletin and Ontario Influenza Activity Maps will resume in the spring of 2014.

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	Slightly higher	There were eight influenza cases (five influenza A and three influenza B) reported ¹ in weeks 42 and 43, compared to four influenza cases (all influenza A) reported in weeks 40 and 41. Percent positivity ² of laboratory tests for all influenza types in Ontario was 0.7% (0.5% influenza A and 0.2% influenza B) for weeks 42 and 43 combined, compared to 0.4% in weeks 40 and 41 combined.
Influenza outbreaks	Similar	No new influenza outbreaks were reported ³ in weeks 42 and 43. There were four outbreaks for which no aetiological agent was reported (Figure 2).
Influenza activity levels reported by health units	Slightly higher	Three health units reported 'sporadic activity' in week 43 (Figure 3), which is slightly higher than the influenza activity reported by health units from week 41.
ILI consultation rate reported by sentinels	Lower	The average provincial influenza-like-illness (ILI) consultation rate ⁴ in weeks 42 and 43 (27.90 per 1,000 patient visits) was lower compared to the average rate in weeks 40 and 41 (39.09 per 1,000 patient visits).
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	<i>Slightly higher</i>	In weeks 42 and 43, overall the indicators show that influenza activity was slightly higher compared to weeks 40 and 41.

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 among specimens submitted for testing to Ontario laboratories reporting to 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, 2013-2014 season
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Highlights of all other respiratory virus activity in Ontario

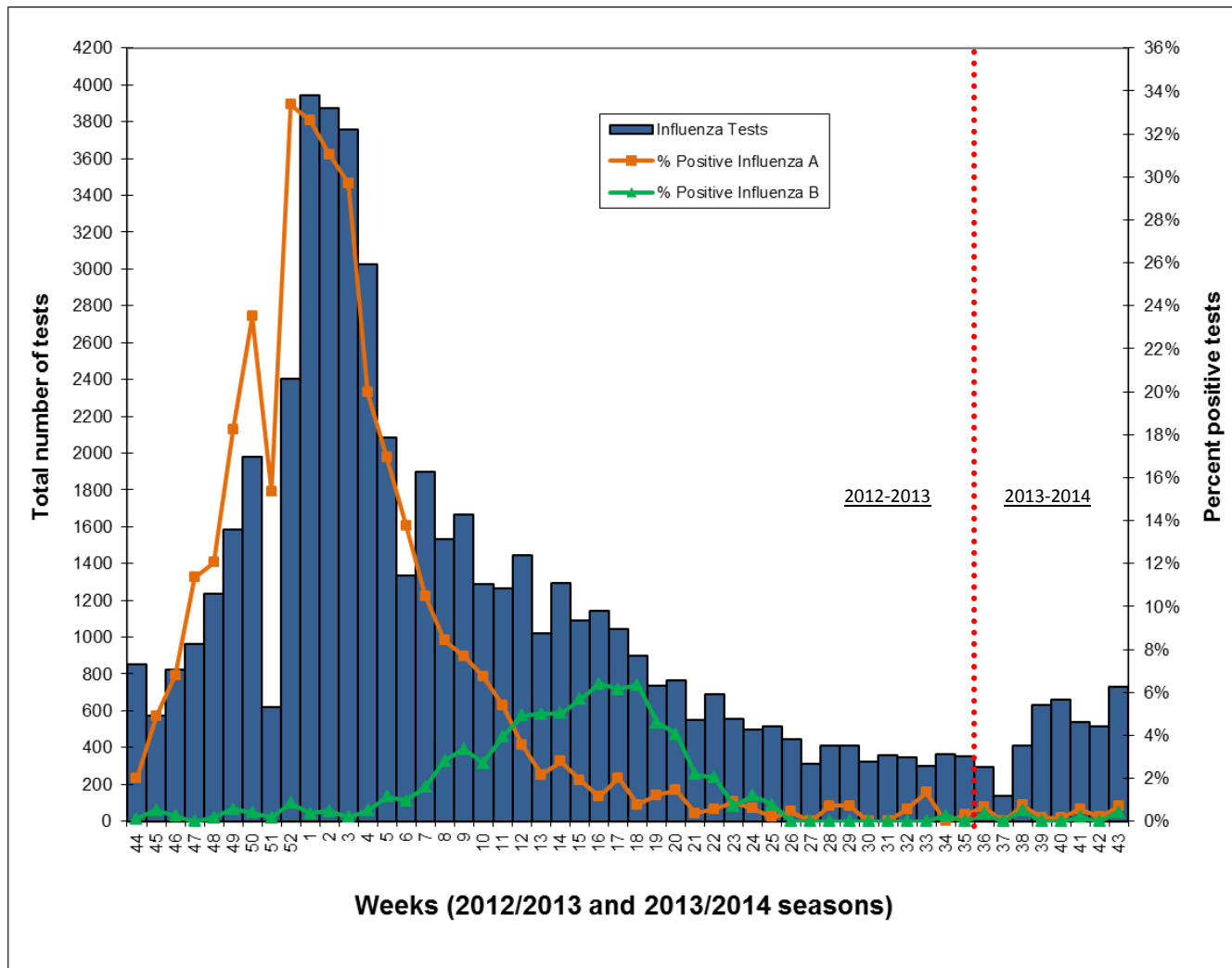
For weeks 42 and 43 compared to weeks 40 and 41

- Among all other circulating respiratory viruses, enterovirus/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity (24.0%) in weeks 42 and 43 combined, which was lower than weeks 40 and 41 combined (28.1%).¹
- Parainfluenza virus had the second highest percent positivity (5.3%) in weeks 42 and 43 combined, which was slightly higher than weeks 40 and 41 combined (3.6%).¹
- In weeks 42 and 43, a total of 11 new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks were reported, including five enterovirus/rhinovirus outbreaks, two parainfluenza outbreaks, and four outbreaks with no organism reported (Figure 2). For the 2013-2014 season to date, a total of 95 institutional respiratory infection outbreaks have been reported.

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

Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin, 2013-2014 season
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Figure 1. Total number of influenza tests performed and percent of positive tests by report week: Ontario, October 28, 2012 to October 26, 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 10:30 a.m. on October 30, 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 that perform testing for influenza 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, 2013-2014 season
Weeks 42 and 43: October 13, 2013 – October 26, 2013

Table 1. Number and percent positivity (in brackets) of respiratory specimens tested by all methods for influenza and other respiratory viruses: Ontario, weeks 42 and 43 and cumulative for the 2013-2014 season

Detected viruses	Number and percent positive specimens			Total number of specimens tested		
	Week 42 n (%)	Week 43 n (%)	Cumulative n (%)	Week 42 n	Week 43 n	Cumulative n
Influenza (All)	1 (0.19)	8 (1.09)	20 (0.40)	518	731	4,935
Influenza A	1 (0.19)	5 (0.68)	14 (0.28)	518	731	4,935
Influenza B	0 (0)	3 (0.41)	6 (0.12)	518	731	4,935
Parainfluenza virus	25 (5.43)	33 (5.16)	178 (4.02)	460	639	4,428
Adenovirus	6 (1.30)	5 (0.78)	34 (0.77)	460	639	4,428
Respiratory syncytial virus	6 (1.17)	10 (1.37)	54 (1.10)	514	729	4,922
Enterovirus	71 (30.74)	52 (18.51)	499 (23.78)	231	281	2,098
Human metapneumovirus	0 (0)	3 (0.49)	9 (0.21)	433	614	4,213
Coronavirus	0 (0)	1 (0.48)	11 (0.70)	192	209	1,575

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 42 and 43, 2013. Please note that the last versions of data received from PHAC as of 10:30 a.m. on October 30, 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.

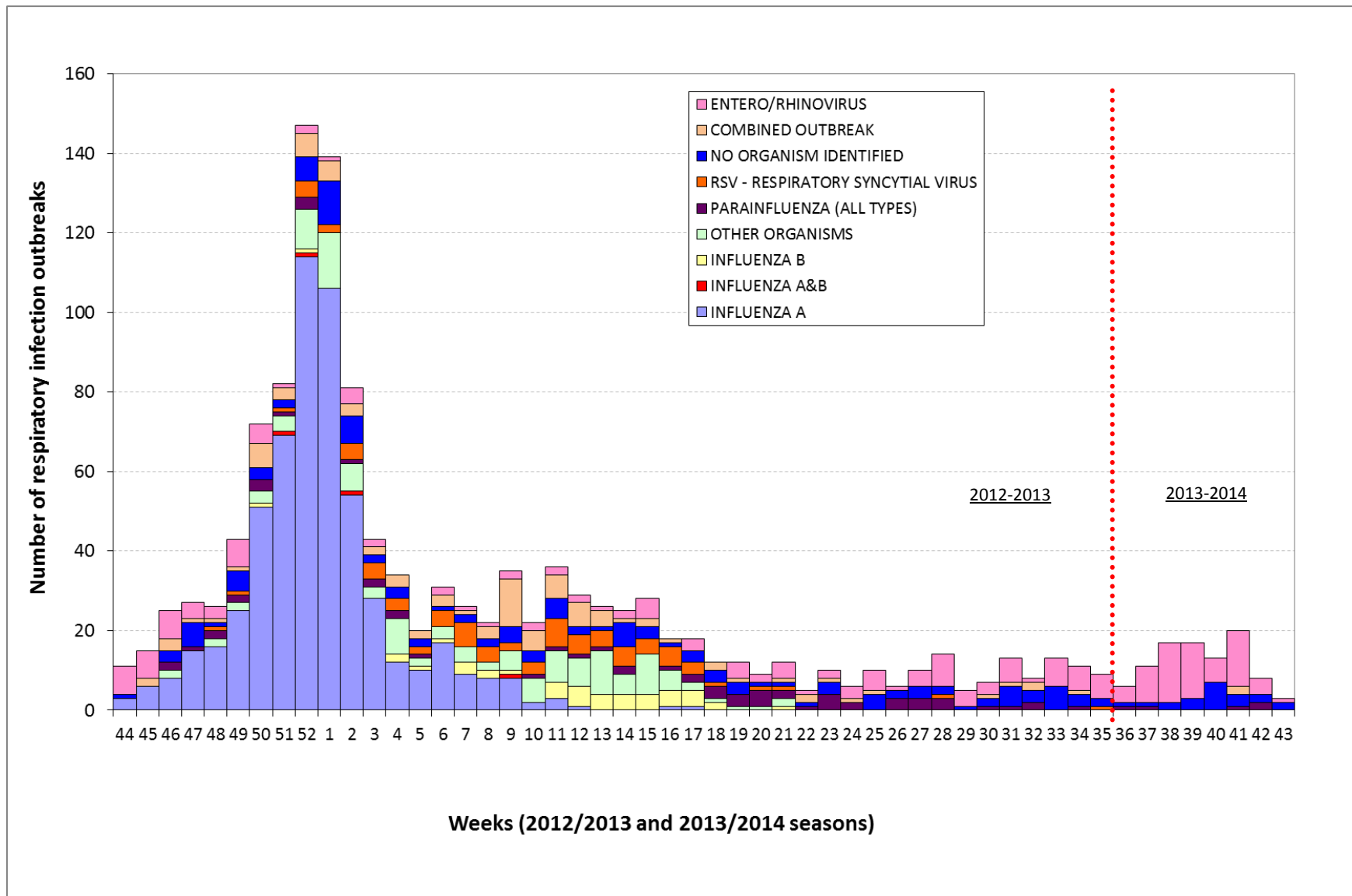
Cumulative numbers include reports from week 35, as PHAC includes week 35 as part of the 2013-2014 season.

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.

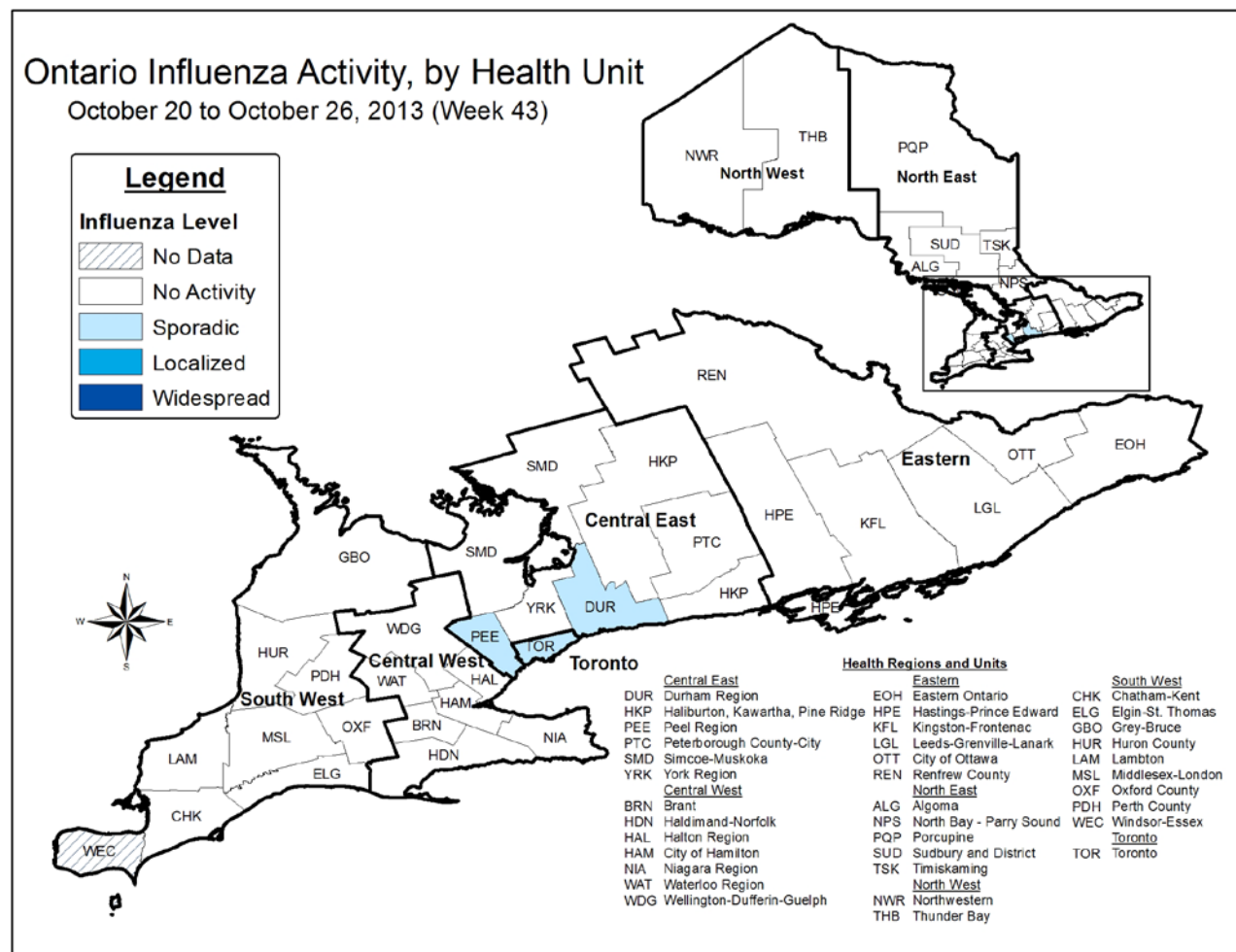
These data represent the number of specimens tested which may not necessarily correspond with the number of patients as more than one specimen may have been submitted per patient.

Figure 2. Institutional respiratory infection outbreaks by week of illness onset in the first case: Ontario, October 28, 2012 to October 26, 2013



Source: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by Public Health Ontario [2013/10/30].

Figure 3. Influenza activity levels by health unit: Ontario, week 43



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.