

Ontario Influenza Bulletin

Early Summer Edition

Vol. 8, Issue 11 Weeks 25 - 26 (June 19 – July 2, 2005)

Introduction

The current issue of the Ontario Influenza Bulletin summarizes influenza activity during weeks 25 - 26. It covers the time period from June 19 to July 2, 2005.

Influenza activity continued to decline in Ontario during weeks 25 - 26. Central West and East regions reported sporadic activity. Other regions in Ontario reported localized activity in weeks 25 to 26 while the rest of the country experienced either sporadic or no activity.

Influenza Activity in Ontario

During the period of influenza surveillance between June 19 and July 2, 2005 (reporting weeks 25-26), a total of two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A were reported by Ontario laboratories to the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (CIDPC). No influenza B isolates were reported during weeks 25-26.

Throughout this period there were no cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), 31 cases of parainfluenza virus (PIV) and 8 cases of adenoviruses, all of which were laboratory-confirmed (Appendix 1).

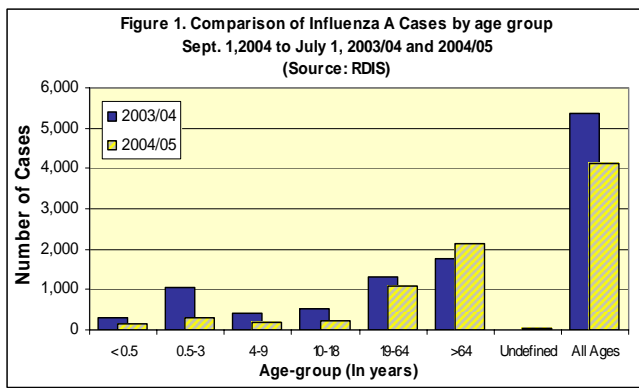
Including late reports, a total of 3,834 influenza A, 1,309 influenza B, 2,846 RSV, 790 PIV and 398 adenoviruses were reported to the CIDPC between August 22, 2004 and July 2, 2005.

Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS)

Between June 19 and July 2, 2005, there were no new cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and B reported to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) through iPHIS by 20 of Ontario's health units. Appendix 2a reflects the number of influenza cases reported by each health unit through iPHIS since their Go-live date.

Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS)

Between June 18 and July 1, 2005, a total of two laboratory-confirmed sporadic cases of influenza A and 3 laboratory-confirmed sporadic cases of influenza B were reported to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) through RDIS by 8 of Ontario's health units. The total number of lab-confirmed cases of influenza A and B reported between September 1, 2004 and July 1, 2005 were 4,113 and 1,240, respectively (Appendix 2b). The total number of influenza A is more than two thirds (76.7%) of the total number of cases for all age groups in same period of time for last season (Figure 1).



Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks

From June 19 to July 2, 2005, 8 respiratory infection outbreaks were reported by Ontario's health units to the MOHLTC (Appendix 3). None of the reports were due to influenza A or B. Three laboratory-confirmed outbreaks were due to parainfluenza. Four identified outbreaks reported no causative organism/s. Note that the laboratory result for one outbreak was pending by end of week 26. The majority (75%) of respiratory infection outbreaks occurred in Long-Term Care Homes (6/8).

(Source: Appendix D's-preliminary reports and E's-final reports)

Taken together, data from the CIDPC, RDIS, iPHIS and the Respiratory Infection Outbreak Database indicated comparatively lower activity in Ontario during the period from June 19 to July 2, 2005 than from June 5 to June 18, 2005.

Influenza Activity in Canada

A summary of influenza activity in Canada as reported in FluWatch is provided below.

Influenza activity continued to decrease across the country during weeks 25 and 26, covering June 19 to July 2, 2005 (Table 1). Localized activity was reported in part of Ontario during weeks 25 and 26.

In Ontario, influenza activity continued to be reported as localized in Central East, South West and North regions during weeks 25 and 26 (Table 2).

The number of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) seen by sentinel physicians in Canada from June 19 to July 2, 2005 was reported as 4/1,000 office visits.

Additional information on influenza activity in Canada can be found at:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

In Ontario, the number of patients with ILI seen by sentinel physicians ranged from 3/1,000 office visits (week 26 ending July 2, 2005) to 11/1,000 office visits (week 25, ending June 25, 2005).

Table 1: Influenza activity in Canada by Province, June 19 to July 2, 2005 (Weeks 25 to 26).

Province	Week 25 June 19-25, 2005	Week 26 June 26-July 2, 2005
Ontario	3	3
Newfoundland	1	1
Prince Edward Isl.	1	1
Nova Scotia	1	1
New Brunswick	1	1
Quebec	1	1
Manitoba	1	1
Saskatchewan	1	1
Alberta	1	1
British Columbia	2	2

Table 2: Influenza activity in Ontario by Region, June 19 to July 2, 2005 (Weeks 25 to 26).

Region	Week 25 June 19-25, 2005	Week 26 June 26-July 2, 2005
Ontario	3	3
East	3	2
Central East	3	3
Central West	2	2
South West	3	3
North	3	3

Strain Characterization

A total of 1,085 influenza viruses were characterized by National Microbiology Lab between August 22, 2004 and June 18, 2005. Of these, 886 cases were identified as influenza A (H3N2), including 58.1% (515/886) of A/Fujian/411/02-like. Since February 17, 2005; 371 isolates were identified as A/California/7/04. For the same period of time 199 influenza B isolates, (159 were B/Shanghai/361/02-like viruses and 40 B/Hong Kong/330/01-like viruses) were also identified (table 3).

Table 3: Influenza strains identified by the NML August 22, 2004 to July 2, 2005

Strain	No. (%)
A/Fujian/411/02-like virus	515 (47.5)
A/California/7/04-like virus	371 (34.2)
B/Shanghai/361/02-like virus	159 (14.6)
B/Hong Kong/330/01-like virus	40 (3.7)

Please note that NML has suspended antigenic characterization for the summer as of June 4, 2005.

Appendix 1. Respiratory viruses isolated and reported to the CIDPC, June 19 to July 2, 2005 (2004/05 Season)

Organism	Influenza Viruses			Other Respiratory Viruses							
	Time interval	A & B	A	B	RSV	PIV1	PIV2	PIV3	PIV4	Other PIVs	Adenoviruses
Total until June 18, 2005 (Week 24)		[5141]	[3832]	[1309]	[2846]	[167]	[38]	[526]	[16]	[9]	[389]
Week ending June 25, 2005 (week 25)		0[5141]	0[3832]	0[1309]	0[2846]	8[175]	0[38]	13[539]	0[16]	0[9]	3[392]
Week ending July 2, 2005 (week 26)		2[5143]	2[3834]	0[1309]	0[2846]	2[177]	0[38]	8[547]	0[16]	0[9]	5[397]
Number of late reports, from August 22, 2004 to July 2, 2005		[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[1]	[0]	[2]	[0]	[0]	[1]
Total number of isolates, August 22, 2004 to July 2, 2005*		[5143]	[3834]	[1309]	[2846]	[178]	[38]	[549]	[16]	[9]	[398]

[] Accumulative numbers from August 22, 2004

* Late reports are included

Appendix 2a. Weekly Lab-Confirmed Cases of Influenza by Health unit, week 25 - 26 (Source: iPHIS)

Health Unit	Week 25, June 19 -25, 2005			Week 26, June 26 – July 2, 2005		
	Undefined type±	Influenza A	Influenza B	Undefined type±	Influenza A	Influenza B
Algoma	[1]	[0]	[0]	[1]	[0]	[0]
Grey-Bruce	[3]	[10]	[2]	[3]	[10]	[2]
Simcoe - Muskoka	[0]	[11]	[9]	[0]	[11]	[9]
Thunder Bay	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Sudbury	[0]	[0]	[3]	[0]	[0]	[3]
North Bay - Parry Sound	[2]	[0]	[3]	[2]	[0]	[3]
Northwestern	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Wellington - Dufferin - Guelph	[24]	[0]	[0]	[24]	[0]	[0]
Brant	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Waterloo*	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Haldimand-Norfolk*	[0]	[0]	[16]	[0]	[0]	[16]
Hamilton*	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Elgin – St. Thomas	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Middlesex – London	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Perth	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox* & Addington	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Leeds, Grenville and Lanark* District	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Huron County**	[0]	[0]	[0]	[1]	[0]	[0]
Eastern Ontario**	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Porcupine**	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]	[0]
Total	0 [31]	0 [21]	0 [33]	0 [31]	0 [21]	0 [33]

[] Cumulative number from Go-live date ,2005

* Reporting to iPHIS from June 6, 2005 ** Reporting to iPHIS from June 13, 2005

± Type of influenza, i.e. A vs B, was not specified in iPHIS (i.e. Influenza subtype dropdown menu left blank or reported as unspecified)

Please note that these data are preliminary and subject to change

Appendix 2b. Weekly Lab-Confirmed Cases of Influenza by Health unit, week 25 - 26 (Source: RDIS)

Health Unit	Week 25, June 18-24, 2005		Weeks 26, June 25-July 1, 2005	
	Influenza A	Influenza B	Influenza A	Influenza B
Algoma*	[53]	[3]	[53]	[3]
Brant±	[58]	[11]	[58]	[11]
Chatham - Kent	[48]	[3]	[48]	[3]
Durham	[112]	[54]	[112]	1 [55]
Eastern Ontario	[89]	[26]	[89]	[26]
Elgin - St. Thomas	[5]	[0]	[5]	[0]
Grey-Bruce*	[45]	[11]	[45]	[11]
Haldimand-Norfolk#	[32]	[10]	[32]	[10]
Haliburton KPR	[91]	[48]	1 [92]	[48]
Halton	[174]	[73]	[174]	[73]
Hamilton-Wentworth#	[275]	[106]	[275]	[106]
Hasting – P.E.	[95]	[19]	[95]	[19]
Huron	[50]	[5]	[50]	[5]
Kingston & FLA	[84]	[14]	[84]	[14]
Lambton	[42]	[10]	[42]	[10]
Leeds - Grenville	[30]	[10]	[30]	[10]
Middlesex-London	[41]	[4]	[41]	[4]
Muskoka-Parry Sound**	[76]	[1]	[76]	[1]
Niagara	[113]	[27]	[113]	1 [28]
Northwest±	[32]	[8]	[32]	[8]
North Bay - Parry Sound+	[82]	[4]	[82]	[4]
Ottawa-Carleton	[220]	[48]	[220]	[48]
Oxford	[40]	[4]	[40]	[4]
Peel	[282]	[162]	[282]	[162]
Perth	[55]	[15]	[55]	[15]
Peterborough	[58]	[28]	[58]	[28]
Porcupine	[89]	[18]	[89]	[18]
Renfrew	[23]	[2]	[23]	[2]
Simcoe - Muskoka*	[165]	[38]	[165]	[38]
Sudbury+	[46]	[13]	[46]	[13]
Timiskaming	[48]	[2]	[48]	[2]
Thunder Bay*	[20]	[4]	[20]	[4]
Toronto	[632]	1 [303]	1 [633]	1 [303]
Waterloo#	[231]	[38]	[231]	[38]
Wellington - Dufferin - Guelph±	[98]	[19]	[98]	[19]
Windsor - Essex	[30]	[10]	[30]	[10]
York	[447]	[87]	[447]	[87]
Total	[4111]	1 [1238]	2 [4113]	2 [1240]

[] Cumulative number from September 1, 2004 * Reporting to iPHIS from April 1, 2005 +Reporting to iPHIS from April 18, 2005

** No longer exists as of April 1, 2005 ±Reporting to iPHIS from April 25, 2005 # Reporting to iPHIS from May 9, 2005

Appendix 3. Respiratory infection outbreaks in Institutions from June 19 to July 2, 2005				
Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	June 19-June 25, 2005 (week 25)		June 26-July 2, 2005 (week 26)	
Total Respiratory Infection Outbreaks	4	[990]*	4	[994]*
Influenza A	0		0	
Influenza A & B	0		0	
Influenza A & other organism/s	0		0	
Influenza B	0		0	
Influenza B & other organism/s	0		0	
Other organisms	2		1	
No organism isolated	1		3	
Laboratory results pending	1		0	
No specimen sent for laboratory testing	0		0	
Ongoing Outbreaks	2		4	
Influenza A	0		0	
Influenza A & B	0		0	
Influenza A & other organism/s	0		0	
Influenza B	0		0	
Influenza B & other organism/s	0		0	
Other organisms	1		1	
No organism isolated	0		3	
Laboratory results pending	1		0	
No specimen sent for laboratory testing	0		0	
Types of Institutions				
LTCHs	3		3	
Hospitals	0		0	
Other±	1		1	
Total Outbreaks from September 1, 2004	[1089]#		[1093]#	

[] The number represents the total number of Institutional Outbreaks from the beginning of this season.

*Late reports are not included and subject to change # Late reports are included as of July 21, 2005

±Retirement Homes > 10 beds, children's residences, facilities operated under the *Developmental Services Act* etc.