

WEEKLY NEW BRUNSWICK INFLUENZA REPORT
Reporting period: April 22, 2012 – April 28, 2012 (week 17)

Summary

In New Brunswick, a decrease on a few indicators was observed for week 17

New Brunswick:

- There have been 28 positive influenza detections during week 17, 4 influenza A (H3), 1 influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and 23 influenza B.
- The ILI consultation rate was low and is within the expected range for this time of year.
- 3 new ILI school outbreaks were reported, all in region 2.

Canada:

- Overall influenza activity in Canada continues to decline; however several regions are still reporting elevated influenza activity (i.e. Atlantic Region, Ontario, Quebec & the Prairies).
- 524 laboratory detections of influenza were reported, proportion of positive tests was 15.2%. To date this season, influenza B remains the predominant virus type circulating in provinces east of Saskatchewan.
- The ILI consultation rate was within the expected levels for this time of year. 20 influenza or ILI outbreaks were reported: 8 in long-term care facilities, 6 in schools and 6 in other settings.

International:

- The most commonly detected virus type or subtype throughout Europe and North America (except Mexico) has been influenza A(H3N2), although the proportion of influenza B detections has increased toward the end of the season in North America. In Mexico, influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 has been the most common influenza virus circulating; and the tropical countries of Asia are still reporting a predominance of influenza type B.

1) Influenza Laboratory Data¹

- A decrease was observed on a few indicators for week 17.
- 28 influenza detections were reported during that period.
- Since the beginning of the season, 291 positive influenza detections have been reported; 33 were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 (11%), 24 were influenza A (H3)(8%) and 234 were influenza B viruses(81%).

¹ Surveillance specimens are submitted by recruited New Brunswick Sentinel Practitioner Influenza Network (NB SPIN) practitioners, which are comprised of 7 sites in Emergency Rooms, 5 sites in Family Practice, 3 sites in First Nations communities, 1 site in a Nursing Home, 3 sites in Universities and 8 sites in Community Health Centers. Diagnostic specimens are submitted by physicians in the community/hospital setting. Influenza laboratory data is comprised of results from surveillance and diagnostic specimens. All laboratory specimens are tested using a real-time PCR assay, which is a rapid detection method designed for detection of all known variants of influenza A and B. All laboratory-confirmed cases are reported for the week when laboratory confirmation was received.

Graph 1: Number and percent of positive influenza specimens in New Brunswick, by week, up to April 28, 2012 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

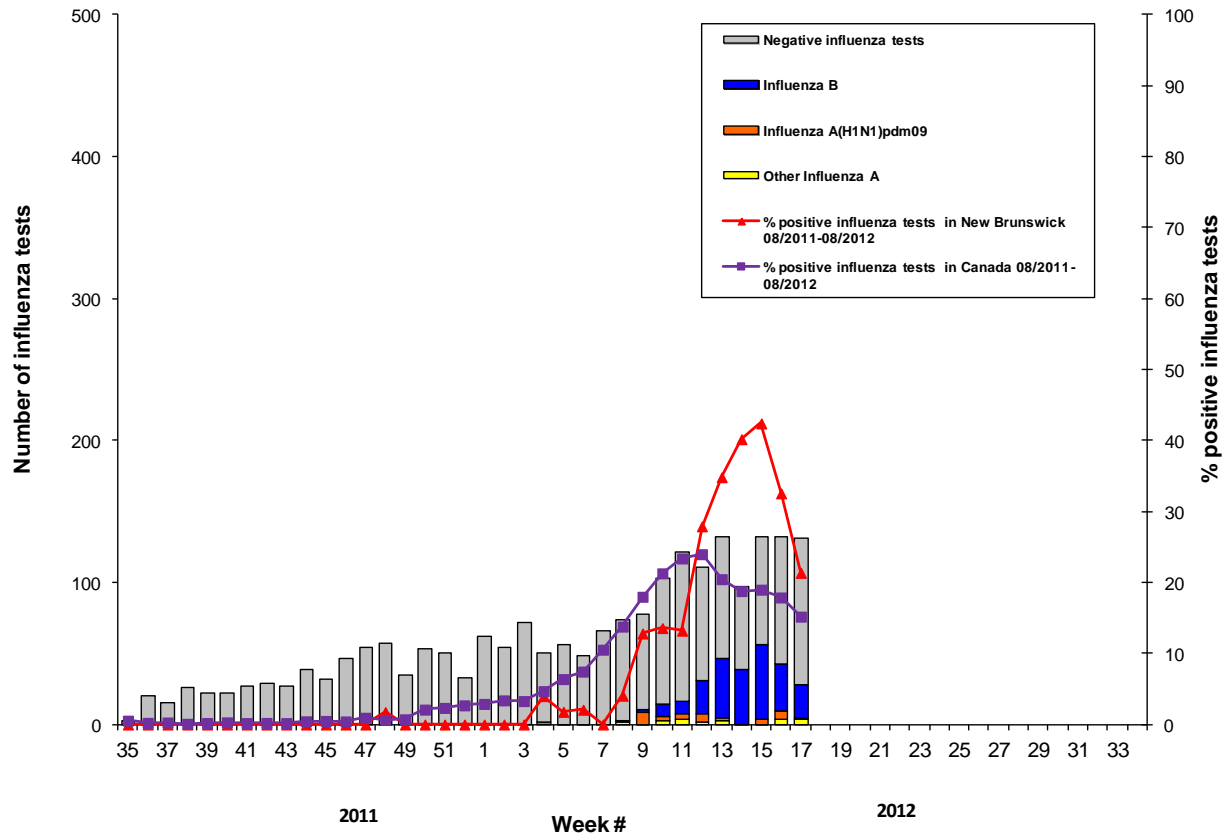


Table 1: Positive influenza test results by Health Region in New Brunswick up to April 28, 2012 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

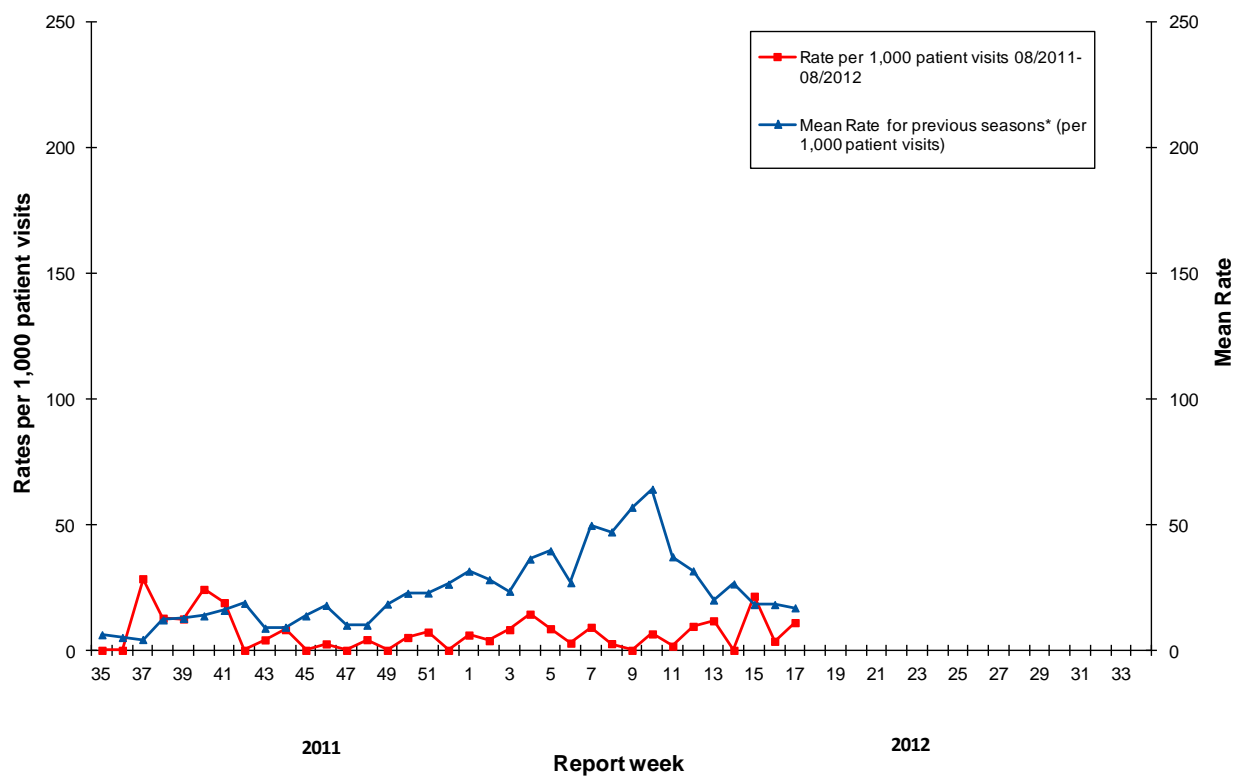
Region	Reporting period: April/22/2012–April /28/2012						Cumulative: (2011/2012 season) Aug./28/2011 –Apr./28/2012					Cumulative: (2010/2011 season) Aug./29/2010 – Aug./27/2011		
	Activity level ²	A				B	A				B	A		B
		A(H1)	A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	unsubt yped		A(H1)	A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	unsubt yped		Non-pH1N1	pH1N1	
Region 1	Sporadic	0	3	0	0	15	0	20	15	0	194	433	56	29
Region 2	Localized	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	9	57	2	13
Region 3	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	112	16	19
Region 4	Sporadic	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	8	0	1	79	58	56
Region 5	Sporadic	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	4	26	3	1
Region 6	Sporadic	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	14	46	27	5
Region 7	Sporadic	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	10	32	3	3
Total NB		0	4	1	0	23	0	24	33	0	234	785	165	126

² Influenza activity level definition is available on the PHAC FluWatch website: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/11-12/def11-12-eng.php>

2) ILI Consultation Rates³

- During week 17, the ILI consultation rate was 11.0 consultations per 1,000 patient visits, and is within the expected levels for this time of year.
- During week 17, the sentinel response rate was 57% for the FluWatch sentinel physicians and 39% for the NB SPIN practitioners. (8 FluWatch and 7 NB SPIN)

Graph 2: ILI Consultation Rates in New Brunswick, by report week, season 2011/12 compared to previous seasons*



* The mean rate was based on data from the 1996/97 to 2010/2011 seasons and excludes the Pandemic season (2009-2010).

³ A total of 32 practitioner sites (14 FluWatch sentinel physicians and 18 NB SPIN sites) are recruited this season to report the number of ILI patients and total patient consultations one day during a reporting week.

3) ILI and Laboratory-Confirmed Outbreak Data

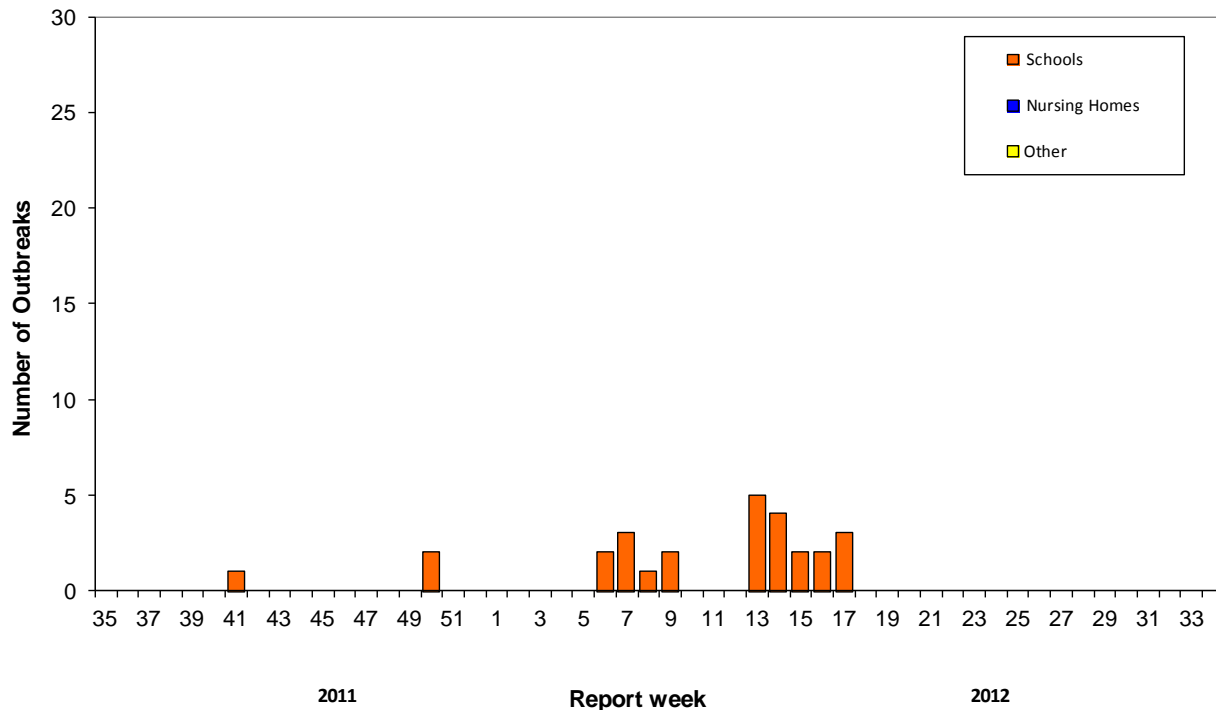
Table 2: ILI activity/outbreaks in New Brunswick nursing homes and schools for the reporting week, current and previous seasons.

	Reporting period: April/22/2012 –April/28/2012			Cumulative # of outbreaks season 2011-2012	Cumulative # of outbreaks season 2010-2011
	Lab-confirmed outbreaks in Nursing Homes*	Schools reporting ILI outbreaks**	Lab-confirmed outbreaks in Other Settings*		
Region 1	0 out of 13	0 out of 74	0	2	17
Region 2	0 out of 15	3 out of 81	0	5	21
Region 3	0 out of 14	0 out of 95	0	8	12
Region 4	0 out of 6	0 out of 22	0	2	12
Region 5	0 out of 2	0 out of 18	0	6	17
Region 6	0 out of 9	0 out of 35	0	2	10
Region 7	0 out of 4	0 out of 27	0	2	22
Total NB	0 out of 63	3 out of 352	0	27	111

*Two or more ILI cases within a seven day period, including at least one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza. Outbreaks are reported in the week when laboratory confirmation is received.

**Schools reporting greater than 10% absenteeism (or absenteeism that is higher (e.g. >5-10%) than expected level as determined by school or Public Health Authority) which is likely due to ILI.

Graph 3: Number of Influenza Outbreaks in Nursing Homes¹ and ILI Outbreaks in Schools² reported to Public Health in New Brunswick, by report week, season 2011/12.



¹ The National FluWatch definition of an outbreak in a nursing home is stated as two or more cases of ILI within a seven -day period, including at least one laboratory confirmed case.

² The National FluWatch definition of an ILI outbreak in a school is stated as absenteeism greater than 10% (or absenteeism that is higher (e.g.>5-10%) than expected level as determined by school or Public Health Authority) which is likely due to ILI.

National Flu Watch Program - Additional information on influenza activity in Canada and around the world is available on the Public Health Agency of Canada’s website at:

www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index.html

Other Links:

World-

http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/index.html

Europe: http://www.euroflu.org/cgi-files/bulletin_v2.cgi and

http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/seasonal_influenza/epidemiological_data/Pages/Weekly_Influenza_Surveillance_Overview.aspx

PAHO: http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=805&Itemid=569

Australia: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm>

New Zealand: [http://www.surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza_weekly_update.php]

Argentina: http://www.msal.gov.ar/archivos/INFORME%20INFLUENZA%20PANDÉMICA%20_H1N1_%2005-08-2009.pdf

South Africa: <http://www.nicd.ac.za/>

US: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/