

WEEKLY NEW BRUNSWICK INFLUENZA REPORT

Reporting period: August 30 – September 5, 2009 (week 35)

Week 35 marks the start of the 2009-2010 Influenza Season

1. **Reports of influenza-like illness (ILI) from Flu Watch sentinel physicians in New Brunswick:**

(9 physicians recruited so far this year (2008/2009) report the number of patients with ILI symptoms over total number of patients seen on one day each week):

4 physicians reported a total of 1 case of ILI of the 85 patients seen for any reason during this reporting period

This week, the ILI consultation rate was 11.8 consultations per 1,000 patient visits which is a decrease from last week. The sentinel response rate was 44%.

2. **New Brunswick Influenza Virus Surveillance Program** (specimens are submitted by recruited sentinel physicians, Emergency Rooms, nursing homes and some community physicians). 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 (based on data from Dumont Laboratory), by week, as of September 5, 2009

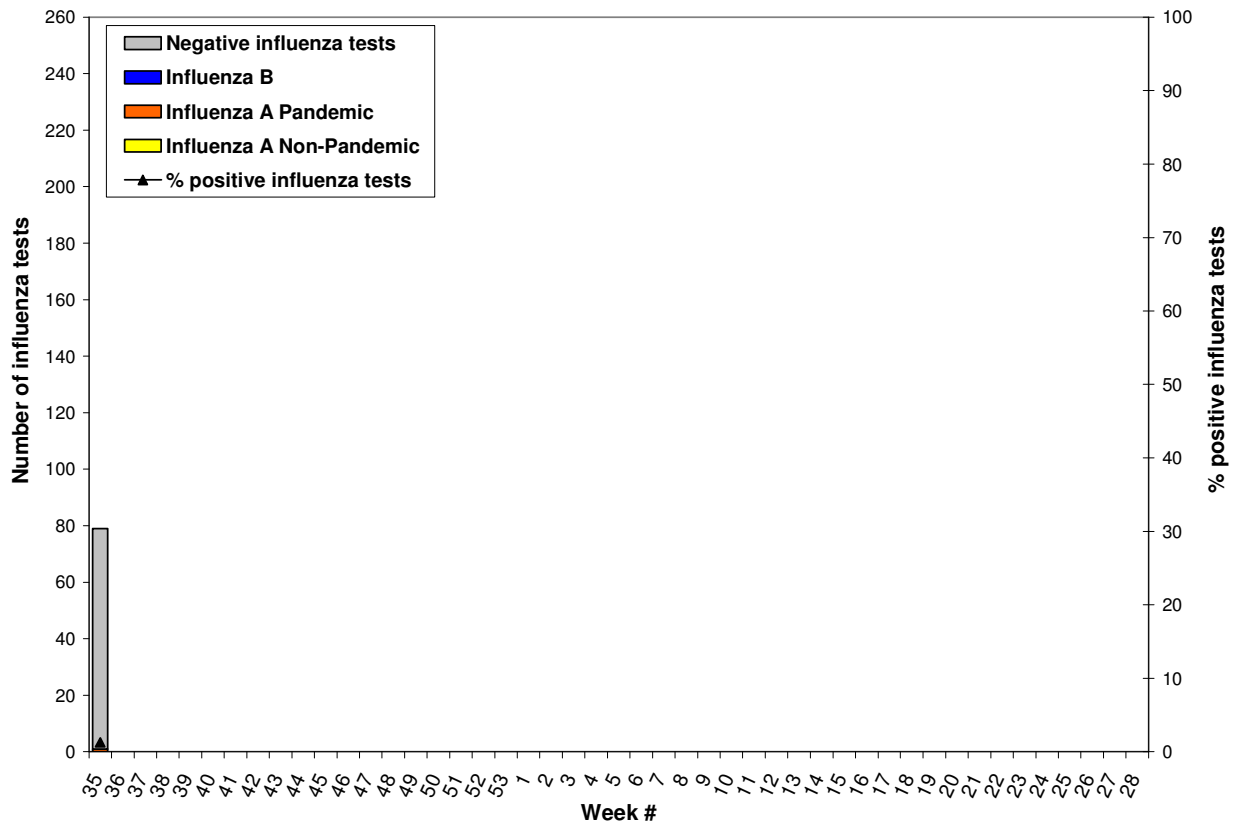


Table 1: Influenza activity level¹ and positive influenza test results by Health Region in New Brunswick, as of September 5, 2009

| | | Reporting period: 30/08/09 –05/09/09 | | | Cumulative: 30/08/09 –05/09/09 | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Activity level | Influenza A | | Influenza B | Influenza A | | Influenza B |
| | | Non-Pandemic | Pandemic (H1N1) | | Non-Pandemic | Pandemic (H1N1) | |
| Region 1 | Sporadic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Region 2 | No activity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Region 3 | Sporadic | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Region 4 | No activity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Region 5 | No activity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Region 6 | No activity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Region 7 | No activity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total NB | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

3. Reports of ILI activity in New Brunswick nursing homes and schools:

Table 2: ILI activity/outbreaks in New Brunswick nursing homes and schools, by Health Region

| | Nursing Homes | | | Schools | Others |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Nursing homes reporting ILI | Total number of ILI cases | Number of lab-confirmed outbreaks* | Schools reporting ILI outbreaks** | Number of lab-confirmed outbreaks* |
| Region 1 | 0 out of 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 74 | 0 |
| Region 2 | 0 out of 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 81 | 0 |
| Region 3 | 0 out of 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 95 | 0 |
| Region 4 | 0 out of 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 22 | 0 |
| Region 5 | 0 out of 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 18 | 0 |
| Region 6 | 0 out of 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 36 | 0 |
| Region 7 | 0 out of 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 27 | 0 |
| Total NB | 0 out of 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 out of 353 | 0 |

*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 on any day most 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

More information on the Pandemic H1N1 Flu virus in New Brunswick is available on the NB Health website at: <http://www.gnb.ca/cnb/Promos/Flu/index-e.asp>

Prepared by the Communicable Disease Control Unit
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Tel: (506) 444-3044

¹ Influenza activity level definition is available on the PHAC FluWatch website: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/08-09/def08-09-eng.php>