

WEEKLY NEW BRUNSWICK INFLUENZA REPORT
Reporting period: September 13 – September 19, 2009 (week 37)
 Week 35 marked the start of the 2009-2010 Influenza Season

- 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):

8 physicians reported a total of 9 cases of ILI of the 275 patients seen for any reason during this reporting period

This week, the ILI consultation rate was 32.7 consultations per 1,000 patient visits which is an increase from last week. The sentinel response rate was 89%.

- 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 19, 2009

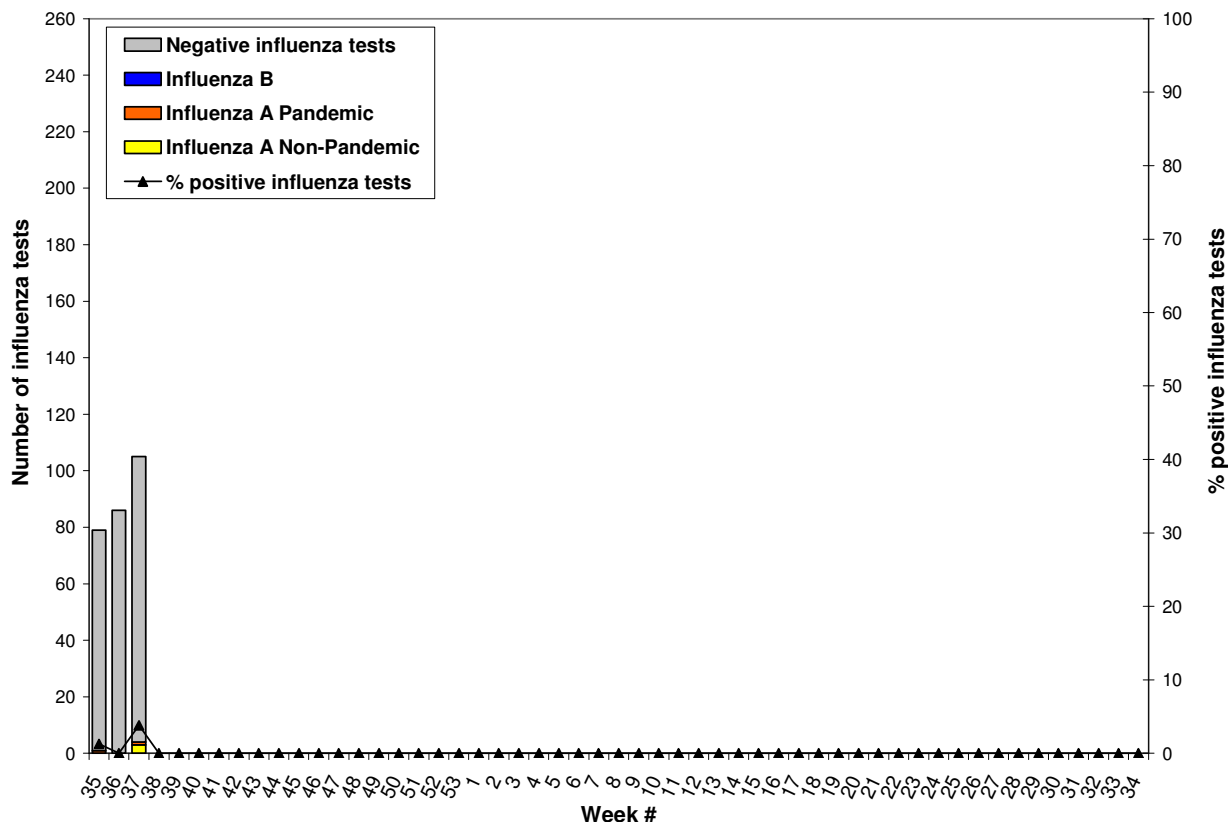


Table 1: Influenza activity level¹ and positive influenza test results by Health Region in New Brunswick, as of September 19, 2009

		Reporting period: 13/09/09 –19/09/09			Cumulative: 30/08/09 –19/09/09		
Activity level		Influenza A		Influenza B	Influenza A		Influenza B
		Non-Pandemic	Pandemic (H1N1)		Non-Pandemic	Pandemic (H1N1)	
Region 1	Sporadic	1	0	0	1	0	0
Region 2	Sporadic	0	1	0	0	1	0
Region 3	Sporadic	1	0	0	1	1	0
Region 4	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region 5	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0
Region 6	Sporadic	1	0	0	1	0	0
Region 7	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total NB		3	1	0	3	2	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	1 out of 27	0
Total NB	0 out of 62	0	0	1 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>

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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>