

WEEKLY NEW BRUNSWICK INFLUENZA REPORT

Reporting period: December 18, 2011 – December 31, 2011 (weeks 51 & 52)

Summary

In New Brunswick, low influenza activity for weeks 51 & 52 and within expected levels

New Brunswick:

- There have been no positive influenza detections during weeks 51 & 52, consistent with baseline levels.
- The ILI consultation rate in weeks 51 & 52 was low and slightly below the expected range for this time of year.
- No new ILI or influenza outbreaks were reported in weeks 51 & 52.

Canada:

- Influenza activity is increasing in some regions but remains low in most areas of the country. In week 52, three regions (BC & SK) reported localized influenza activity and 13 regions reported sporadic influenza activity (in BC, AB, SK, ON & QC), similar to the previous few weeks.
- One hundred and twenty two laboratory detections of influenza were reported in weeks 51 & 52. The proportion of tests that were positive for influenza was 4.3% in week 51 and 2.6% in week 52, which is similar to the previous few weeks.
- The ILI consultation rate in weeks 51 & 52 was within the expected levels for this time of year. Four influenza outbreaks were reported during the two-week period; all were in long-term care facilities.

International:

- United States: On December 23, 2011, the CDC confirmed two new cases of human infection with novel influenza A viruses in patients from 2 states (Wisconsin and West Virginia). The Wisconsin patient was infected with an influenza A (H1N1) variant virus and the West Virginia patient was infected with an influenza A (H3N2) variant virus. Both patients have recovered from their illnesses. The Wisconsin patient reported close contact with pigs prior to illness onset, however the West Virginia patient did not have contact with pigs prior to illness onset but did report contact with another confirmed case of an influenza A (H3N2) variant virus. No such infections have been reported in Canada.

1) Influenza Laboratory Data¹

- Overall influenza activity remains low in weeks 51 & 52.
- No influenza detections were reported during that period.
- Since the beginning of the season, one positive influenza detection has been reported.

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 December 31, 2011 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

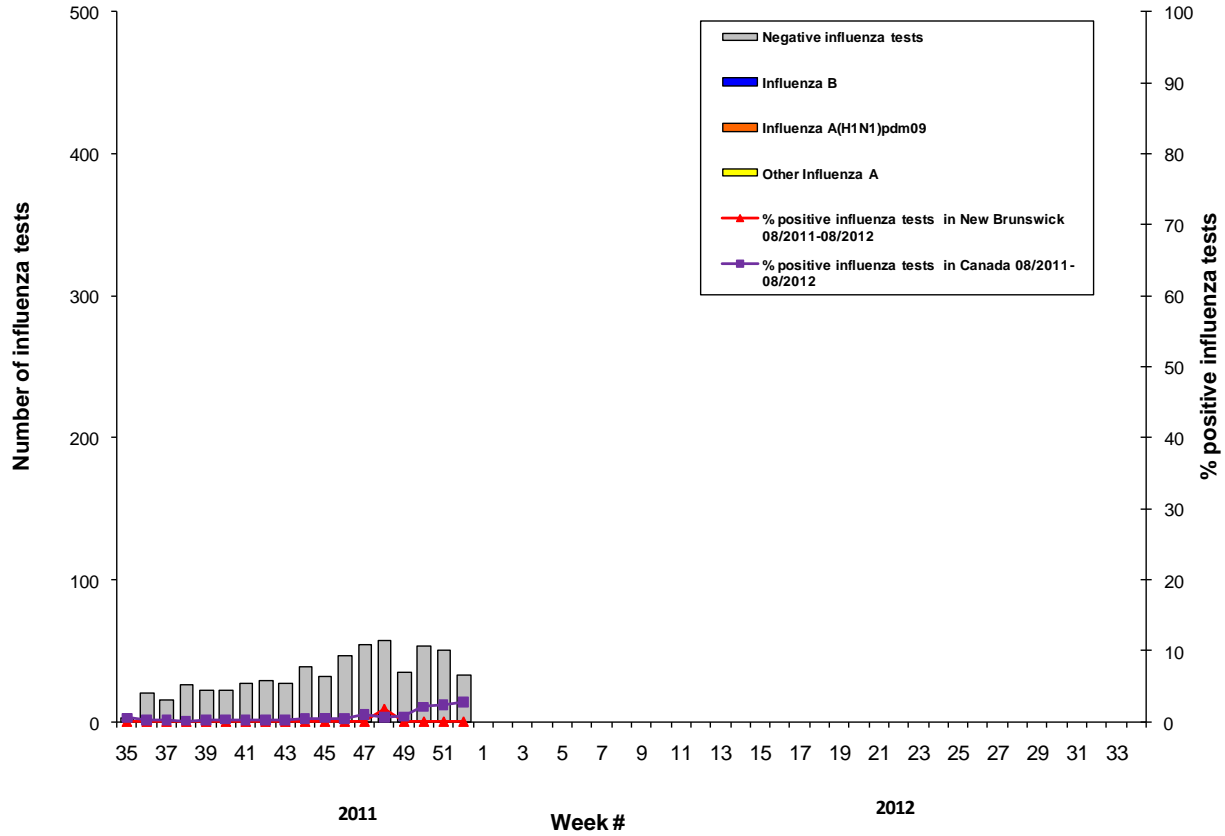


Table 1: Positive influenza test results by Health Region in New Brunswick up to December 31, 2011 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

Region	Reporting period:						Cumulative: (2011/2012 season)					Cumulative: (2010/2011 season)		
	December/18/2011–December/31/2011						Aug./28/2011 –Dec./31/2011					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	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	433	56	29
Region 2	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	2	13
Region 3	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	16	19
Region 4	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	58	56
Region 5	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	3	1
Region 6	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	27	5
Region 7	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	3	3
Total NB		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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

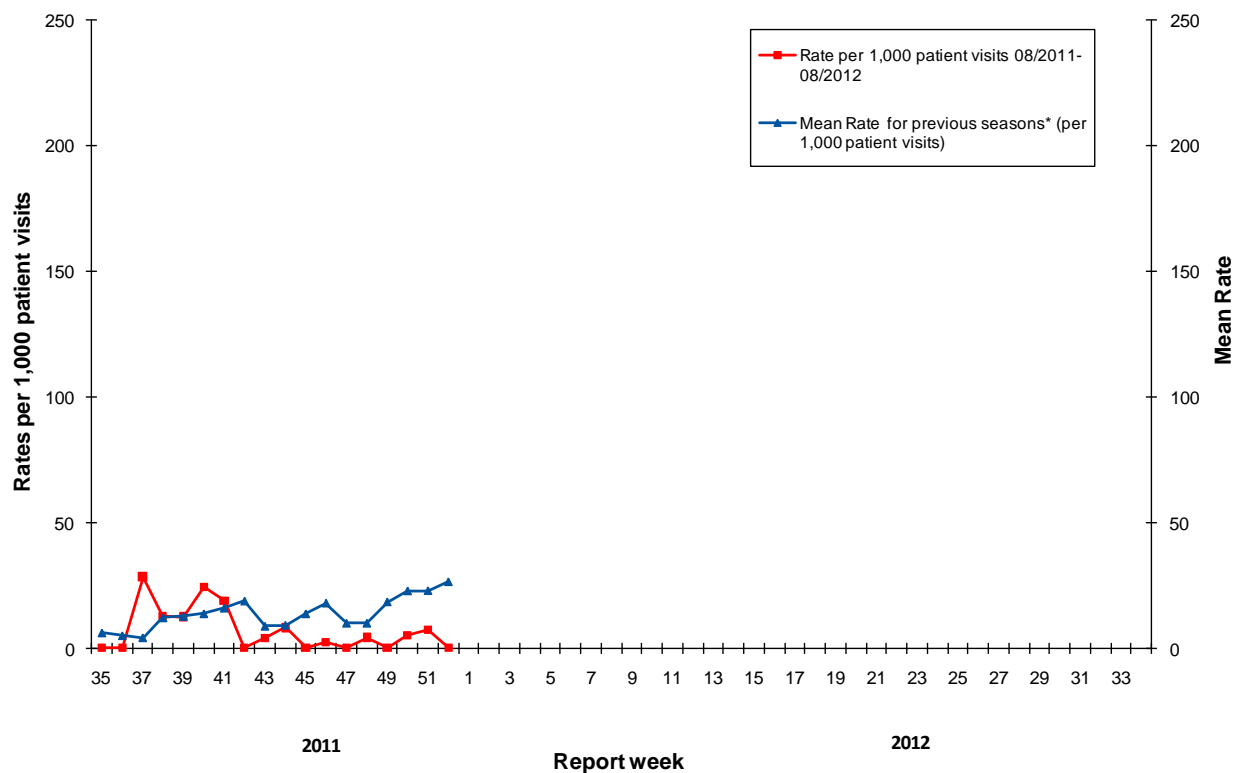
- During week 51, the ILI consultation rate was 7.2 consultations per 1,000 patient visits, and is slightly below the expected levels for this time of year.

During week 51, the sentinel response rate was 43% for the FluWatch sentinel physicians and 33% for the NB SPIN practitioners. (6 FluWatch and 6 NB SPIN)

- During week 52, the ILI consultation rate was 0.0 consultations per 1,000 patient visits, and is below the expected levels for this time of year.

During week 52, the sentinel response rate was 14% for the FluWatch sentinel physicians and 17% for the NB SPIN practitioners. (2 FluWatch and 3 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

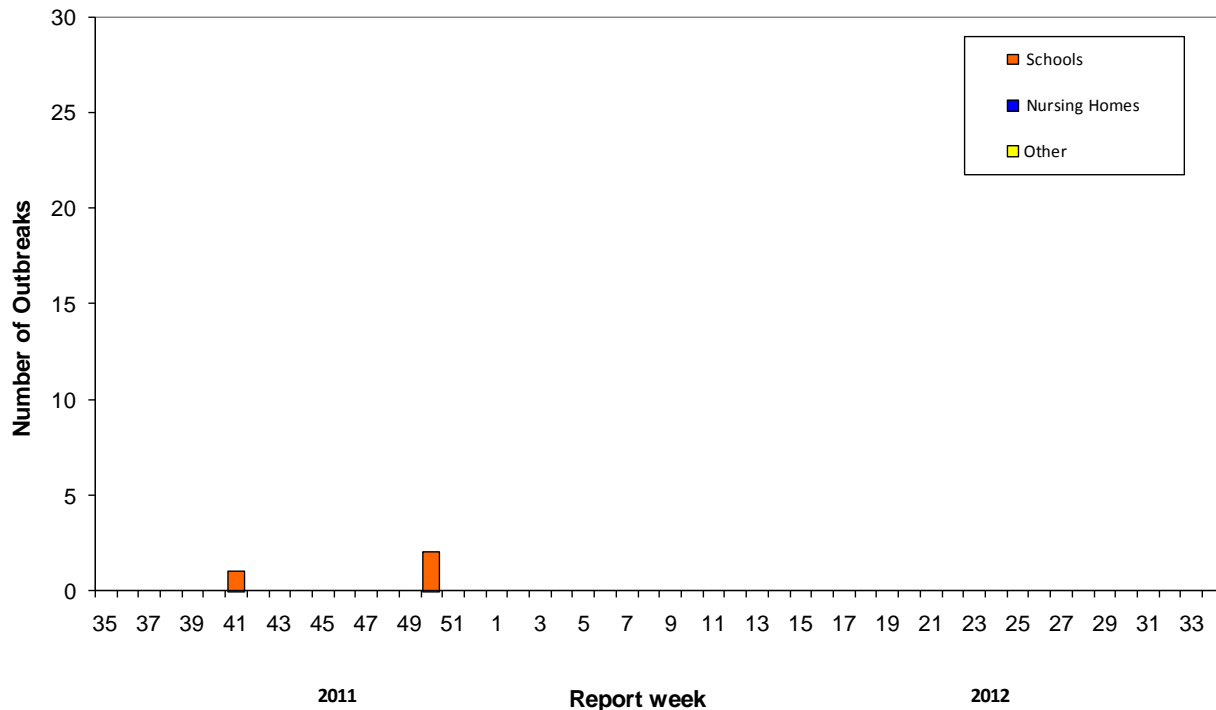
Table 2: ILI activity/outbreaks in New Brunswick nursing homes and schools for the reporting week, current and previous seasons.

	Reporting period: December /18/2011 –December/31/2011			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	0	17
Region 2	0 out of 15	0 out of 81	0	1	21
Region 3	0 out of 14	0 out of 95	0	0	12
Region 4	0 out of 6	0 out of 22	0	0	12
Region 5	0 out of 2	0 out of 18	0	1	17
Region 6	0 out of 9	0 out of 35	0	0	10
Region 7	0 out of 4	0 out of 27	0	1	22
Total NB	0 out of 63	0 out of 352	0	3	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/