

WEEKLY NEW BRUNSWICK INFLUENZA REPORT

Reporting period: August 20 to August 26 2017 (week 34)

Summary:

In New Brunswick, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in week 34

New Brunswick:

- There has been 1 positive influenza detection in week 34. To date this season, 1198 influenza detections have been reported, 190 influenza A (H3), 847 influenza A (unsubtyped), 1 influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 and 160 influenza B.
- There have been no influenza associated hospitalizations during week 34. So far this season, 330 influenza associated hospitalizations were reported with 14 deaths.
- The ILI consultation rate was 3.2 consultations per 1,000 patients visits, for week 34. ILI rates were within the expected levels for this time of year.
- No new ILI or influenza outbreaks were reported.

Canada:

- Influenza activity remains at interseasonal levels across the country, with a few regions reporting sporadic or localized activity.
- In week 34, the majority of influenza detections were A(H3N2) with a slightly higher percentage of tests positive compared to previous seasons.

International:

Seasonal influenza:

- In the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere and in some countries of South and South East Asia, high levels of influenza activity continued to be reported. In Central America and the Caribbean influenza activity continued to be reported in a few countries. Influenza activity remained at low levels in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. Worldwide, influenza A(H3N2) viruses are predominating.

Emerging Respiratory Viruses:

- MERS CoV:
 - WHO: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/
 - CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/>
- Avian Influenza:
 - WHO: www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

Note: This is the final report of the 2016-2017 influenza season. The next report will be the first for the 2017-2018 influenza season. Bi-weekly reports will continue until October 16, 2017.

1) Influenza Laboratory Data¹

- Influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in week 34.
- One influenza detection was reported during week 34.
- Since the beginning of the season, 1198 influenza detections were reported, 190 influenza A (H3), 847 influenza A (unsubtyped), 1 influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 and 160 influenza B.

¹ Surveillance specimens are submitted by recruited New Brunswick Sentinel Practitioner Influenza Network (NB SPIN) practitioners, which are comprised of sites in Emergency Rooms, in Family Practice, in First Nations communities, in Nursing Home, in Universities and 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 August 26 2017
 (data source: G. Dumont Lab results)

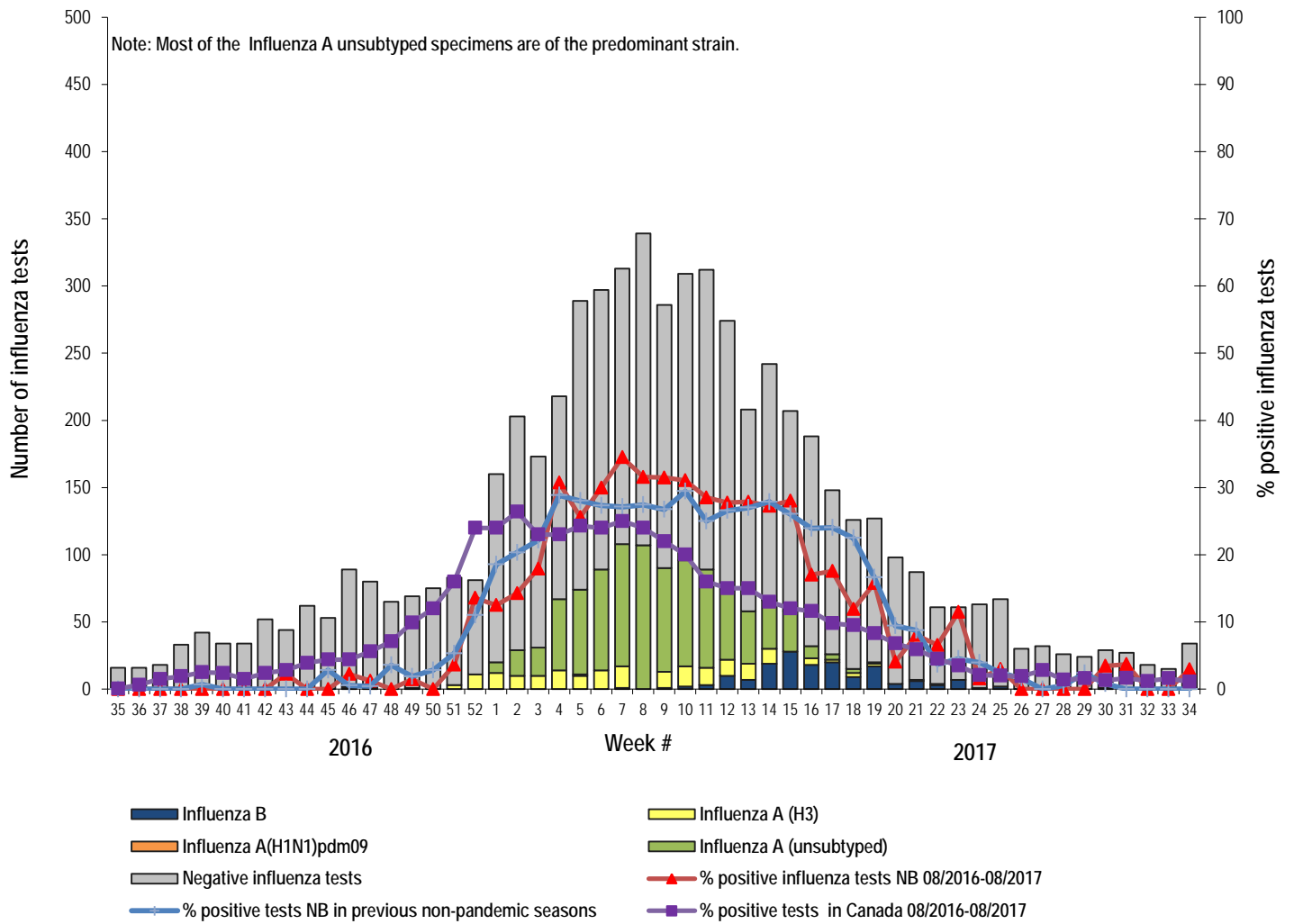


Table 1: Positive influenza test results by Health Region, in New Brunswick for reporting week, cumulative current and previous seasons.
(data source: G. Dumont lab results up to August 26 2017)

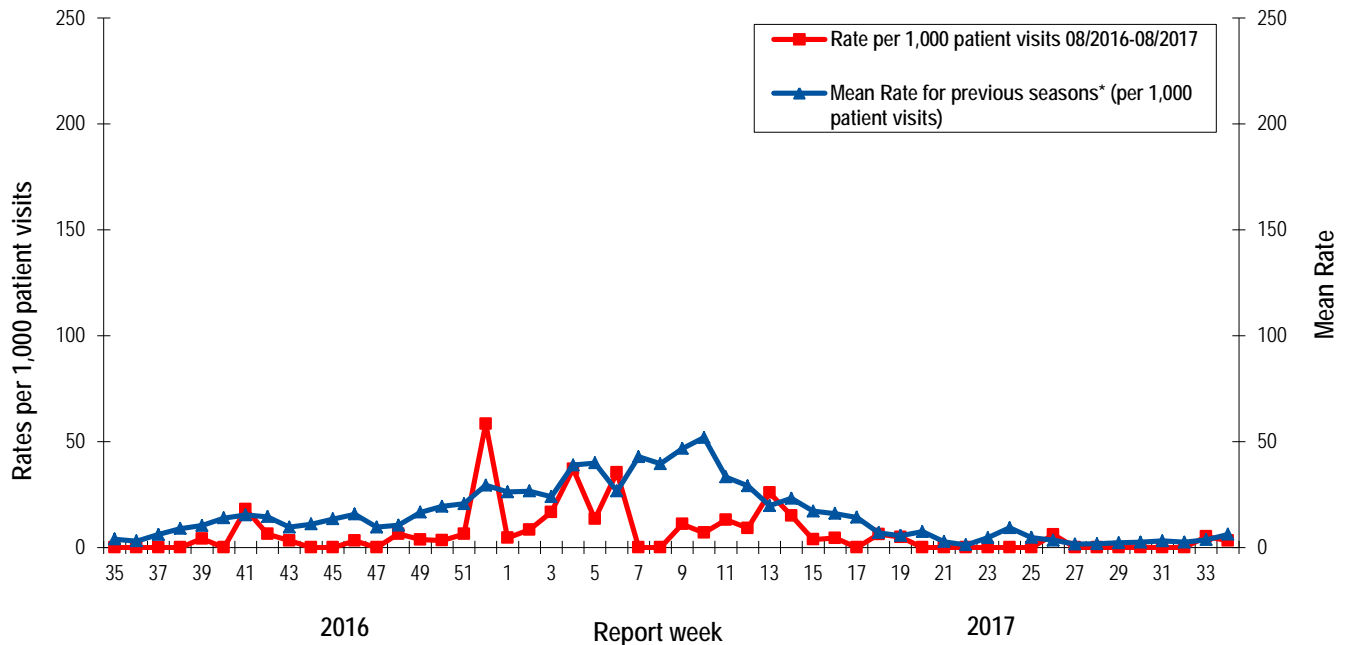
Zone	Reporting period: August/20/2017–August/26/2017						Cumulative: (2016/2017 season) Aug./28/2016 –August/26/2017					Cumulative: (2015/2016 season) Aug./30/2015 – Aug./27/2016				
	Activity level ²	A				B	A				B	A				B
		A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	Unsubtyped / Other	A Total	Total	A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	Unsubtyped / Other	A Total	Total	(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	Unsubtyped / Other	A Total	Total
Zone 1	Sporadic activity	0	0	1	1	0	76	0	504	580	90	3	40	576	619	113
Zone 2	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	77	99	8	0	9	131	140	7
Zone 3	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	117	142	23	0	9	57	66	13
Zone 4	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	32	50	6	0	11	86	97	8
Zone 5	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	5	6	0	4	9	13	3
Zone 6	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	62	89	11	3	18	79	100	5
Zone 7	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	52	73	16	0	6	22	28	8
Total NB		0	0	1	1	0	190	1	847	1038	160	6	97	960	1063	157

² Influenza activity level definition is available on the PHAC FluWatch website: <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/season-definitions-saison-eng.php>

2) ILI Consultation Rates³

- During week 34, the ILI consultation rate was 3.2 consultations per 1,000 patients visits. ILI rates were within the expected levels for this time of year.
- During week 34, the sentinel response rate was 30%, for both the FluWatch sentinel physicians and the NB SPIN practitioners.

Graph 2: ILI Consultation Rates in New Brunswick, by report week, season 2016/17 compared to previous seasons*



* The mean rate was based on data from the 1996/97 to 2015/2016 seasons and excludes the Pandemic season (2009/10).

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.

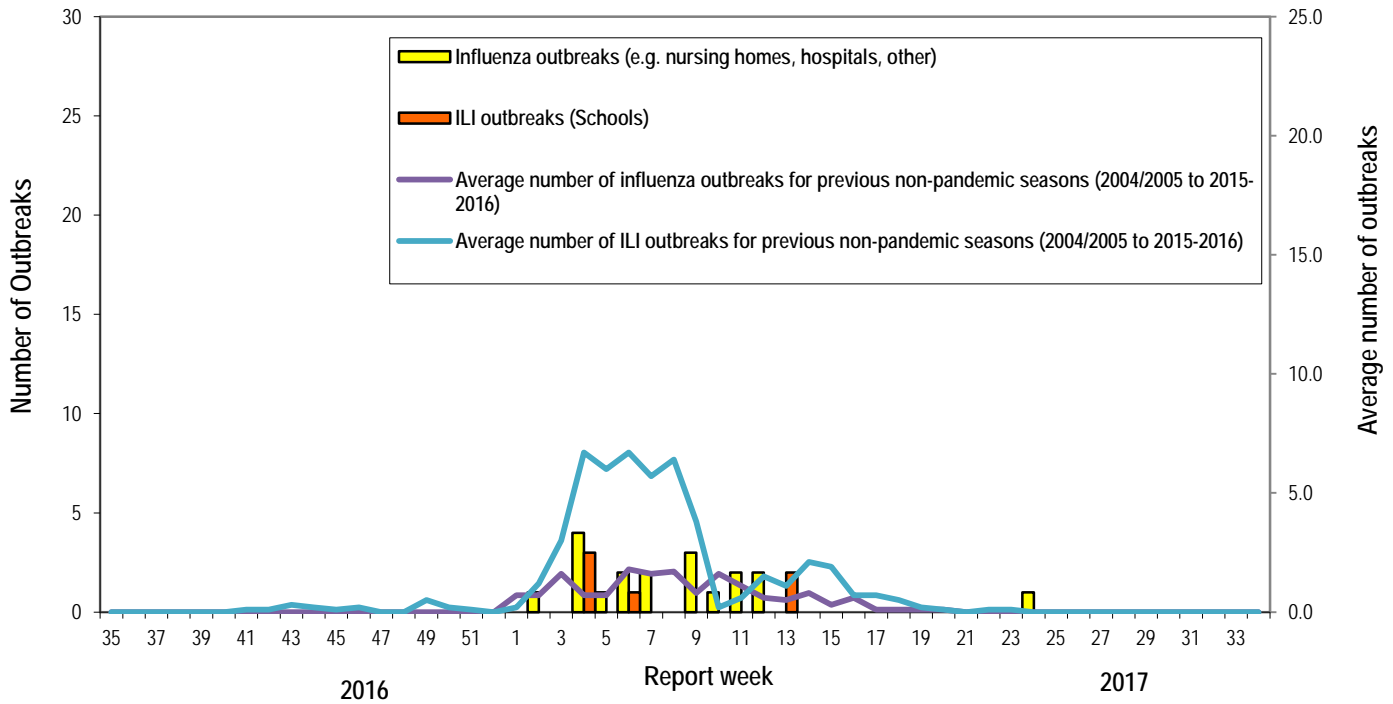
	Reporting period: August/20/2017–August/26/2017			Cumulative # of outbreaks season 2016-2017	Cumulative # of outbreaks season 2015-2016
	Lab-confirmed outbreaks in Nursing homes ⁴	ILI school outbreaks ⁵	Lab-confirmed outbreaks in Other settings ⁴		
Zone 1	0 out of 13	0 out of 74	0	3	6
Zone 2	0 out of 16	0 out of 81	0	5	4
Zone 3	0 out of 14	0 out of 95	0	14	1
Zone 4	0 out of 6	0 out of 22	0	0	0
Zone 5	0 out of 2	0 out of 18	0	1	0
Zone 6	0 out of 9	0 out of 35	0	0	3
Zone 7	0 out of 4	0 out of 27	0	2	5
Total NB	0 out of 64	0 out of 352	0	25	19

³ A total of 28 practitioner sites (16 FluWatch sentinel physicians and 12 NB SPIN sites) are recruited this season to report the number of ILI patients and total patient consultations one day during a reporting week.

⁴ 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.

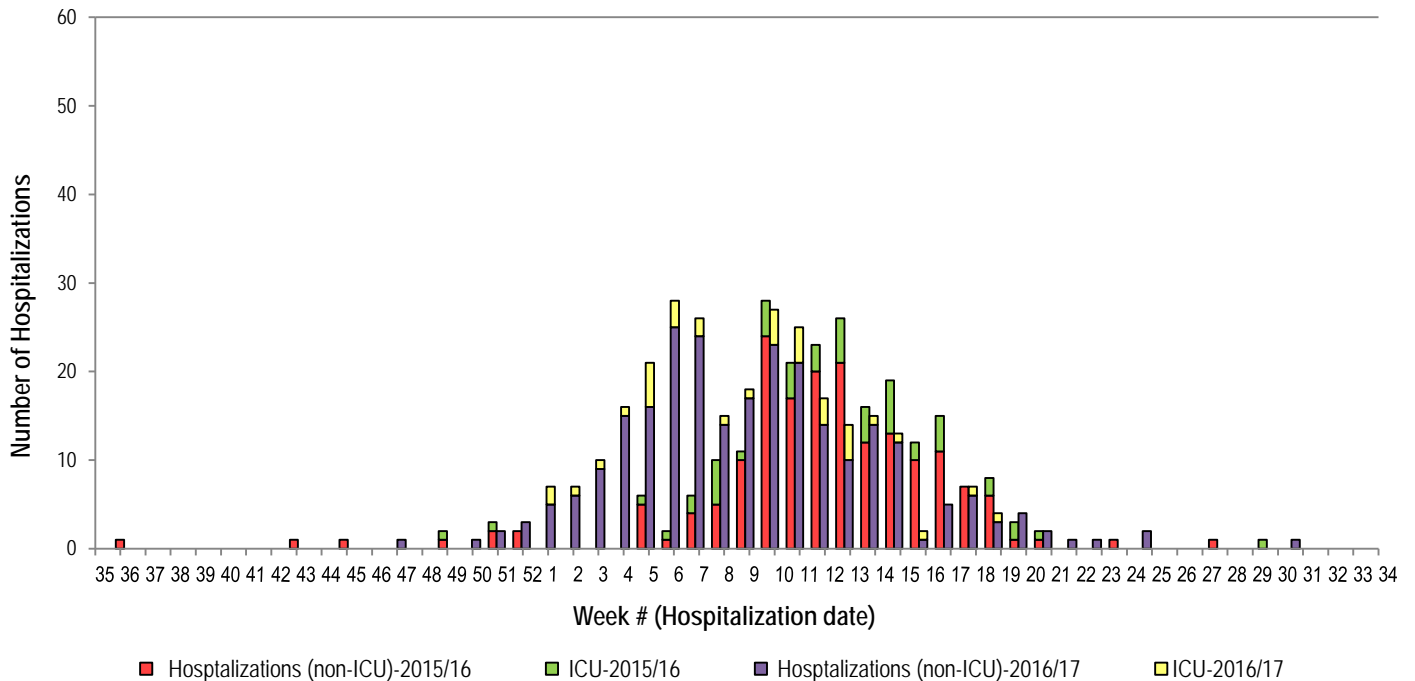
⁵ Schools reporting greater than 10% absenteeism which is likely due to ILI.

Graph 3: Number of Influenza Outbreaks (nursing homes, hospitals, other) and ILI Outbreaks (schools) reported to Public Health in New Brunswick, by report week, season 2016/17.



4) Influenza associated Hospitalization⁶ and Death⁷ Surveillance⁸

Graph 4: Influenza associated Hospitalizations and ICU admissions in New Brunswick, by week of hospitalization for current and past season.*



*Those who had been hospitalized 15 days or more prior to laboratory confirmation date were excluded from the graph

** Fourteen deaths have been reported so far in season 2016-2017.

⁶ Hospitalizations (including ICU admissions) are influenza associated; they may or may not be due to influenza.

⁷ Deaths are influenza associated; influenza may not be the direct cause of death.

⁸ In early January 2014, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health implemented a new provincial surveillance system in collaboration with the Regional Health Authorities to monitor influenza-associated hospitalizations, intensive care unit admissions and deaths.

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

Other Links:

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

Europe: 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/>

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

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

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