

WEEKLY NEW BRUNSWICK INFLUENZA REPORT

Reporting period: November 18 to November 24 2012 (week 47)

Summary

In New Brunswick, influenza activity at inter-seasonal levels

New Brunswick:

- There has been one positive influenza detection during week 47, an influenza A (H3) virus.
- The ILI consultation rate was low and was within the expected range for this time of year.
- No ILI or influenza outbreaks were reported.

Canada:

- The influenza season has started in Canada with increases in all influenza indicators. More regions reported sporadic or localized activity compared to the previous week.
- 278 laboratory detections of influenza were reported, proportion of positive tests was 9.6% in week 47.
- The ILI consultation rate was within the expected levels for this time of year. Eight influenza outbreaks were reported, 1 in a hospital, 5 in long-term care facilities and 2 in other settings.

International:

- On November 30, 2012, three new confirmed cases of human infections with a novel coronavirus (nCoV) were reported (1 from Saudi Arabia & 2 from Jordan). The 2 cases from Jordan occurred in April 2012; stored samples from a cluster were re-tested and came back positive for nCoV. From September 2012 to date, 9 reports have been received of human infections with a novel coronavirus, 5 from Saudi Arabia, 2 from Qatar and 2 from Jordan. There have been 5 fatal cases. Investigation is continuing in order to identify the source, the route of transmission and changes with the virus.

1) Influenza Laboratory Data¹

- Influenza activity has continued to be typical inter-seasonal levels.
- One influenza detection was reported during that period.
- Since the beginning of the season, two influenza positive detections have been reported, 1 influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 and 1 influenza A (H3) virus.

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 November 24, 2012 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

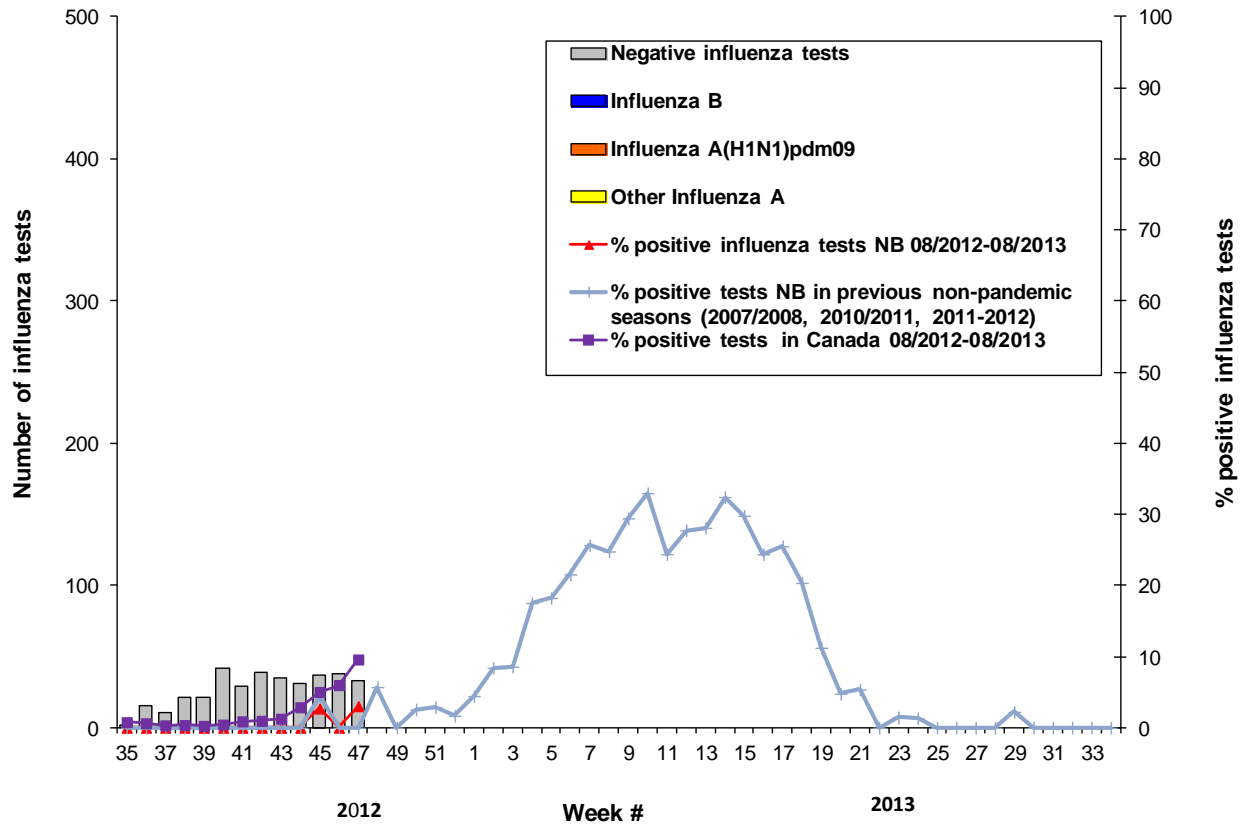


Table 1: Positive influenza test results by Health Region in New Brunswick up to November 24, 2012 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

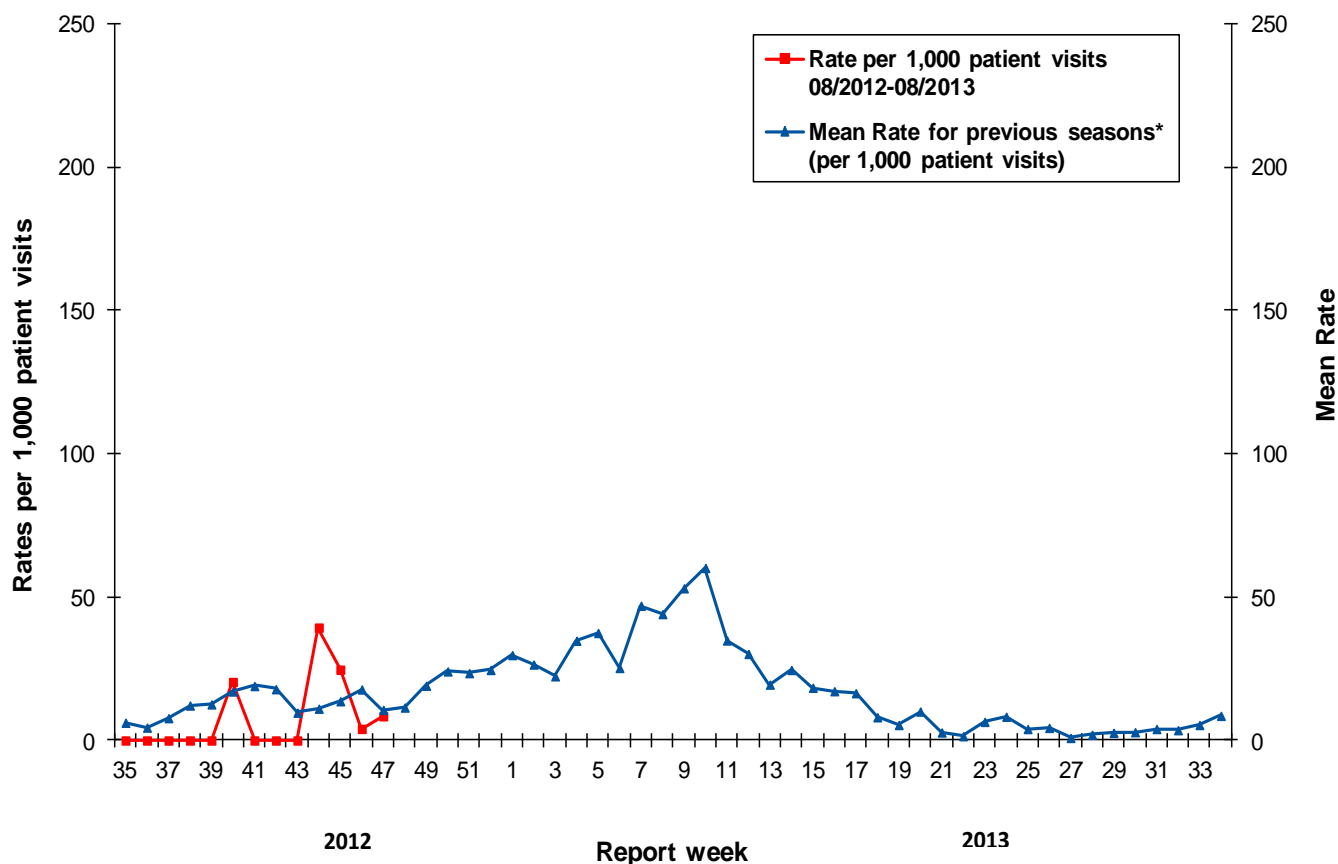
Region	Reporting period: November/18/2012–November/24/2012						Cumulative: (2012/2013 season) Aug./26/2012 –Nov./24/2012					Cumulative: (2011/2012 season) Aug./28/2011 – Aug./25/2012		
	Activity level ²	A				B	A				B	A		B
		A(H1)	A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	unsubt yped		A(H1)	A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	unsubt yped		Non-(H1N1) pdm09	(H1N1) pdm09	
Region 1	Sporadic	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	24	17	206
Region 2	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	18
Region 3	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Region 4	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	2
Region 5	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Region 6	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	16
Region 7	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	12
Total NB		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	30	37	259

² Influenza activity level definition is available on the PHAC FluWatch website: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/12-13/def12-13-eng.php>

2) ILI Consultation Rates³

- During week 47, the ILI consultation rate was 8.5 consultations per 1,000 patient visits, and was within the expected levels for this time of year.
- During week 47, the sentinel response rate was 42% for both the FluWatch sentinel physicians and the NB SPIN practitioners.

Graph 2: ILI Consultation Rates in New Brunswick, by report week, season 2012/13 compared to previous seasons*



* The mean rate was based on data from the 1996/97 to 2011/2012 seasons and excludes the Pandemic season (2009-2010).

³ A total of 38 practitioner sites (20 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

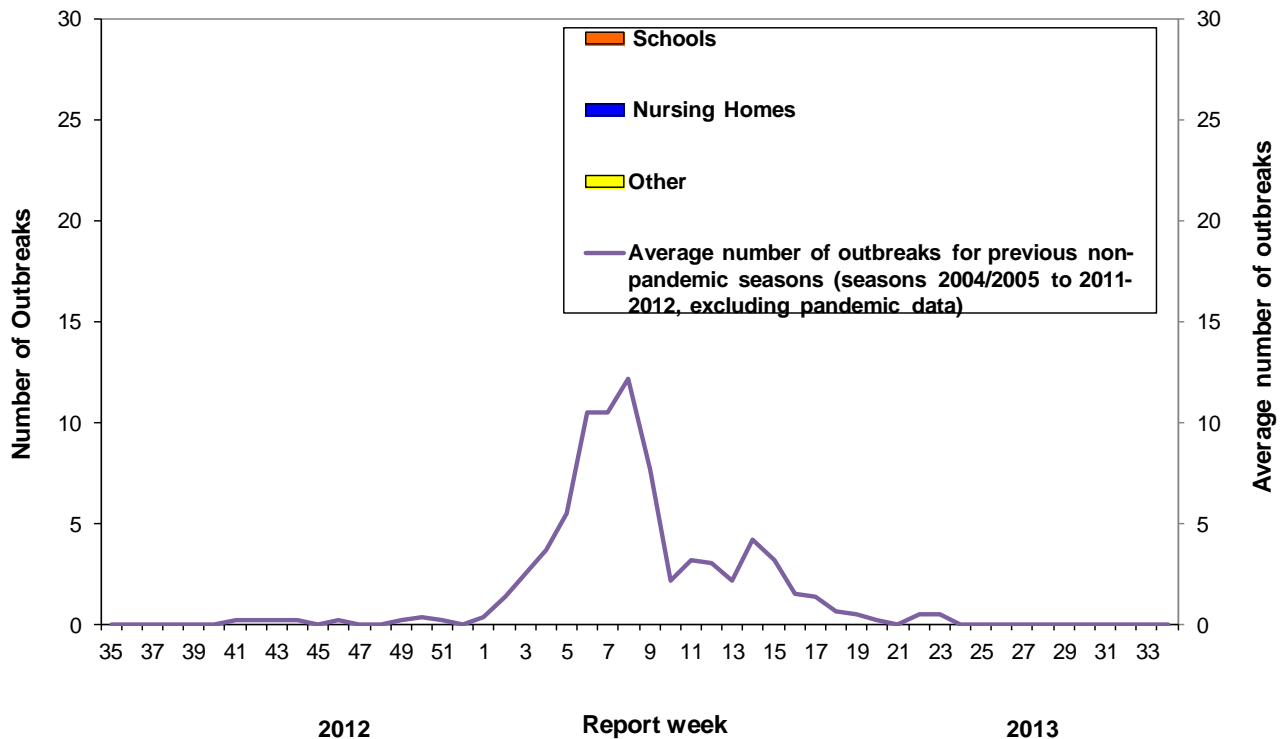
Table 2: ILI activity/outbreaks in New Brunswick nursing homes and schools for the reporting week, current and previous seasons.

	Reporting period: November/18/2012 –November/24/2012			Cumulative # of outbreaks season 2012-2013	Cumulative # of outbreaks season 2011-2012
	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	4
Region 2	0 out of 15	0 out of 81	0	0	6
Region 3	0 out of 14	0 out of 95	0	0	8
Region 4	0 out of 6	0 out of 22	0	0	2
Region 5	0 out of 2	0 out of 18	0	0	7
Region 6	0 out of 9	0 out of 35	0	0	2
Region 7	0 out of 4	0 out of 27	0	0	2
Total NB	0 out of 63	0 out of 352	0	0	31

*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 2012/13.



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/>

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

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