Respiratory Watch

REPORTING PERIOD:
FEBRUARY 11 TO FEBRUARY 17, 2024
(WEEK 7)
SUMMARY

Influenza activity remained stable in week 7. Two thousand five hundred and twenty-six influenza cases have been reported this season; 85 new cases were reported in week 7. COVID-19 activity remains moderate; most indicators (number of cases, percent positivity, ICU admissions and number of deaths) remained stable during the current reporting period.

COVID-19

- There were 79 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in week 7. Percent positivity remained stable in week 7 (7%).
- There were 17 hospitalizations with 2 ICU admissions during week 7.
- Two deaths were reported in week 7.
- A total of 6 lab-confirmed outbreaks were declared (1 in Nursing Home and 5 in other facilities).

INFLUENZA

- Eighty-five influenza cases were reported in week 7, 7 were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, 37 were influenza A (unsubtyped) and 41 were influenza B. Percent positivity remained stable in week 7 (8%).
- There were 7 hospitalizations and 0 ICU admission reported during week 7.
- No deaths were reported for week 7.
- The ILI consultation rate was 21.7 per 1,000 persons for week 7.
- Two new ILLI school outbreaks and 2 lab-confirmed influenza outbreaks (both in other facilities) were reported in week 7.

1 Numbers in this report are subject to change due to reporting delays. Missed events will be captured in subsequent reports as data become available.
2 Refer to Appendix for case definitions.
3 For this report, respiratory viruses include COVID-19 and influenza.
## INDICATORS

Table 1: Summary of indicators by report week, August 27 to February 17, 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Week</th>
<th>COVID-19</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Influenza</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent Positivity %</td>
<td>Hospitalizations</td>
<td>ICU</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Outbreaks</td>
<td>Percent Positivity %</td>
<td>Hospitalizations</td>
<td>ICU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory season total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1299</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- Hospitalizations and admissions to ICU reported based on admission date or if patient is hospitalized prior to confirmed test result, the test result date is used.
- Deaths reported based on the date of death.
- Outbreaks category includes lab-confirmed outbreaks, which are reported based on the date that the outbreak was declared.
LABORATORY DATA

Figure 1: Number of confirmed cases by disease and report week, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: New Brunswick Regional Hospitals)

Notes:
- Laboratory confirmed cases are reported for the week when the laboratory confirmation was received.
- Historical influenza excludes pandemic season 2020-21.
- Historical COVID-19 only includes season 2022-23 due to the changing testing strategies that occurred in years prior.

Respiratory Watch: Week 7
Figure 2: Number of tests conducted and percent positivity for influenza by report week, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: New Brunswick Regional Hospitals)

Figure 3: Number of tests conducted and percent positivity for COVID-19 by report week, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: New Brunswick Regional Hospitals)

Notes:
- Laboratory confirmed cases are reported for the week when the laboratory confirmation was received.
- Laboratory tests are reported for the week when the specimen was collected.
- Historical influenza excludes pandemic season 2020-21.
- Historical COVID-19 only includes season 2022-23 due to the changing testing strategies that occurred in years prior.
Table 2: Confirmed cases and percent positivity by region and disease, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: New Brunswick Regional Hospitals)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>COVID-19</th>
<th>Influenza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>Percent positivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>967 (17)</td>
<td>12 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>690 (24)</td>
<td>15 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>588 (5)</td>
<td>9 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>201 (6)</td>
<td>10 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>128 (2)</td>
<td>15 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>302 (14)</td>
<td>12 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>239 (11)</td>
<td>13 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory season total</td>
<td>3115 (79)</td>
<td>12 (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
• Region assigned from laboratory data based on address of the case.
• Number in brackets refers to the count for the current reporting period.

Figure 4: Confirmed cases by age group and disease, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: New Brunswick Regional Hospitals)

Notes:
• Age group is determined by age associated with confirmed test result.
HOSPITALIZATION AND DEATH DATA

Figure 5: Number of COVID-19 and influenza hospitalizations by week of admission, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: Horizon Health Network and Réseau de Santé Vitalité)

Notes
- Hospitalizations includes non-ICU and ICU admissions.
- Hospitalizations based on admission date or if patient is hospitalized prior to confirmed test result, the test result date is used.
- Historical influenza excludes pandemic 2020-21 season.
- Historical COVID-19 only includes season 2022-23 due to the changing testing strategies that occurred in years prior.
- Historical COVID-19 only includes hospitalizations for COVID-19, as per the reason for admission.
Figure 6: Rate per 100,000 COVID-19 and influenza hospitalizations and deaths by age group, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: Horizon Health Network and Réseau de Santé Vitalité)

Notes:
- Hospitalizations includes non-ICU and ICU admissions.
- Age group is determined by age associated with confirmed test result.
Table 3: Number of COVID-19 and influenza hospitalizations by age group, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: Horizon Health Network and Réseau de Santé Vitalité)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>COVID-19</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Influenza</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitalizations</td>
<td>ICU</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td>Hospitalizations</td>
<td>ICU</td>
<td>Death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>19 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>19 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>6 (1)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>23 (3)</td>
<td>2 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-44</td>
<td>73 (1)</td>
<td>6 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
<td>39 (2)</td>
<td>3 (0)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>192 (2)</td>
<td>21 (0)</td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
<td>78 (0)</td>
<td>11 (0)</td>
<td>2 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>1009 (13)</td>
<td>62 (2)</td>
<td>72 (1)</td>
<td>283 (2)</td>
<td>27 (0)</td>
<td>22 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1299 (17)</td>
<td>89 (2)</td>
<td>77 (2)</td>
<td>442(7)</td>
<td>43 (0)</td>
<td>25 (0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- Hospitalizations includes non-ICU and ICU admissions.
- Age group is determined by age associated with confirmed test result.
- ICU status noted at time of admission.
- Number in brackets refers to the count for the current reporting period.
Figure 7: Number of COVID-19 and influenza deaths by date of death, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: Horizon Health Network and Réseau de Santé Vitalité)

Notes:
-Deaths reported based on the date of death.
OUTBREAKS

Figure 8: Number of lab-confirmed outbreaks by disease and report week (date of declaration), August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: CNPHI)

Notes
- Outbreaks are reported based on their date of declaration.
- Historical influenza excludes pandemic 2020-21 season.
- Other includes lab-confirmed outbreaks outside nursing home.
- The types and numbers of facilities that report lab-confirmed outbreaks may differ each season.

Figure 9: Number of ILI school outbreaks received, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (Source: CNPHI)

Notes
- School outbreaks based on 10% absenteeism in school due to ILI symptoms.
- Historical ILI excludes pandemic 2020-21 season.
SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE

Figure 10: ILI consultation rates by report week, August 27 to February 17, 2024 (NB SPRN sites)

Notes:
- Sentinel sites are to report on the number of ILI patients and total patient consultations one day during a reporting week.
- Historical ILI consultation rates exclude the pandemic season 2020-21.
- ILI consultation rates should be interpreted with caution because the low number of sentinel sites reporting can lead to major fluctuations in the consultation rates.
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY


Influenza:


United States, influenza update: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/


COVID-19:


United States, COVID data tracker: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home


Human Emerging Respiratory Pathogens:


MERS-CoV: WHO EMRO | MERS outbreaks | MERS-CoV | Health topics
Appendix A: Case definitions

**COVID-19 case:** The detection of at least one specific gene target by a validated laboratory based NAAT assay performed at a recognized laboratory OR a validated point-of-care NAAT that has been deemed acceptable to provide a final result by the Government of New Brunswick OR a four-fold or great seroconversion/diagnostic rise in viral specific antibody titre in serum or plasma using a validated laboratory-based serological-based serological assay for SARS-CoV-2.

**Influenza case:** Clinical illness with laboratory confirmation of infection: isolation of influenza virus from an appropriate clinical specimen (NP, throat/Nose) or demonstration of influenza virus antigen in an appropriate clinical specimen or significant rise (e.g. fourfold or greater) in influenza IgG titre between acute and convalescent sera or detection of influenza RNA.

**Influenza-like illness (ILI):** Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which is likely due to influenza. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

**Deceased case:** A confirmed case who was admitted to hospital and whose death occurred during their stay. A death due to COVID-19 or influenza does not mean that it was necessarily the primary or contributing factor to the cause of death.

**Hospitalization:** Admission to hospital with a laboratory confirmation of a respiratory disease within 14 days prior to or upon admission OR a laboratory confirmation of a respiratory disease during their stay.

**ICU admission:** Admission to ICU with a laboratory confirmation of a respiratory disease within 14 days prior to or upon admission OR a laboratory confirmation of a respiratory disease during their stay.

**COVID-19 outbreak:** An outbreak in a vulnerable setting may be declared by the MOH, typically when there are two or more positive cases among residents or staff with an epidemiological link within 10 days.

**Influenza outbreak:** An outbreak in a vulnerable setting may be declared by the MOH, typically when there are two or more positive cases among residents or staff with an epidemiological link within 7 days.
Appendix B: Data sources

Admission discharge transfer database
- Data are extracted weekly.
- Data shown in this report represent available data at the time of extraction.
- Missed events will be captured in subsequent reports as data become available.
- Data includes patients with a positive laboratory result and a health card number.

Provincial Public Health Laboratory Information System
- Data are extracted weekly.
- Data shown in this report represent available data at the time of extraction.
- Missed events will be captured in subsequent reports as data become available.
Appendix C: Breakdown of influenza cases by strain and age group.

Figure 11: Influenza cases by report week and strain, August 27 to February 17, 2024

Table 4: Influenza hospitalizations by strain and age group, August 27 to February 17, 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Influenza A</th>
<th></th>
<th>Influenza B</th>
<th>Co-infection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A(H3)</td>
<td>A(H1N1)pdm09</td>
<td>Unsubtyped/other</td>
<td>A Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-64</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>