

WEEKLY NEW BRUNSWICK INFLUENZA REPORT
Reporting period: February 26, 2012 – March 3, 2012 (week 9)

Summary

In New Brunswick, low influenza activity for week 9

New Brunswick:

- There have been 10 positive influenza detections during week 9, 1 influenza A (H3), 7 influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and 2 influenza B.
- The ILI consultation rate was low and below the expected range for this time of year.
- Two new ILI school outbreaks were reported, in Region 3 & 5.

Canada:

- Influenza activity continued to increase compared to previous weeks; all provinces and most Territories (except Nunavut) reported either sporadic or localized influenza activity in at least one region this week.
- 871 laboratory detections of influenza were reported, proportion of positive tests was 17.9%.
- The ILI consultation rate was within the expected levels for this time of year. 29 influenza or ILI outbreaks were reported: 13 in long-term care facilities, 9 in schools, 1 in a hospital and 6 in other settings.

International:

- WHO: As of February 23, the WHO recommends that the vaccines for use in the 2012-2013 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following: an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; an A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus.

1) Influenza Laboratory Data¹

- Overall influenza activity remains low in week 9.
- Ten influenza detections were reported during that period.
- Since the beginning of the season, 18 positive influenza detections have been reported; 10 were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09, 3 were influenza A (H3) and 5 were influenza B viruses.

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 March 3, 2012 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

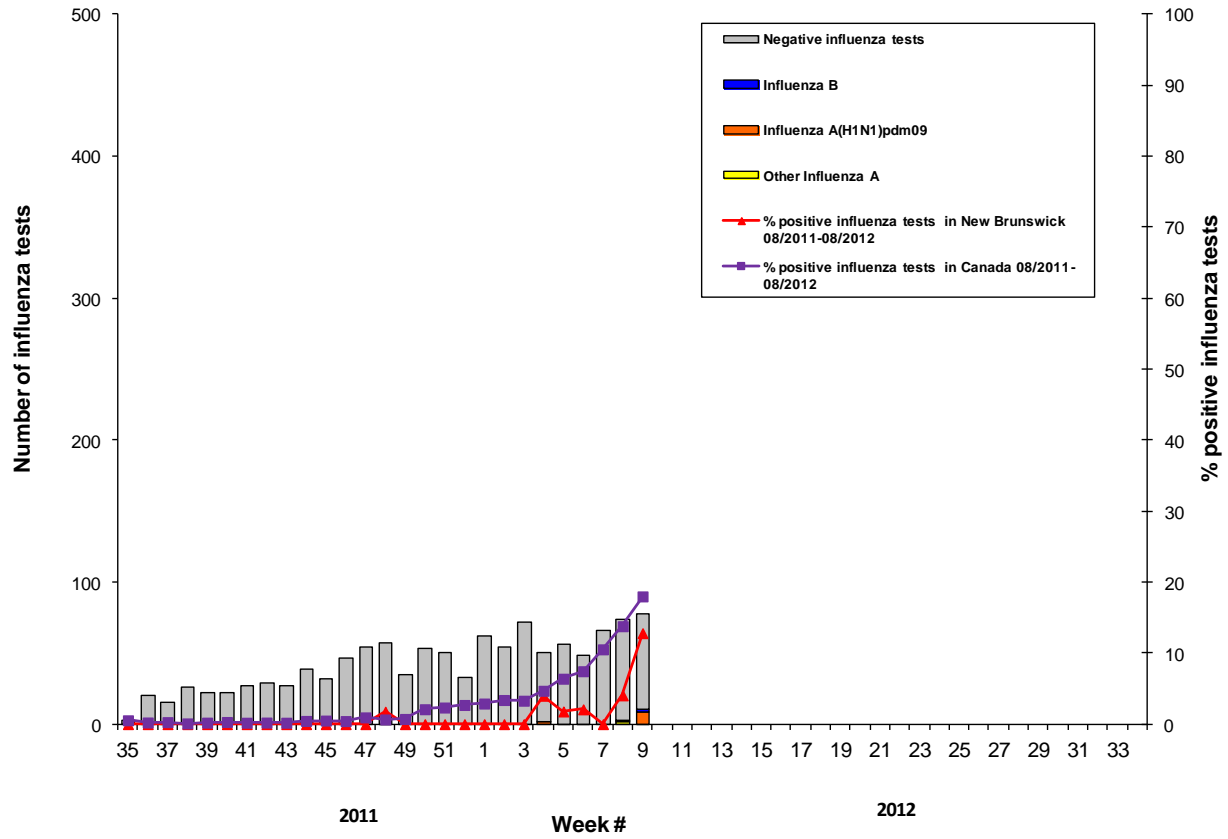


Table 1: Positive influenza test results by Health Region in New Brunswick up to March 3, 2012 (data source: G. Dumont lab results)

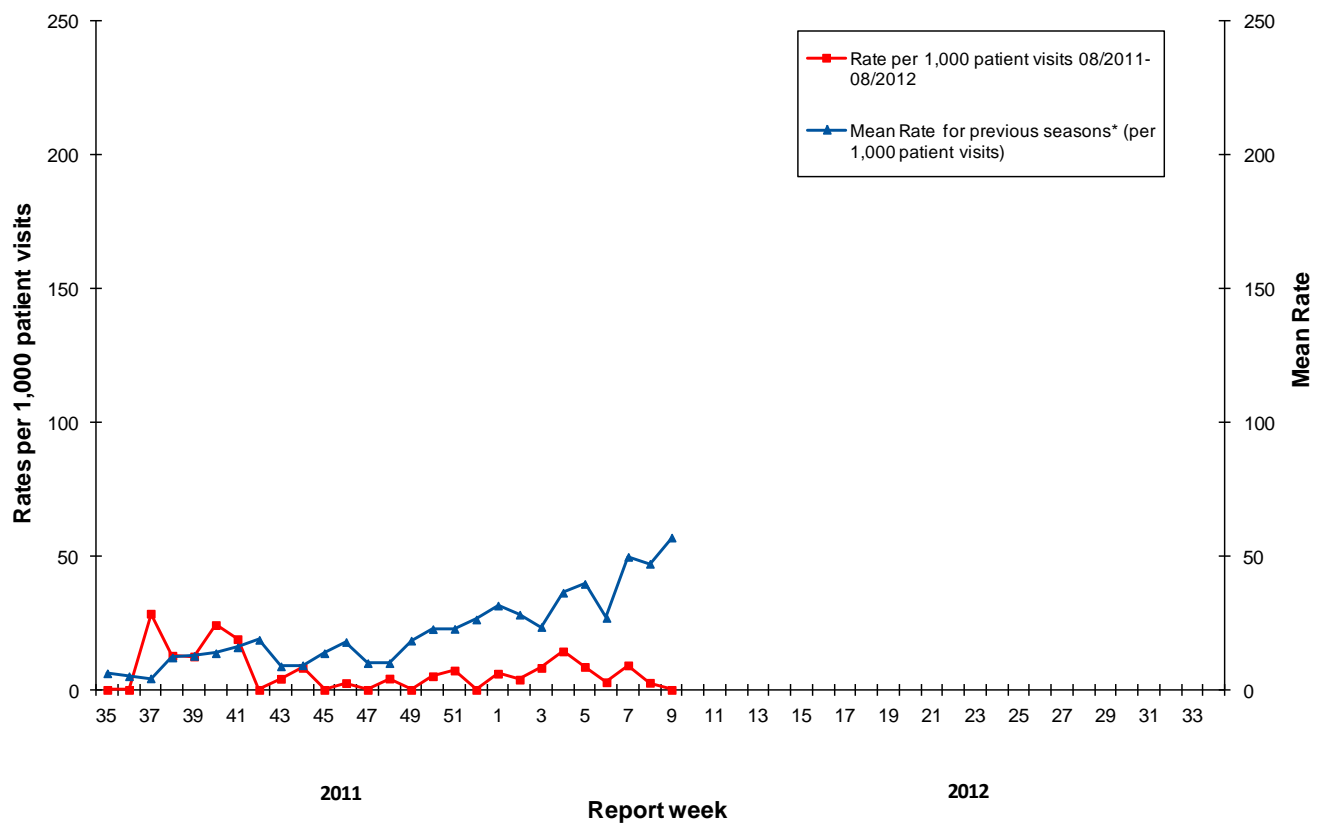
Region	Reporting period: February/26/2012–March /03/2012						Cumulative: (2011/2012 season) Aug./28/2011 –Mar./03/2012					Cumulative: (2010/2011 season) Aug./29/2010 – Aug./27/2011		
	Activity level ²	A				B	A				B	A		B
		A(H1)	A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	unsubt yped		A(H1)	A(H3)	(H1N1) pdm09	unsubt yped		Non-pH1N1	pH1N1	
Region 1	Sporadic	0	1	4	0	2	0	2	6	0	5	433	56	29
Region 2	Sporadic	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	57	2	13
Region 3	No activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	16	19
Region 4	Sporadic	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	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	1	0	0	46	27	5
Region 7	Sporadic	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	32	3	3
Total NB		0	1	7	0	2	0	3	10	0	5	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 9, 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 9, the sentinel response rate was 21% for the FluWatch sentinel physicians and 44% for the NB SPIN practitioners. (3 FluWatch and 8 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

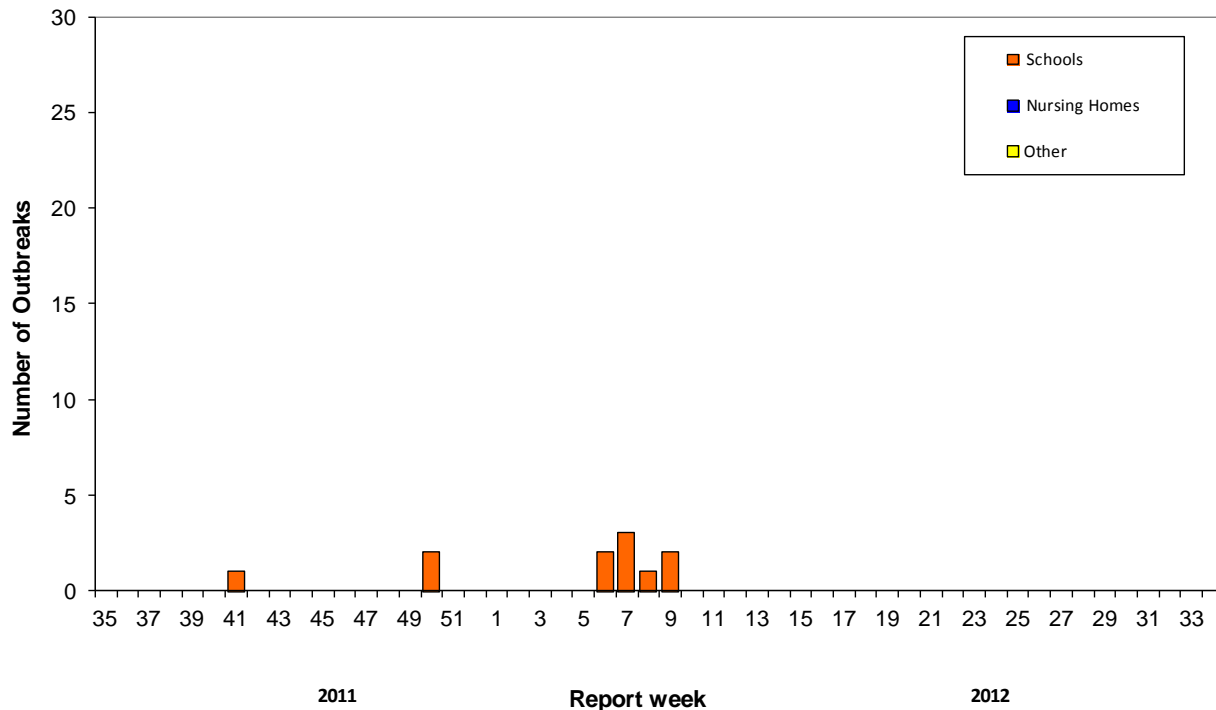
Table 2: ILI activity/outbreaks in New Brunswick nursing homes and schools for the reporting week, current and previous seasons.

	Reporting period: February/26/2012 –March/03/2012			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	1 out of 95	0	7	12
Region 4	0 out of 6	0 out of 22	0	0	12
Region 5	0 out of 2	1 out of 18	0	2	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	2 out of 352	0	11	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/