

Influenza Surveillance Fact Sheet

Updated: January 31, 2014

Background:

- Influenza is a severe illness that is associated with hospitalizations and deaths every year.
- We are seeing an increasing but not unexpected level of influenza activity this flu season. Prevalence of influenza viruses generally peak between November and April.
- The most common types of influenza are Influenza A and Influenza B. According to information from the BC Centre for Disease Control, the H1N1 strain – a type of Influenza A - represents more than 80 per cent of the influenza cases in B.C. so far.
- H1N1 is unique in that there are a larger proportion of people in younger age groups admitted to the Intensive Care Unit due to influenza than usually seen.
- Your best defense against the flu is to get your flu shot and wash your hands frequently.

As with other influenza seasons, statistics change regularly. This fact sheet will to be updated as new information is available.

Summary of Influenza Activity

- As of January 31, there are patients currently in hospital ICUs who have tested positive for influenza.
- The estimated influenza-related hospital deaths for a normal influenza season in B.C. can be up to 520 each year based on national averages.

Statistics (by Health Authority) since January 1, 2014

	Current ICU Admittances*	Confirmed H1N1 Deaths**
Island	5	4
Vancouver Coastal	11	6
Fraser	11	1
Interior	5	3
Northern	2	0
Other	0	0
Totals	34	14

*ICU admittances are being recorded as an indicator of severe influenza cases.

**Deaths of patients with lab-confirmed influenza.

The Ministry of Health, the BCCDC and health authorities continue to monitor and respond to this year's flu season.

Read the complete [BC Influenza Bulletin online](#)

Additional Information and Links:

[FluWatch Canada - Public Health Agency of Canada
Influenza Vaccination Information:](#)
[Find a flu clinic](#)
[British Columbia's Health Authorities](#)

Ministry and Health Authority Media Contacts:

BC Ministry of Health: 250-952-1887

Fraser Health: 604-450-7881

Interior Health: <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/Pages/MediaContact.aspx>

Island Health: Sarah Plank, 250.727.4275

Northern Health: 1-877-961-7724

Provincial Health Services Authority: 604-871-5699

Vancouver Coastal Health: Anna Marie D'Angelo 604.708.5340
After hours pager 604.686.9983