

# BRITISH COLUMBIA INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE BULLETIN

2011-12: Number 7, Week 2

January 8 to 14, 2012



BC Centre for Disease Control

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Prepared by BCCDC Influenza &  
Emerging Respiratory Pathogens Team

## Low-level influenza activity in BC

### Contents:

#### British Columbia:

Sentinel Physicians	<a href="#">Page 2</a>
Children's Hospital ER	<a href="#">Page 2</a>
Medical Services Plan	<a href="#">Page 3</a>
Laboratory Surveillance	<a href="#">Page 5</a>
ILI Outbreaks	<a href="#">Page 6</a>

#### International:

[Page 7](#)

#### Other:

List of Acronyms	<a href="#">Page 8</a>
Web Sites	<a href="#">Page 8</a>
Outbreak Report Form	<a href="#">Page 9</a>

#### Canada:

FluWatch Activity levels	<a href="#">Page 6</a>
NML Strain Characterization	<a href="#">Page 6</a>
NML Antiviral Resistance	<a href="#">Page 6</a>

### Summary

In week 2 (January 8-14, 2012), most influenza surveillance indicators suggested a decrease in influenza activity in BC compared to the previous few weeks. The influenza-like illness (ILI) rate reported by sentinel physicians remained low and below the expected range for this time of year (0.29%). The MSP influenza illness proportion was at or below the 10-year median level for this time of year throughout the province. The ILI consultation rate in BC Children's Hospital ER was lower than the previous week and consistent with the expected level for this time of year. Three lab-confirmed A/H3N2 influenza outbreaks were reported from long term care facilities in Fraser, Vancouver Coastal, and Vancouver Island Health Authorities. The rate of influenza detections at the provincial laboratory declined for the second consecutive week; among 151 specimens tested in week 2, 18 (11.9%) were positive for influenza (all A/H3N2). Other significant respiratory virus detections included human metapneumovirus (14/151, 9.3%), RSV (11/151, 7.3%) and rhino/enterovirus (11/151, 7.3%). In addition, RSV continued to increase and dominate among respiratory viruses detected at BC Children's Hospital.

*Report disseminated January 19, 2012*

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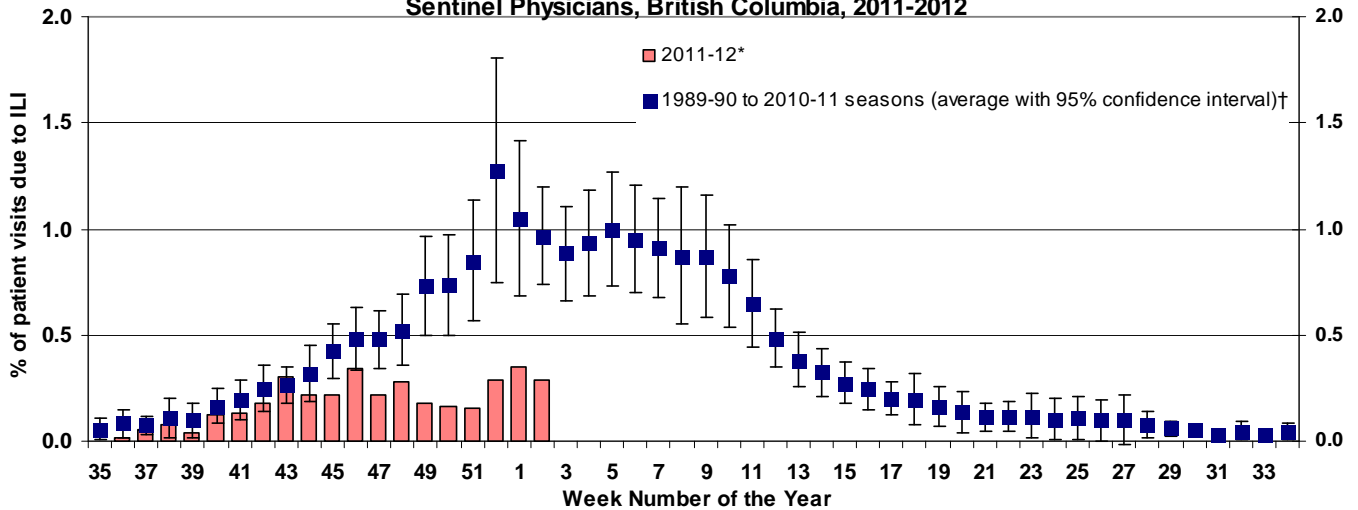
January 8 to 14, 2012

## British Columbia

### Sentinel Physicians

In week 2, the proportion of patients with ILI among those presenting to sentinel physicians was 0.29%, similar to the previous week but remaining below the expected range for this time of year. Forty-eight percent of sentinel physician sites have reported for week 2 to-date.

**Percentage of Patient Visits due to Influenza Like Illness (ILI) per Week Compared to Average Percentage of ILI Visits for the Past 19 Seasons**  
Sentinel Physicians, British Columbia, 2011-2012



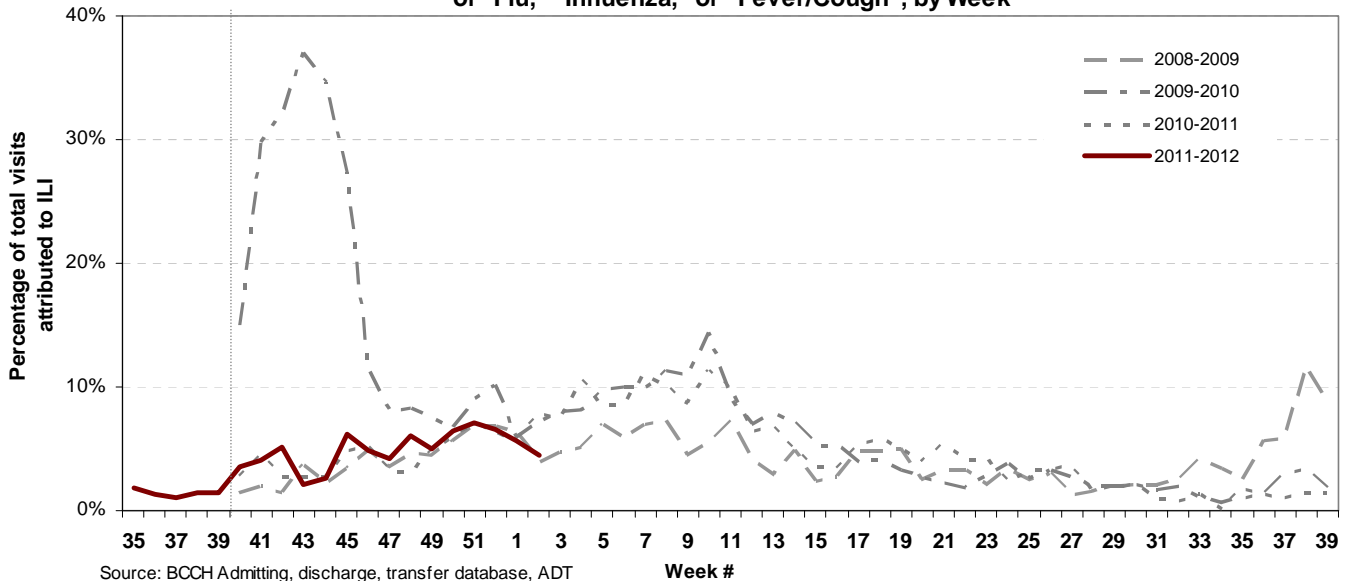
\* Data subject to change as reporting becomes increasingly complete.

† Historical values exclude 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons due to atypical seasonality.

### BC Children's Hospital Emergency Room

The percentage of BC Children's Hospital ER visits attributed to "fever and cough" or flu-like illness in week 2 was 4.5%, slightly lower than the previous week and consistent with this time last year.

**Percentage of Patients Presenting to BC Children's Hospital ER with Presenting Complaint of "Flu," "Influenza," or "Fever/Cough", by Week**



Source: BCCH Admitting, discharge, transfer database, ADT

Data provided by Decision Support Services at Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC

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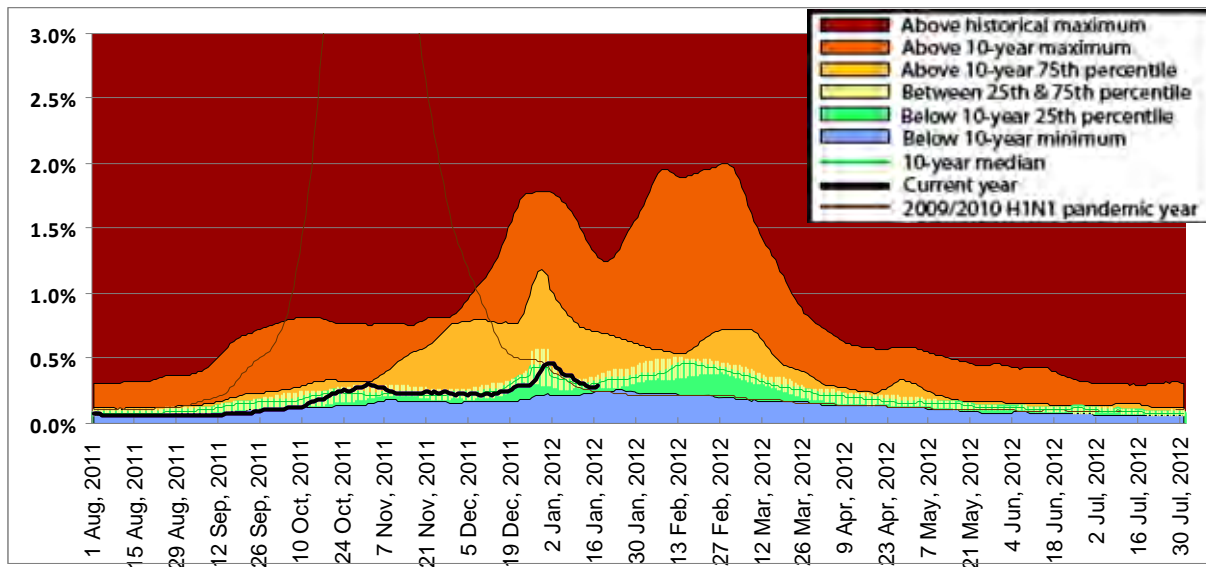
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## Medical Services Plan

In week 2, influenza illness as a proportion of all submitted BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) claims declined at the provincial level and most HAs except Northern HA, but remained at or below the ten-year median for this time of year throughout BC.

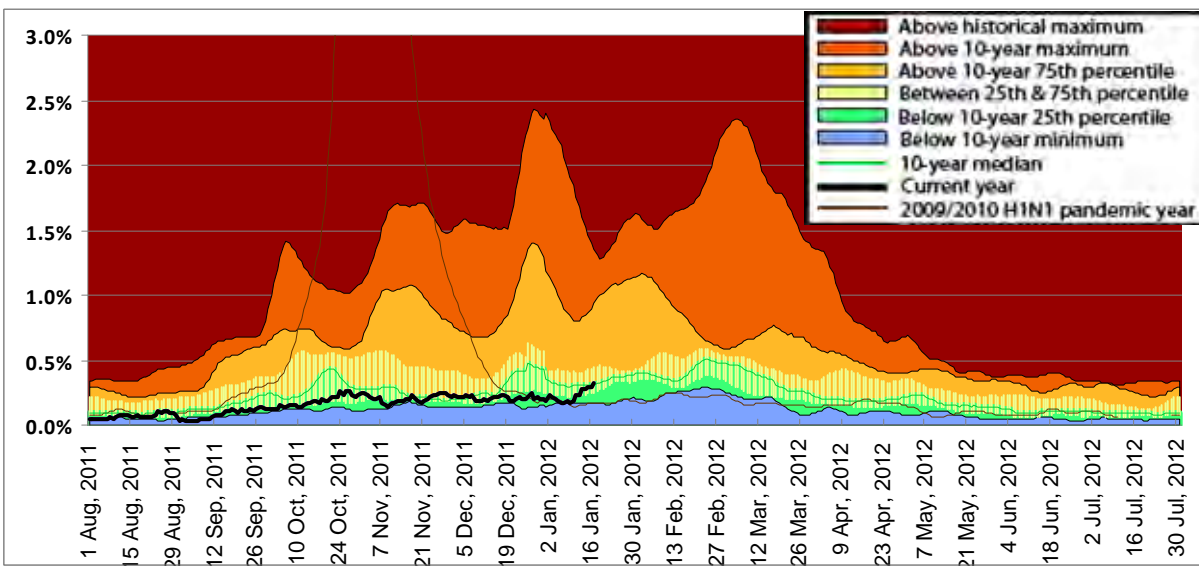
### Influenza Illness Claims\* British Columbia



\* Influenza illness is tracked as the percentage of all submitted MSP general practitioner claims with ICD-9 code 487 (influenza). Data provided by Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, BC Ministry of Health Services

**Notes:** MSP week beginning 28 August 2011 corresponds to sentinel ILI week 35; Data current to 17 January 2012

### Northern

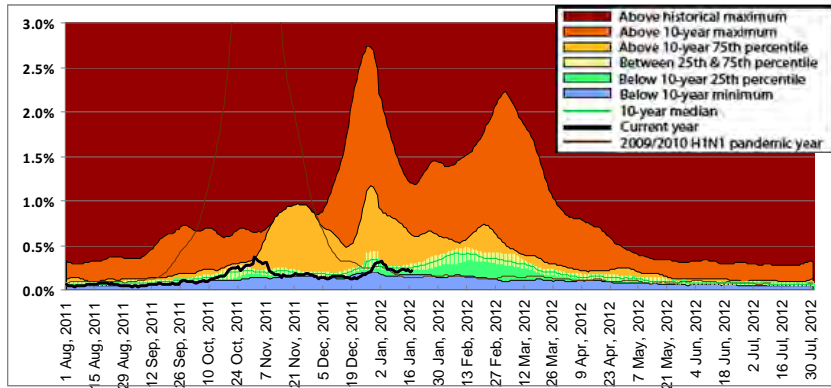


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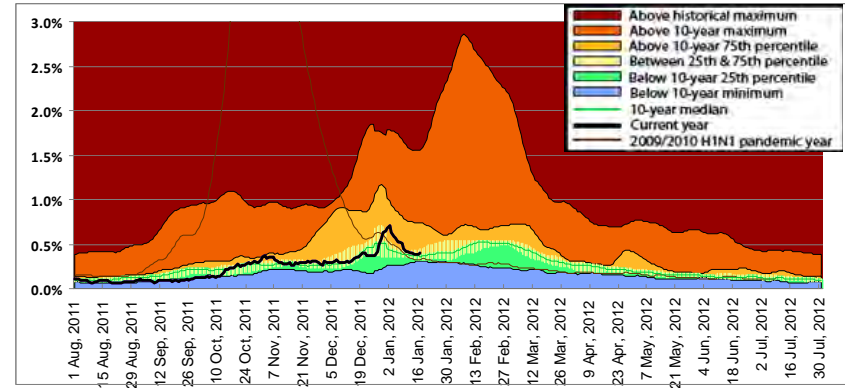
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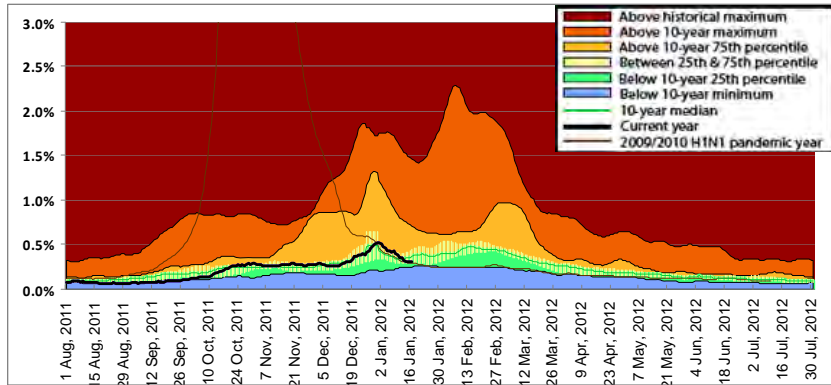
### Interior



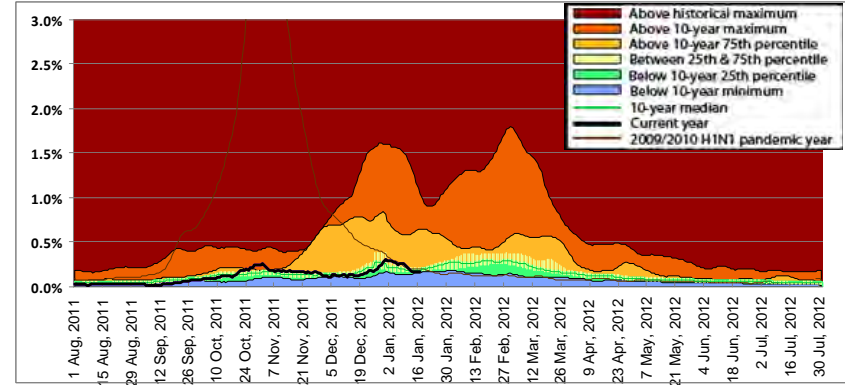
### Vancouver Coastal



### Fraser



### Vancouver Island



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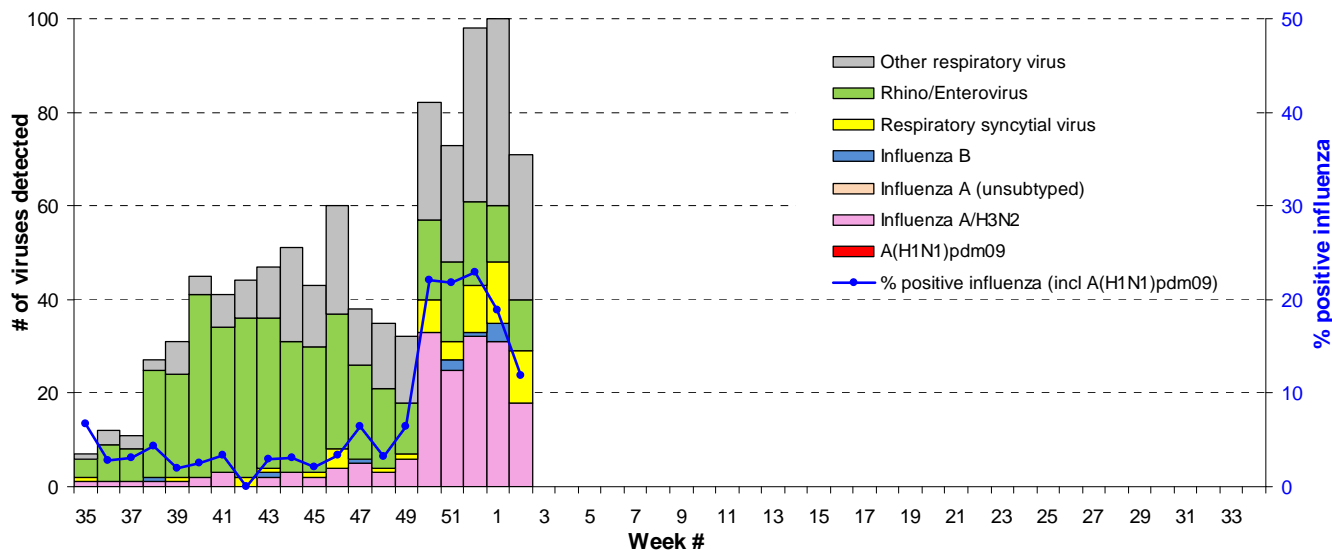
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## Laboratory Reports

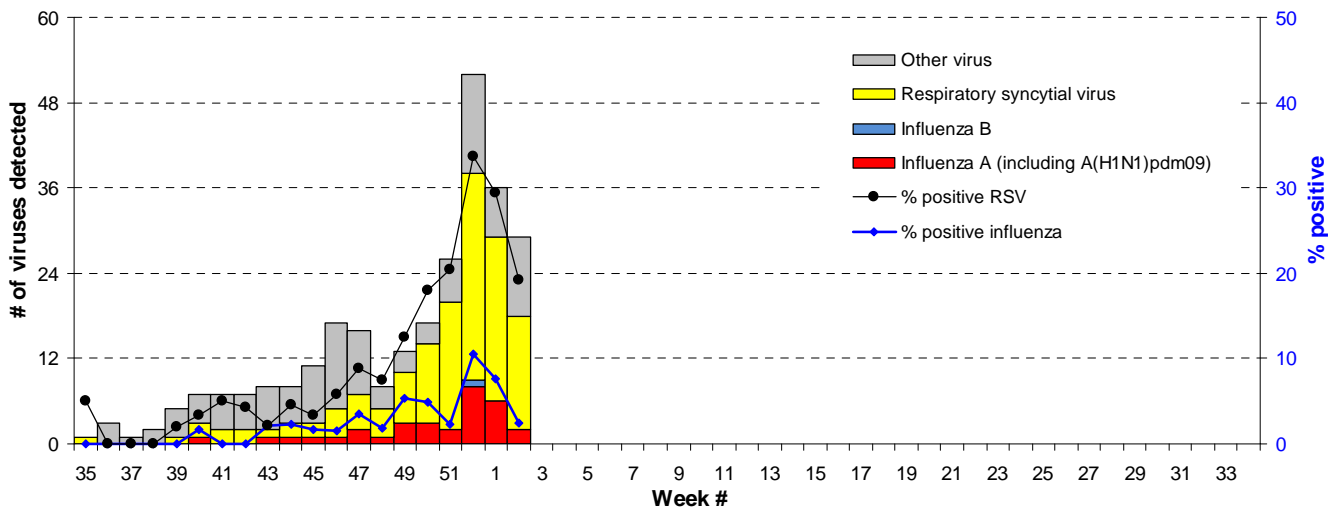
In week 2, 151 respiratory specimens were tested at the BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory, PHSA. Influenza A/H3N2 was detected in 18 (11.9%) submitted specimens, lower than the previous week. Of 151 specimens tested for other respiratory viruses, significant detections included human metapneumovirus (9.3%, 14), RSV (7.3%, 11) and rhino/enterovirus (7.3%, 11). Other respiratory viruses were also sporadically detected.

**Influenza and Other Virus Detections Among Respiratory Specimens Submitted to BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory, PHSA, 2011-2012**



In week 2, BC Children's and Women's Health Centre Laboratory tested 83 respiratory specimens: two (2.4%) were positive for influenza A. RSV continued to predominate among the other respiratory viruses detected (19.3%, 16/83). Other respiratory viruses were also detected at low levels.

**Influenza and Other Virus Detections Among Respiratory Specimens Submitted to BC Children's and Women's Health Centre Laboratory, 2011-2012**



Data provided by Virology Department at Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC

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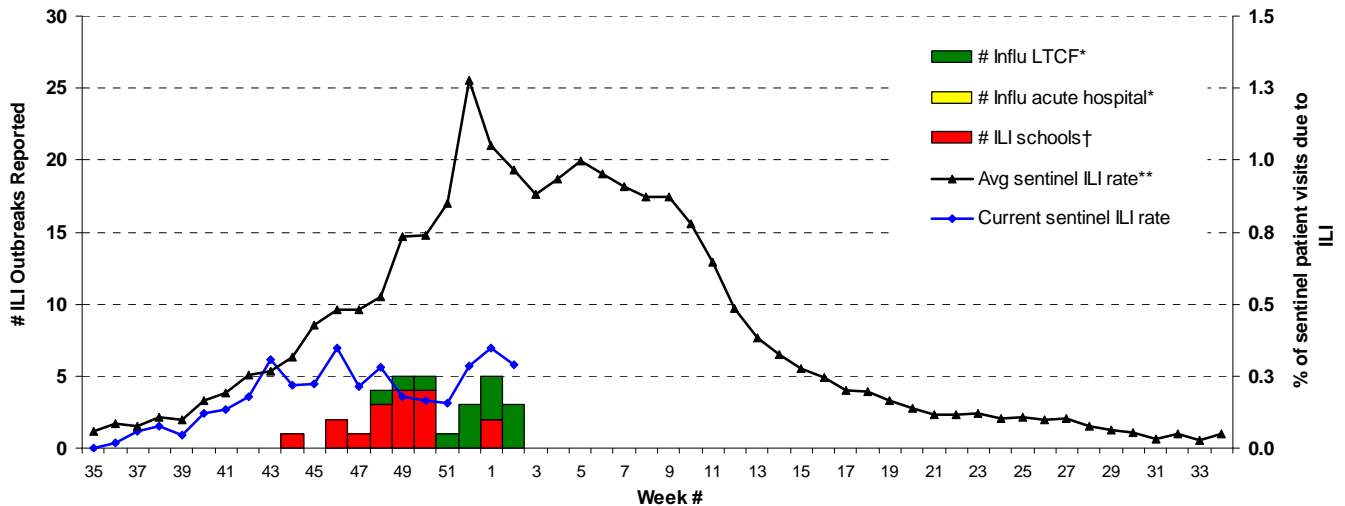
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## ILI Outbreaks

In week 2, three lab-confirmed A/H3N2 influenza outbreaks were reported from long term care facilities (LTCF) in Fraser, Vancouver Coastal, and Vancouver Island HAs.

Number of Influenza and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Outbreaks Reported, Compared to Current Sentinel ILI Rate and Average Sentinel ILI Rate for past 20 years, per Week, British Columbia, 2011-2012 season



\* Facility influenza outbreak defined as 2 or more ILI cases within 7-day period, with at least one case laboratory-confirmed as influenza.

† School ILI outbreak defined as >10% absenteeism on any day, most likely due to ILI.

\*\* Historical values exclude 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons due to atypical seasonality.

## CANADA

### FluWatch

In week 1 (January 1 to 7, 2012), Influenza activity in Canada was similar to previous weeks with only certain regions reporting increased activity (i.e. western provinces, ON and QC) while activity remained low in the rest (i.e. Atlantic region, MB and the Territories). The proportion of tests positive for influenza in week 1 was 2.9% (109/3,697). One hundred and nine influenza detections included 59 A/H3N2, 8 A(H1N1)pdm09, 17 A untyped and 25 influenza B. The ILI consultation rate increased in week 1 compared to previous weeks but remained within expected levels for this time of year. ([www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/)).

### National Microbiology Laboratory (NML): Strain Characterization

Between September 1, 2011 and January 19, 2012, 89 isolates were collected from provincial and hospital labs and characterized at the NML as follows:

35 A/Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2)<sup>†</sup> from ONT, SASK, ALTA, and BC;

19 A/California/07/09-like (H1N1)\* from QUE and ONT;

21 B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria/02/87 lineage)<sup>†</sup> from NFLD, QUE, ONT, ALTA, and BC;

14 B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like (recent B Yamagata lineage) from NB, QUE, ONT, ALTA, and BC;

<sup>†</sup> indicates a strain match to the recommended H3N2 component of the 2011-12 northern hemisphere influenza vaccine

\* indicates a strain match to the recommended H1N1 component for the 2011-2012 northern hemisphere influenza vaccine

† indicates a strain match to the recommended influenza B component for the 2011-2012 influenza vaccine

### NML: Antiviral Resistance

From September 1, 2011 to January 19, 2012, drug susceptibility to oseltamivir and zanamivir was tested at the NML for thirty-four influenza A/H3N2, sixteen influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, and twenty-nine influenza B isolates. The results indicated that all isolates were sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir. In addition, forty-five A/H3N2 and nine A(H1N1)pdm09 isolates were also tested for susceptibility to amantadine and all were found to be resistant.

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## INTERNATIONAL

**Northern Hemisphere:** *USA:* In week 1 ending January 7, 2012, influenza activity increased but remained relatively low in the United States. 105 (3.4%) specimens tested were positive for influenza. Of those subtyped, the predominant influenza virus continued to be A/H3N2. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI was 1.4% which was below the national baseline of 2.4%. The USA further reported that 7.2% of all deaths were due to pneumonia and influenza illness, which was also below the epidemic threshold for this time of the year. [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/).

*Other Areas:* According to the most recent WHO report (6 January 2012), influenza activity in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere remained below seasonal threshold levels, though notable increases in activity were reported in some areas; the persistence of the increased activity over the last few weeks in these areas likely represents the start of the influenza transmission season. The influenza viruses detected throughout the northern hemisphere temperate zone were predominantly A/H3N2 subtype with the exception of China, where influenza type B predominated.

**Tropics and Southern Hemisphere:** According to the WHO report of January 6, 2012, countries in the tropical zone reported low levels of influenza activity except for Costa Rica, which was primarily detecting influenza A/H3N2. Influenza activity in the temperate countries of the southern hemisphere was at inter-seasonal levels though Chile and Australia both reported persistent transmission of A/H3N2 with smaller numbers of influenza type B in Australia.

[www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/updates/latest\\_update\\_GIP\\_surveillance/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/index.html)

### **Avian Influenza:**

On 11 January 2012, The Ministry of Health of Indonesia notified the WHO of one new fatal case of human infection with avian influenza A/H5N1 virus: a 23 year-old male who died after hospitalization. On 16 January 2012, a 5-year-old female household contact of this case also died after contracting A/H5N1 and being briefly hospitalized. [www.who.int/csr/don/2012\\_01\\_19/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012_01_19/en/index.html)

On 18 January 2012, the Ministry of Health of Cambodia reported the death of a 2 year-old male who developed symptoms on 3 January 2012 and was admitted to hospital on 9 January 2012. All three cases are believed to have been exposed to sick birds. [www.who.int/csr/don/2012\\_01\\_11/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012_01_11/en/index.html)

### **WHO Recommendations for 2011-12 Northern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccine**

On February 17, 2011 the WHO announced the recommended strain components for the 2011-12 northern hemisphere trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV):

A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus

A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus

B/Brisbane/60/2008 (Victoria lineage)-like virus

All three recommended components are the same as for northern hemisphere seasonal TIV vaccines produced and administered in 2010-11. For further details, see:

[www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/2011\\_12north/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/2011_12north/en/index.html)

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## Contact Us:

**Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (CDPACS):  
BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)**

## List of Acronyms

**ACF:** Acute Care Facility

**AI:** Avian Influenza

**FHA:** Fraser Health Authority

**HBoV:** Human bocavirus

**HMPV:** Human metapneumovirus

**HSDA:** Health Service Delivery Area

**IHA:** Interior Health Authority

**ILI:** Influenza-Like Illness

**LTCF:** Long Term Care Facility

**MSP:** BC Medical Services Plan

**NHA:** Northern Health Authority

**NML:** National Microbiological Laboratory

**pH1N1:** Pandemic H1N1 influenza

**RSV:** Respiratory syncytial virus

**VCHA:** Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

**VIHA:** Vancouver Island Health Authority

**WHO:** World Health Organization

## Web Sites

### 1. Influenza Web Sites

Canada – Flu Watch: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/)

Washington State Flu Updates: [www.doh.wa.gov/FLUNews/](http://www.doh.wa.gov/FLUNews/)

USA Weekly Surveillance reports: [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/)

European Influenza Surveillance Scheme: [www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)

WHO – Global Influenza Programme: [www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/mission/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/mission/)

WHO – Weekly Epidemiological Record: [www.who.int/wer/en/](http://www.who.int/wer/en/)

Influenza Centre (Australia): [www.influenzacentre.org/](http://www.influenzacentre.org/)

Australian Influenza Report: [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/cda-surveil-ozflu-flucurr.htm)

New Zealand Influenza Surveillance Reports: [www.surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza\\_weekly\\_update.php](http://www.surv.esr.cri.nz/virology/influenza_weekly_update.php)

### 2. Avian Influenza Web Sites

World Health Organization – Avian Influenza: [www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/)

World Organization for Animal Health: [www.oie.int/eng/en\\_index.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm)

**3. This Report On-line:** [www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/DiseaseStatsReports/influSurveillanceReports.htm](http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/DiseaseStatsReports/influSurveillanceReports.htm)



# Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Outbreak Summary Report Form

Please complete and email to [ilioutbreak@bccdc.ca](mailto:ilioutbreak@bccdc.ca)

**Note: This form is for provincial surveillance purposes.**  
**Please notify your local health unit per local guidelines/requirements.**

**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 *could* be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

**Schools and work site outbreak:** greater than 10% absenteeism on any day, most likely due to ILI.

**Residential institutions (facilities) outbreak:** two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period.

<b>A</b>	<p><b><u>Reporting Information</u></b>      Health unit/medical health officer notified? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Person Reporting: _____ Title: _____</p> <p>Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____</p> <p>Health Authority: _____ HSDA: _____</p> <p>Full Facility Name: _____</p> <p>Is this report:      <input type="checkbox"/> First Notification (<i>complete section B below; Section D if available</i>)</p> <p>                                 <input type="checkbox"/> Update (<i>complete section C below; Section D if available</i>)</p> <p>                                 <input type="checkbox"/> Outbreak Over (<i>complete section C below; Section D if available</i>)</p>
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<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>First Notification</u></b></p> <p>Type of facility:    <input type="checkbox"/> LTCF            <input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital            <input type="checkbox"/> Senior's Residence  <i>(if ward or wing, please specify name/number: _____)</i></p> <p>                         <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace    <input type="checkbox"/> School (grades: _____)    <input type="checkbox"/> Other (_____)</p> <p>Date of onset of first case of ILI (dd/mm/yyyy): <u>  </u> <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Numbers to date</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Residents/Students</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Staff</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Total</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>With ILI</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Hospitalized</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Died</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Numbers to date	Residents/Students	Staff	<b>Total</b>			<b>With ILI</b>			<b>Hospitalized</b>			<b>Died</b>		
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<b>C</b>	<p><b><u>Update AND Outbreak Declared Over</u></b></p> <p>Date of onset for most recent case of ILI (dd/mm/yyyy): <u>  </u> <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u></p> <p>If over, date outbreak declared over (dd/mm/yyyy): <u>  </u> <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> / <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Numbers to date</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Residents/Students</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Staff</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Total</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>With ILI</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Hospitalized</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Died</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Numbers to date	Residents/Students	Staff	<b>Total</b>			<b>With ILI</b>			<b>Hospitalized</b>			<b>Died</b>		
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<b>D</b>	<p><b><u>Laboratory Information</u></b></p> <p>Specimen(s) submitted?    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (location: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> No    <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p> <p>   If yes, organism identified?    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (specify: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> No    <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p>
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