

Alberta Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Surveillance Update

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SNAPSHOT March 4, 2010

This report is intended to assist health professionals with pandemic planning and care provision and is available on the Alberta Health Services website: [Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 Information for Health Professionals](#). The information and data will be reported as it becomes available on either a daily or weekly basis.

What's New:

- There have been no Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 deaths or hospitalizations reported in Alberta in the past seven weeks.
- The number of patients admitted with ILI increased in Edmonton Zone last week; this increase was not seen in the Calgary Zone.
- There were three respiratory outbreaks in Alberta last week. Two were in the Edmonton Zone and one was in the South Zone.
- Influenza activity in Alberta and the rest of Canada remains low. Human metapneumovirus (hMPV) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are still the predominant isolates in Alberta.
- The WHO reported that as of February 23, 2010, there is no change to the pandemic phase (phase 6).
- Globally, there have been no significant changes in influenza activity since the previous report.

Pandemic-to-Date

	Indicators	Wave 2 Total	Pandemic-to- date
Mortality	# deaths related to confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 *	63	71
Hospitalizations	# confirmed hospitalized Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases – Alberta residents only ²	1,105	1,276
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	# of confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases ²	4,839	6,630

* Wave 2 started October 11, 2009

² Source: Alberta Health & Wellness

Alberta Snapshot

Indicators	Four week trend (week starting)				Wave 2 Total	
	Feb 7 Week 6	Feb 14 Week 7	Feb 21 Week 8	Feb 28 Current week		
Mortality	# deaths related to confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 ³	0	0	0	0	63
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	# of confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases ³	1	0	1	0	4,839
Hospitalizations	# confirmed hospitalized Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases – Alberta residents only ²	0	0	0	0	1,105
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) – in children	# urgent care or emergency department visits in children (under 18 years) with ILI ⁴	224	401	323	177	
	Calgary: Edmonton:	241	253	269	102	
	# children (under 18 years) with ILI admitted to hospital via the emergency department ⁴	11	33	23	14	
	Calgary: Edmonton:	18	16	28	19	
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) – all ages	# urgent care or emergency department visits seen with ILI ⁴	336	515	456	235	
	Calgary: Edmonton:	364	362	405	167	
	# people with ILI admitted to hospital via the emergency department ⁴	26	48	40	18	
	Calgary: Edmonton:	42	45	60	25	
	# ILI (or cough) related calls answered by Health Link ⁴	677	702	707	290	
Outbreaks	# outbreaks related to <u>confirmed</u> Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 ⁵	0	0	0	0	40
	# of respiratory outbreaks - all ⁵	0	0	3	0	--
Antivirals	# prescriptions dispensed from community pharmacies ³	169	122	178	34	45,615
Immunizations	# Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine doses administered ⁶	7,367	2,109	1,737	--	1,268,630

-- information not available

ILI = Influenza-Like Illness

³ Source: Alberta Health & Wellness

⁴ Source: Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) (2400hr)

⁵ Source: Alberta Health Services Fillable PDF forms from All Zones starting Oct. 11

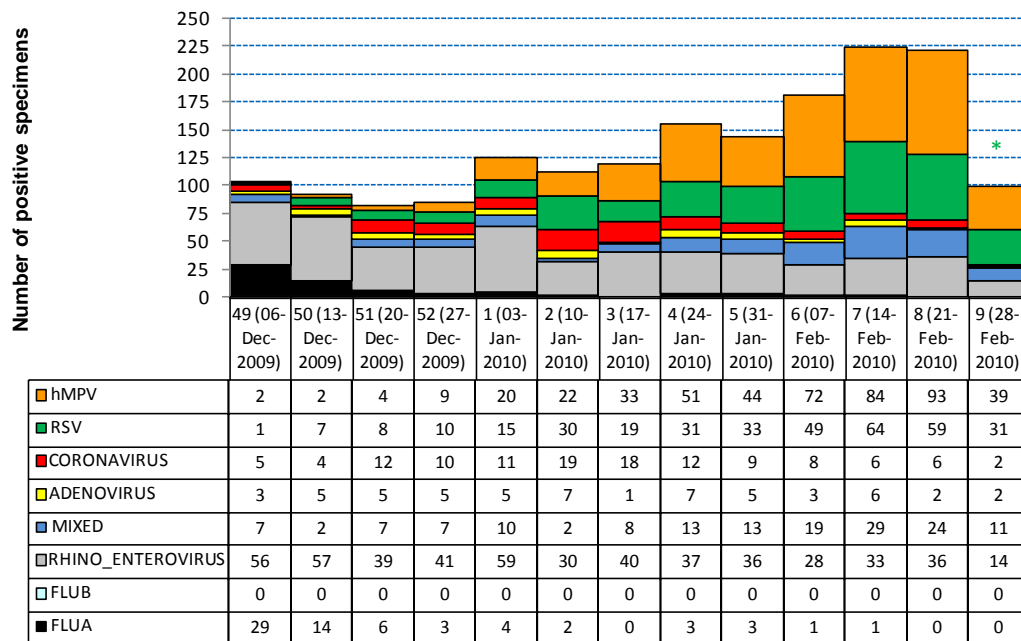
⁶ Source: Alberta Health Services Zones

Laboratory Confirmed Specimens

Information on the respiratory virus activity in Alberta is based on laboratory specimens submitted and tested at the Alberta Health Services Provincial Laboratory. The specimens reported are from residents of Alberta; according to the date the specimen was received by the laboratory.

From Oct 30-Dec 9, 2009, the Provincial Laboratory moved to their second prioritization level for testing. During this time, respiratory samples from community physicians were not tested. Swabs submitted for long term care outbreaks and hospitalized patients continued to be tested. On Dec 10, 2009 the laboratory resumed community testing.

Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Alberta



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

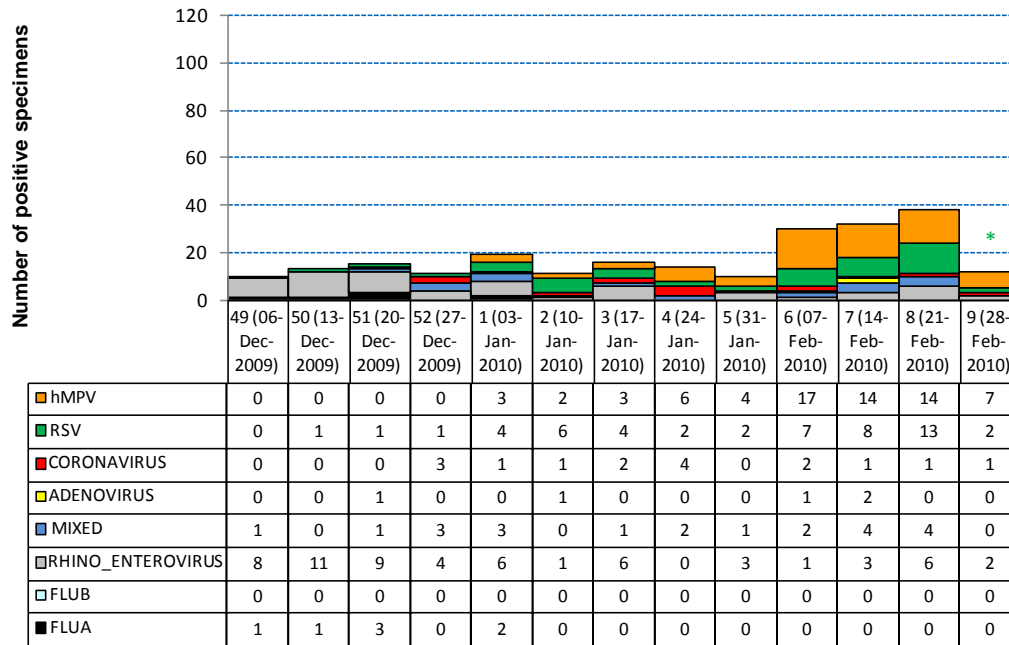
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on Mar 2, 2010

* This week contains only 3 days of data.

There may be delays in receiving reports so data are preliminary and may change.

Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations. From Oct 30-Dec 9, 2009, the Provincial Laboratory moved to their second prioritization level for testing. During this time, respiratory samples from community physicians were not tested.

Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, North Zone



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on Mar 2, 2010

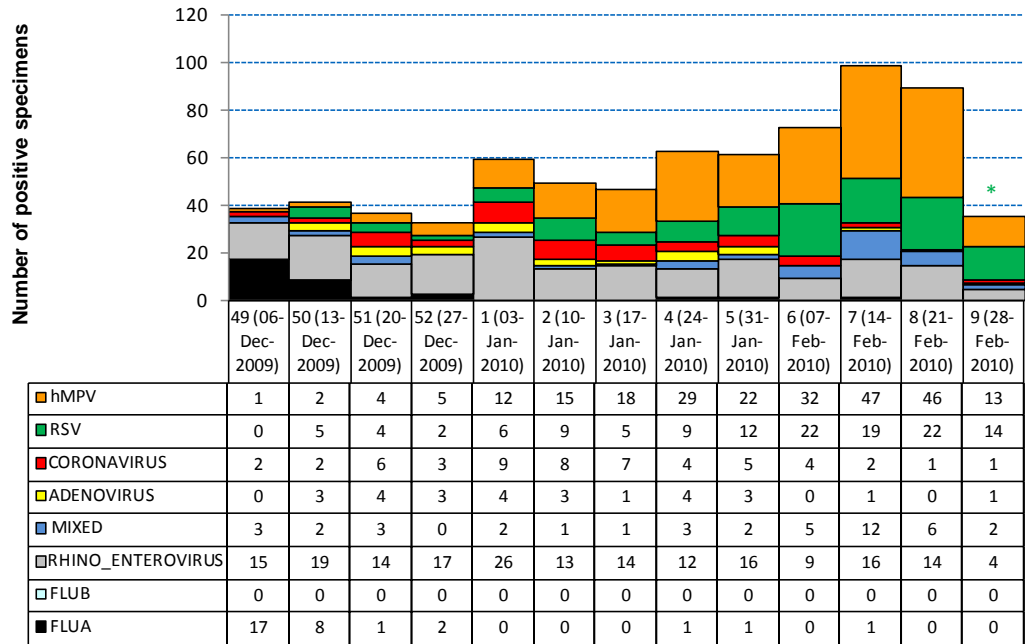
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Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Edmonton Zone



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

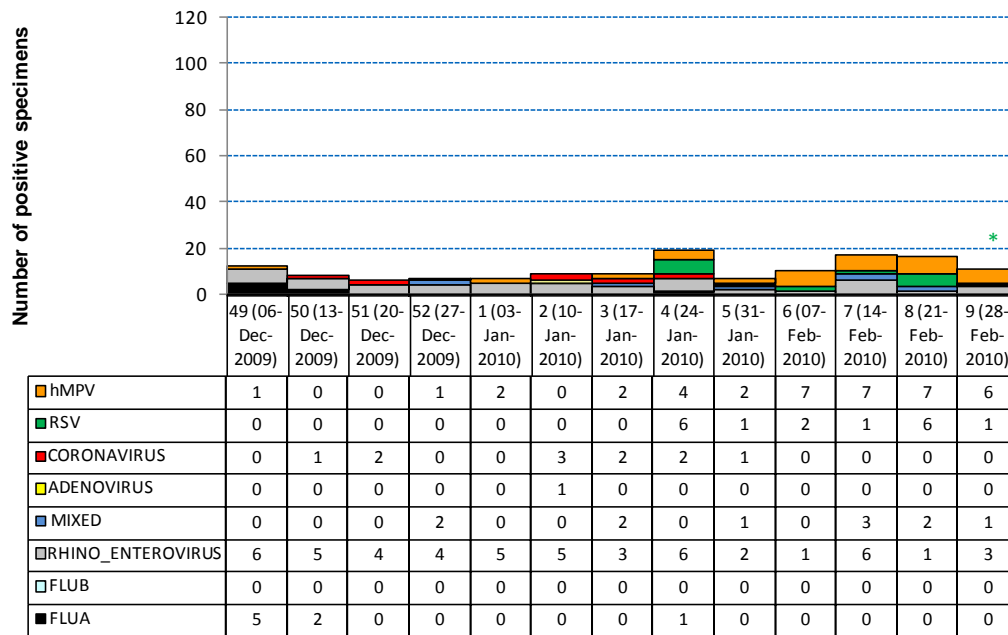
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on Mar 2, 2010

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Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Central Zone



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

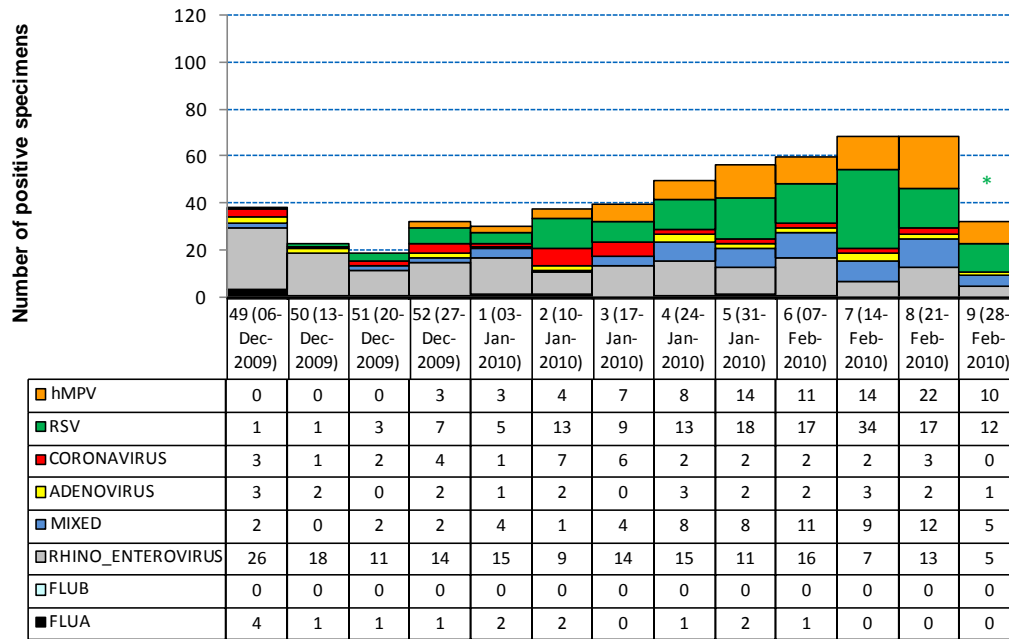
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Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Calgary Zone



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

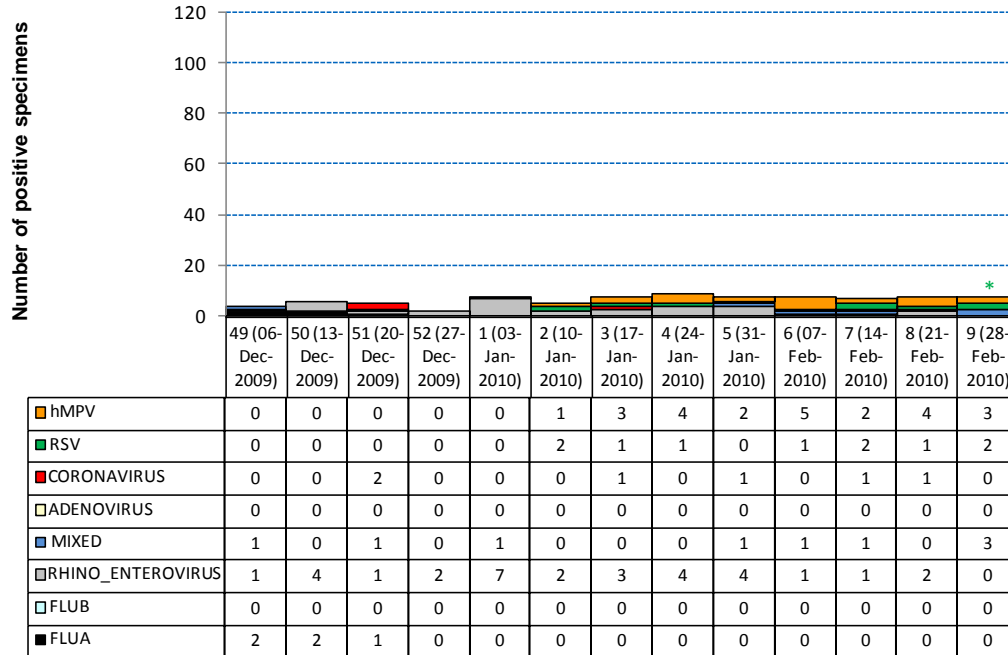
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on Mar 2, 2010

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Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, South Zone



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

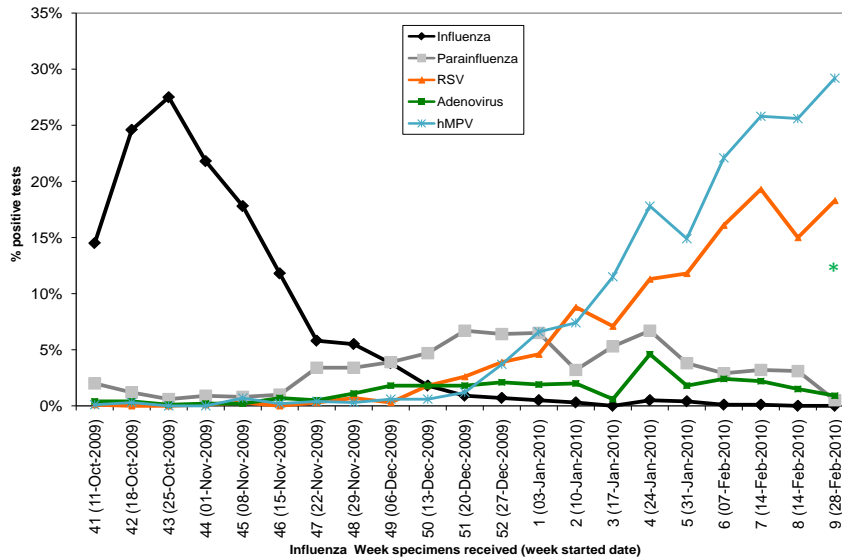
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on Mar 2, 2010

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Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations From Oct 30-Dec 9, 2009, the Provincial Laboratory moved to their second prioritization level for testing. During this time, respiratory samples from community physicians were not tested.

Percent Positives of Respiratory Viruses, by virus type, by week, Alberta



Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on Mar 2, 2010

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Source: Data Integration for Alberta Laboratories (DIAL) System, Provincial Laboratory
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On October 26, 2009, due to high volumes, the Provincial Laboratory (ProvLab) restricted testing to provide DFA (Direct fluorescent antibody test) only for samples from hospitalized patients and outbreaks in long-term-care facilities. Respiratory virus panel (RVP) was only performed on specimens tested negative for influenza A from hospitalized patients, outbreaks, a random 5% of community samples, and samples from Tarrant Viral Watch Program. Despite this ALERT and implementation of NEW Pandemic requisition on October 26th, sample volumes continue to escalate.

On October 28, 2009, another Pandemic Alert was issued requesting ALL health providers to stop testing patients with mild illness in the community. ProvLab implemented the no-testing of “community” patients effective October 30th, allowing for a 24-hour transition period from the time of the ALERT. On Dec 10, 2009 the laboratory resumed community testing.

Of note, over 50% of samples submitted to ProVLab for respiratory virus testing have been tested as positive for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

Due to the high volumes of specimens being submitted to the Provincial Laboratory, testing is not required for mild cases of influenza-like illness. [Current swabbing guidelines for community physicians](#) are available on the Health Care Professional Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 website.

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Immunization Coverage

The immunization campaign for the delivery of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine began in Alberta on October 26, 2009. The table below is based on daily reports from the zones of the number of Adjuvanted Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza vaccine doses administered. These numbers are considered as an estimate and are validated in the following week.

Doses of Adjuvanted and Non-Adjuvanted Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine administered by risk group and age group, Alberta (week 43 2009 – week 8 2010)

All Population by Age Group	Vaccine Count	2009 Estimated Population	Estimated % Population that received vaccination
6 months - 4 years	148,627		
(Dose #1 only)	112,121	216,407	52%
5-9 years	87,025		
(Dose #1 only)	81,244	218,385	37%
10-18 year	113,441	422,821	27%
19-64 years	719,774	2,345,705	31%
65 years and older	199,763	388,223	51%
Totals* (that received 1 vaccine dose)	1,226,343	3,591,541	34%
Total doses administered	1,268,630		

Source: Reporting Form (weekly) for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Vaccine as of Mar 2, 2010

*Population of age 0 - 6 months old not included

Population Estimate is based on the projected number for 2009 from Alberta Health and Wellness website.

Doses administered by First Nations and Inuit Health to individuals living on reserve are not included.

Relevant information about vaccines is available [here](#).