

Weekly Report

October 19, 2010

The purpose of this report is to inform Public Health staff, primary care providers, acute care staff and other community practitioners about recent respiratory virus activity in the province of Alberta. Unless otherwise noted, all data presented are current as of the Saturday prior to the day the report is released.

What's New?

- According to the latest WHO report, influenza A (H3N2) is now the predominant influenza virus worldwide, although many areas are still experiencing active transmission of H1N1 (2009). Most of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses detected are A/Perth/16/2009-like, the same strain included in the seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Influenza activity is decreasing in most areas of the temperate Southern Hemisphere, while the influenza season does not appear to have definitively started in the temperate Northern Hemisphere.
- The US and Canada are currently reporting low level or sporadic influenza activity. The virus subtypes being seen are predominantly A (H3N2) and to a lesser extent, influenza B (US only).
- Note: There has been a change in the influenza-like illness/influenza outbreak definitions in this current update as compared to previous reports. This new definition now follows that used by Canada's national surveillance system FluWatch (<http://origin.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/10-11/def10-11-eng.php>).
- This week's update includes immunization numbers reported from each zone in Alberta for doses delivered by AHS Public Health. The data presented includes doses administered to targeted groups prior to the official start of the public influenza immunization campaign on October 12th as well as doses administered during the first week of the public campaign.

Contact Us

If you have questions about the Alberta Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update, or any of the indicators, please contact:
AHSPublicHealthSurveillance@albertahealthservices.ca

Or phone: 780-342-0210

Quick Links

[Alberta Snapshot](#)

[Section 1: Alberta](#)

[Section 2: Zone 1 - South](#)

[Section 3: Zone 2 - Calgary](#)

[Section 4: Zone 3 - Central](#)

[Section 5: Zone 4 - Edmonton](#)

[Section 6: Zone 5 - North](#)

[Annex: Data Notes](#)

Current Global Information

[FluWatch \(PHAC\)](#)

[FluView \(US CDC\)](#)

[HPA \(UK\)](#)

[WHO](#)

[Travel Advisories](#)

Alberta Snapshot

[Back to first page](#)

Indicators		Cumulative Counts					Alberta	
		Week 35 (starting Aug 29/10) to week 41 (starting Oct 10/10)						
		South	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	North		
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	Number of cases with a positive respiratory specimen ¹	Adenovirus	2	5	3	5	1	16
		Coronavirus	0	1	0	2	2	5
		Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	1	1	0	0	0	2
		Influenza A (H3)	6	0	0	0	0	6
		Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Parainfluenza	1	5	2	15	10	33
		Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	2	4	0	2	3	11
		Rhino enterovirus	28	167	64	242	99	600
		Mixed	1	15	1	7	8	32
		Total	41	198	70	273	123	705
Outbreaks	# respiratory outbreaks reported ²	0	3	0	4	1	8	
Influenza Immunizations	Total number immunized by AHS Public Health ³ (cumulative since Oct 3, 2010)	16,118	42,267	10,932	44,564	18,570	132,451	

-- Information not available

¹ Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)

² Source: Alberta Health and Wellness Outbreak Reporting Form (Fillable PDF) from All Zones

³Source: AHS Zones (number does not include doses provided by external providers); includes first doses only for those that require two doses
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

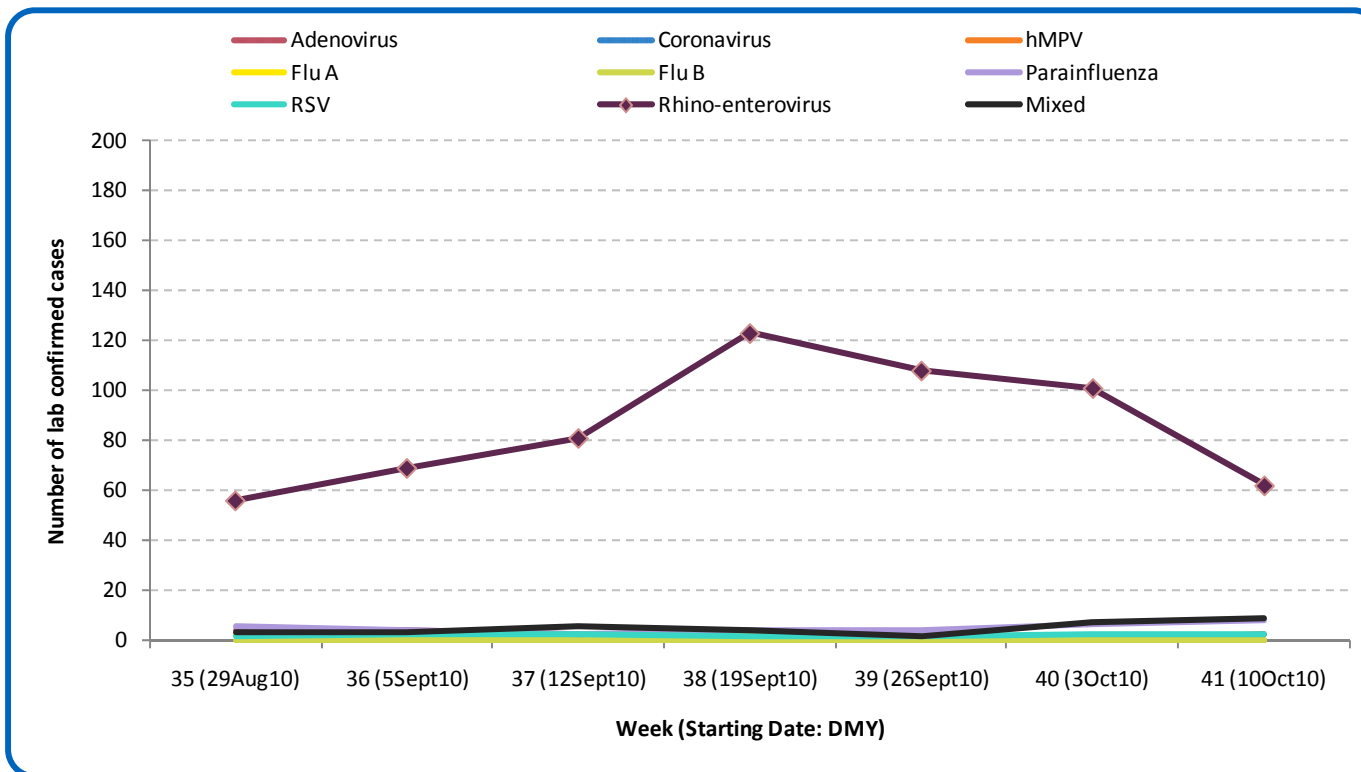
Report Date: October 19, 2010

SECTION 1: ALBERTA

[Back to first page](#)

The predominant respiratory virus in Alberta is still rhino-enterovirus, although it appears this activity is declining. No new cases of influenza have been reported in the province since week 39 (Sept 26-Oct 2). In total, there have been 6 confirmed cases of influenza A (H3) since late August, all in the South Zone. Four cases have been in adults aged 18 to less than 65 years and two cases have been in children under the age of five years. This activity does not necessarily signal the start of the influenza season.

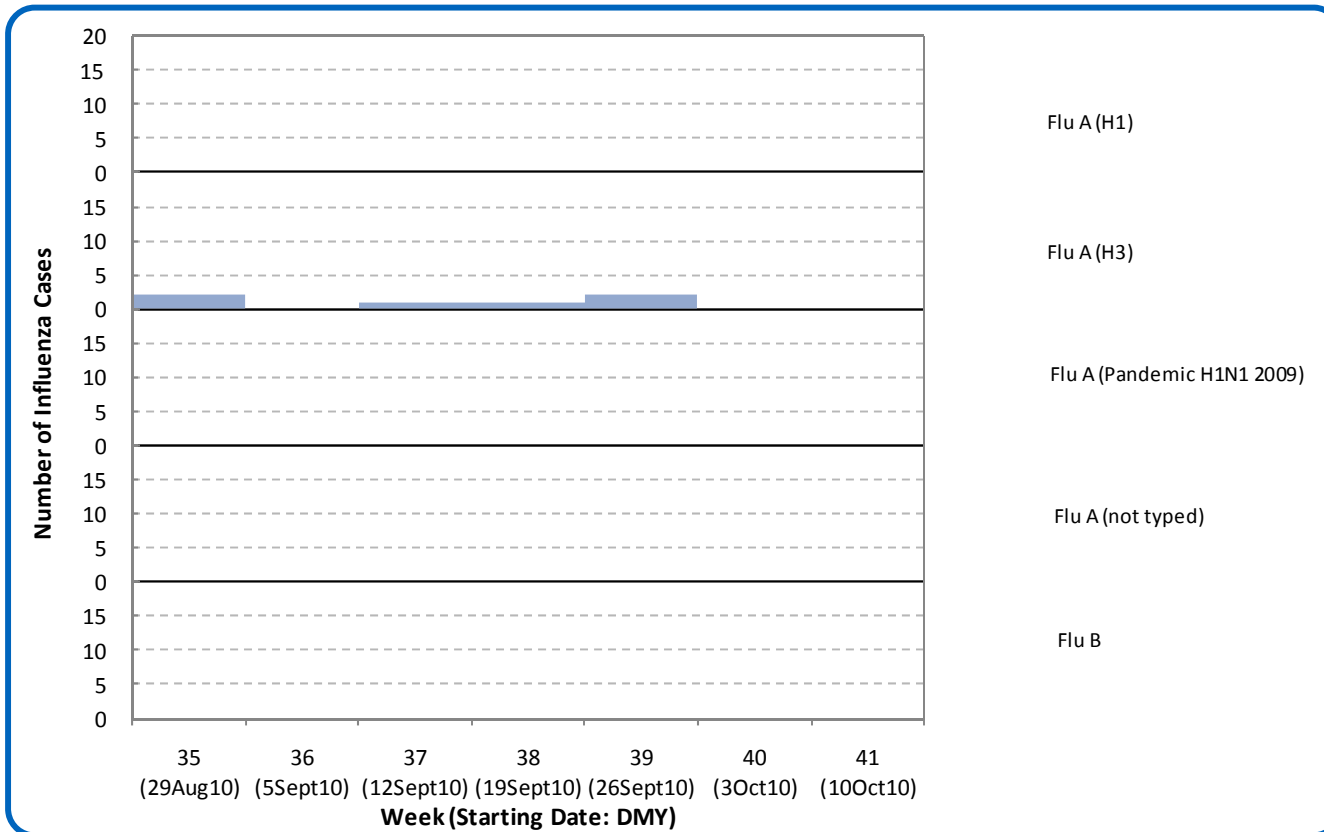
Figure 1A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Alberta (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 1B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week, Alberta (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

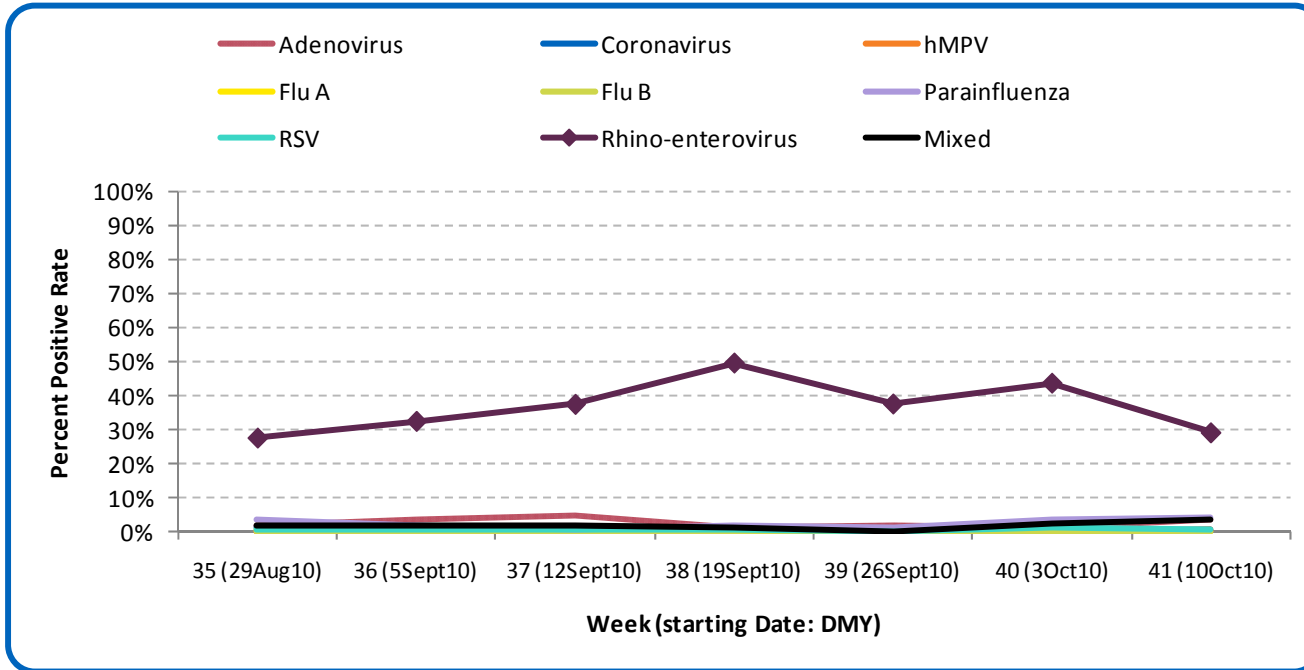
Table 1A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Aug 29 – Oct 16, 2010)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (not subtyped)		Flu B		Total	
	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)
0 to <2 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.0
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	0	0.0	6	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.0

Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 16, 2010) ; Population data values used to calculate rates are for June 30, 2009 and are estimated using actual population values from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Registration File as of March 31, 2009. For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 1C: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Alberta (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

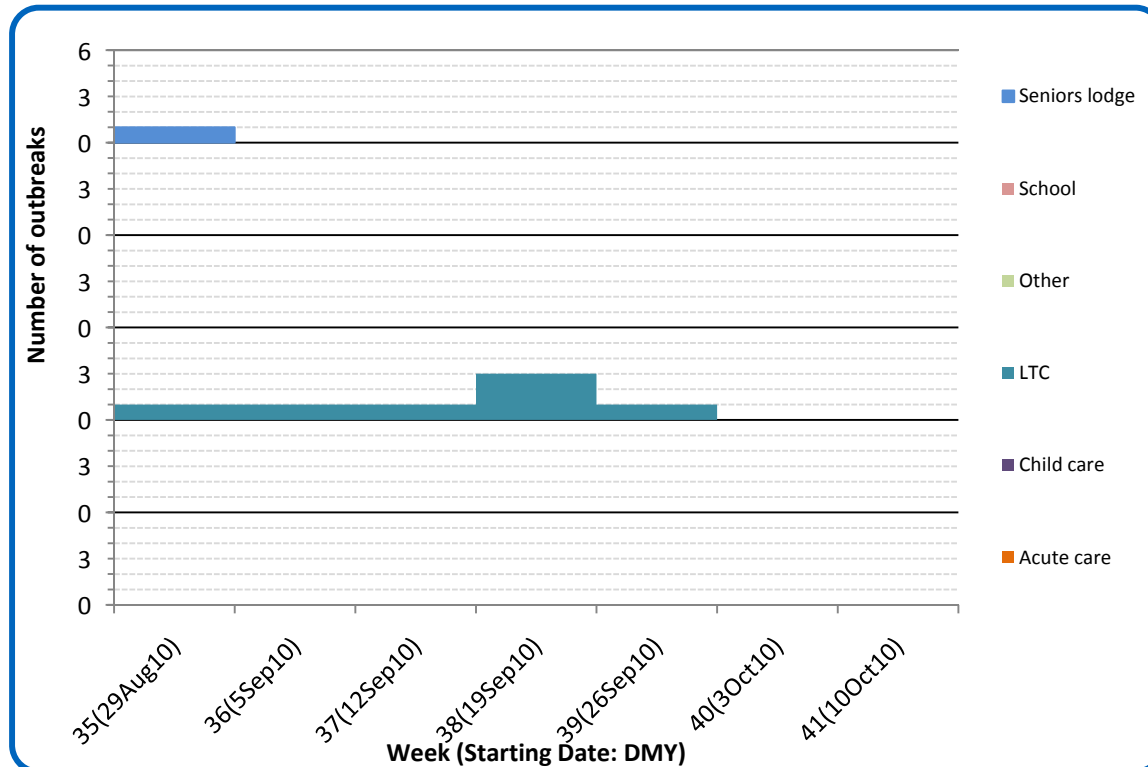


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

No laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks have been reported for hospitals or residential institutions in Alberta since October 3.

[Back to first page](#)

Figure 1D: Reported respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by week, Alberta (2010)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 16, 2010
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

Of the laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks previously reported, rhino-enterovirus was the primary virus detected. On average, the attack rate for the reported outbreaks in hospitals and residential institutions (among residents/clients) was approximately 17%.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties in Week 41 (starting Oct 10) was similar to the level of Week 40.

Influenza-like illness visits and “Left Without Being Seen”

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for influenza-like illness (ILI) or cough symptoms has been in the range established in recent weeks in both Calgary and Edmonton Zones; no upward trend has developed. The number of visits for which patients left without being seen follows a similar pattern.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness

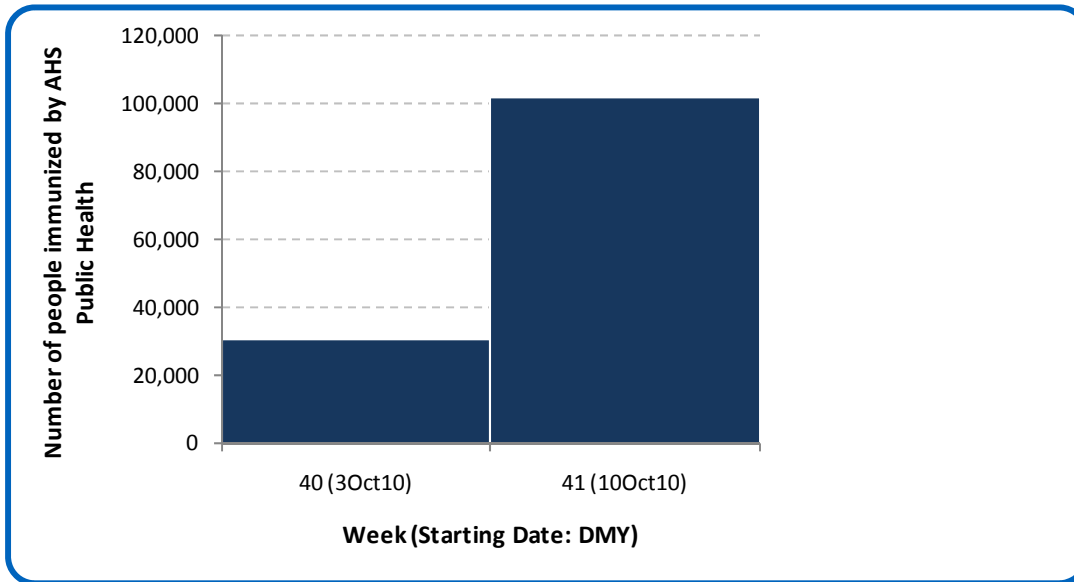
In Week 4 (Oct 3 to Oct 9), the percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices with ILI symptoms was lower than in the week before, remaining well below the 1% mark. The trend for ILI visits is generally similar to those for visits to emergency departments and calls to Health Link Alberta for similar symptoms.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infections

The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) was 1% in Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9), slightly higher than in the previous three weeks.

Figure 1E: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Alberta (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

Table 1B: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Alberta (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 41 – Oct 10-16, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	477	1,481
Health care workers	3,569	8,570
Pregnant women	520	826
Residents of long term care	700	3,033
65 years of age and over	41,991	57,932
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	1,953	2,904
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	2,991	3,527
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	951	1,105
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	11,414	12,945
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	2,544	2,821
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	34,909	37,307
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	102,019	132,451

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses

Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

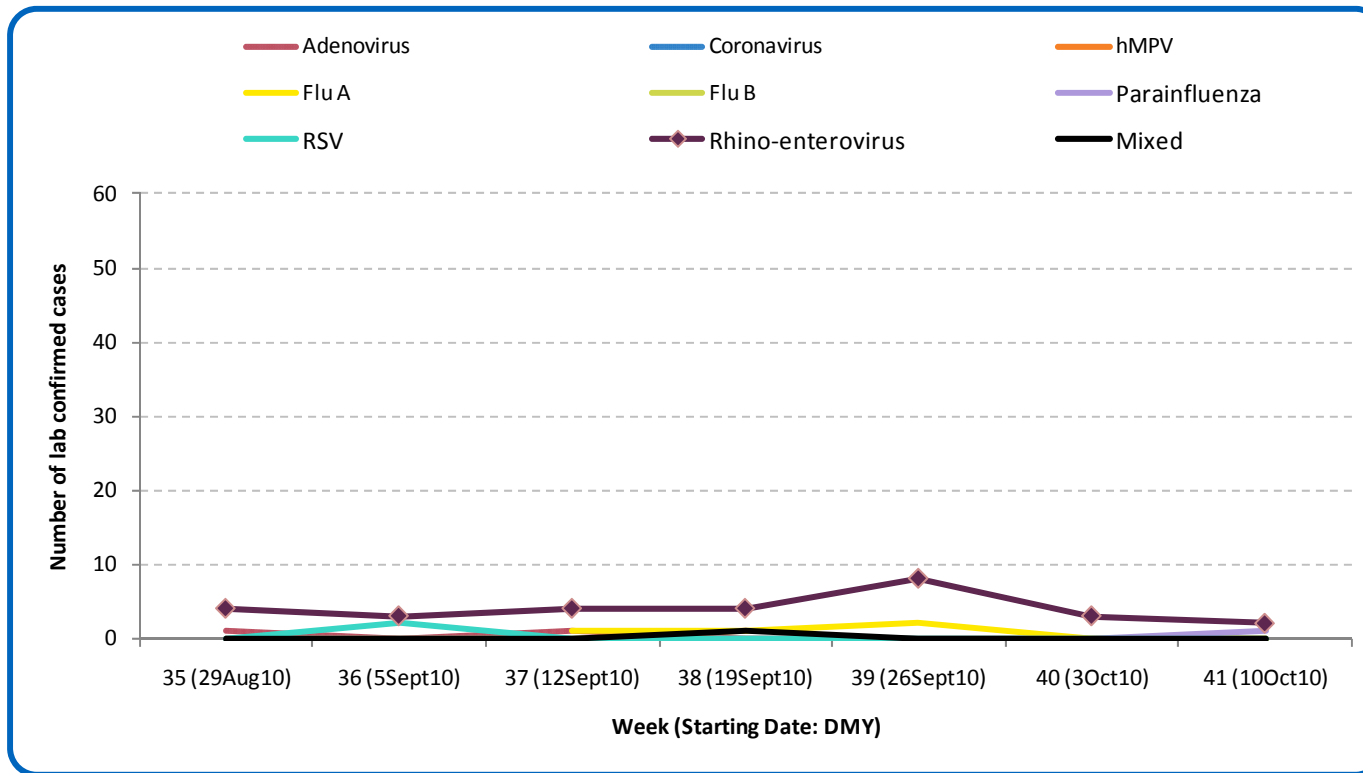
Report Date: October 19, 2010

SECTION 2: ZONE 1 - SOUTH

[Back to first page](#)

No new influenza cases have been reported since week 39 (Sept 26-Oct 2). In total, there have been six confirmed cases of influenza A (H3) in the South Zone since late August. Four cases have been in adults aged 18 to less than 65 years and two cases have been in children under the age of five years.

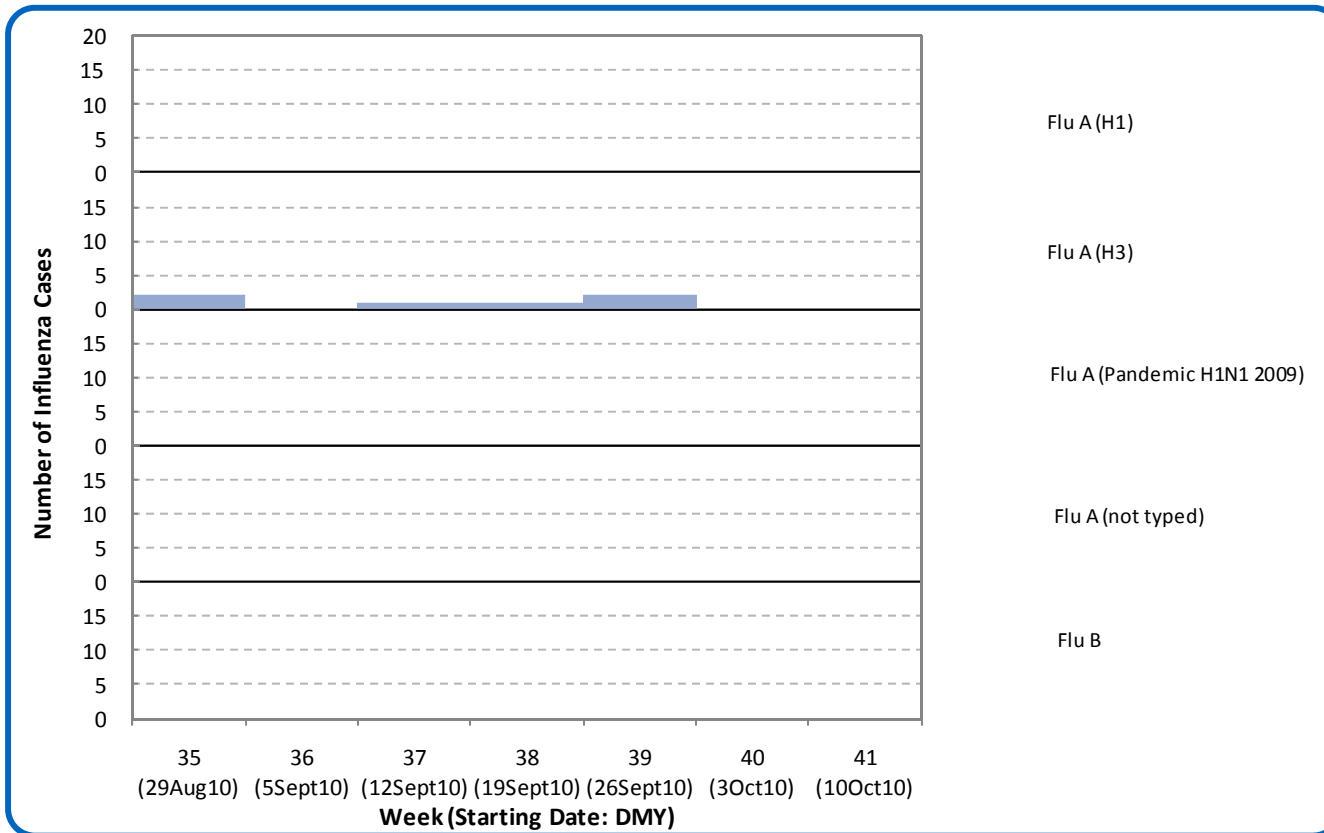
Figure 2A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 2B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week South Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

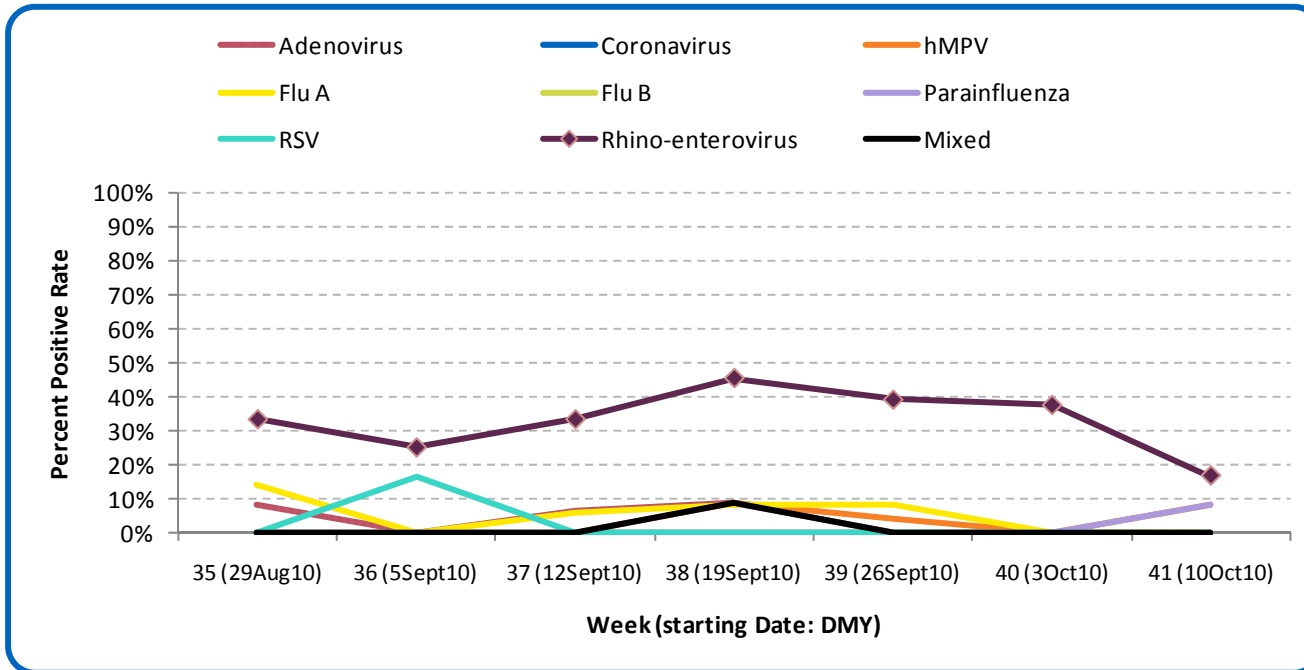
Table 2A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Aug 29–Oct 16, 2010)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (not subtyped)		Flu B		Total	
	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)
0 to <2 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	2	1.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.7
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	4	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.2
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	0	0.0	6	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.2

Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 16, 2010); Population data values used to calculate rates are for June 30, 2009 and are estimated using actual population values from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Registration File as of March 31, 2009. For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 2C: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

Since late August (Week 35), there have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks reported for hospitals or residential institutions in the South Zone.

Influenza-like illness visits and “Left Without Being Seen”

This information is not available for the South Zone.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties by residents of the South Zone in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) was similar to that of the previous two weeks. However, the trend is generally upward since early August.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness

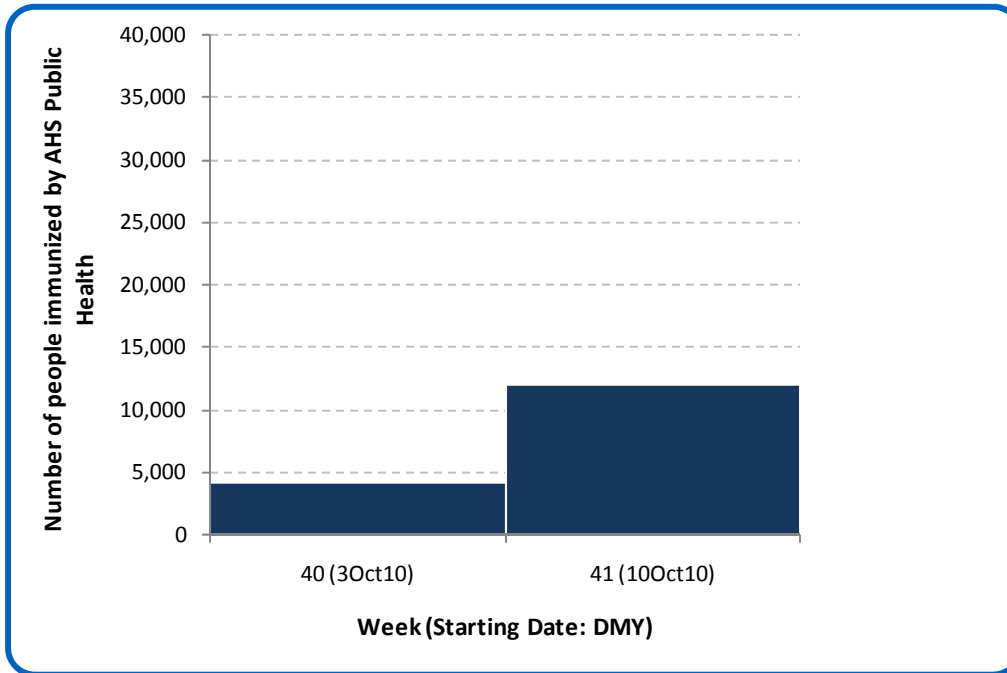
No ILI visits to sentinel offices were recorded in residents of the South Zone in Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

There have been no visits to sentinel offices for lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) symptoms since late August (Week 35) by residents of the South Zone.

Figure 2D: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, South Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

Table 2B: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, South Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 41 – Oct 10-16, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	40	515
Health care workers	370	963
Pregnant women	47	50
Residents of long term care	13	665
65 years of age and over	5,589	7,602
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	163	210
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	436	448
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	101	101
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,358	1,594
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	259	262
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,608	3,708
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	11,984	16,118

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses

Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

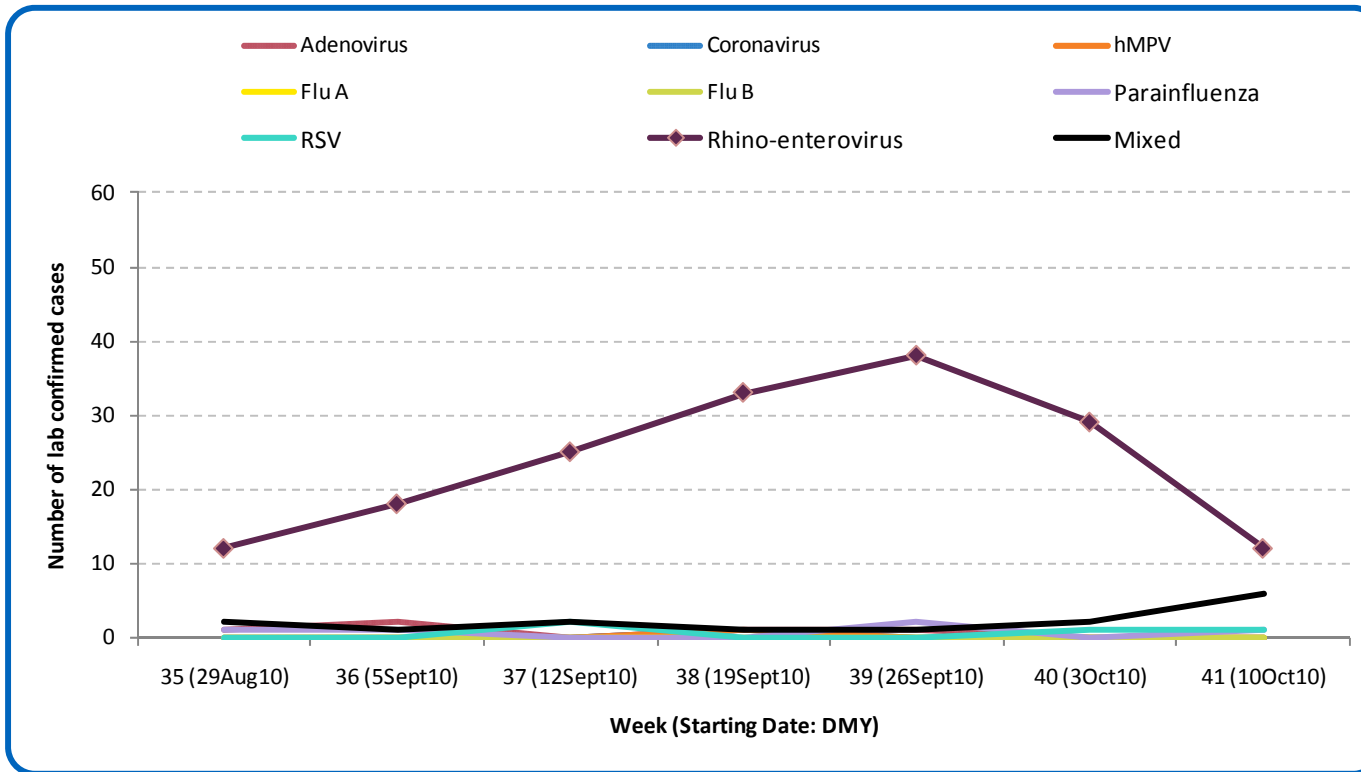
Report Date: October 19, 2010

SECTION 3: ZONE 2 - CALGARY

[Back to first page](#)

The predominant respiratory virus in the Calgary Zone is still rhino-enterovirus, although this activity has declined in recent weeks. There have been no recent confirmed cases of influenza in the Calgary Zone.

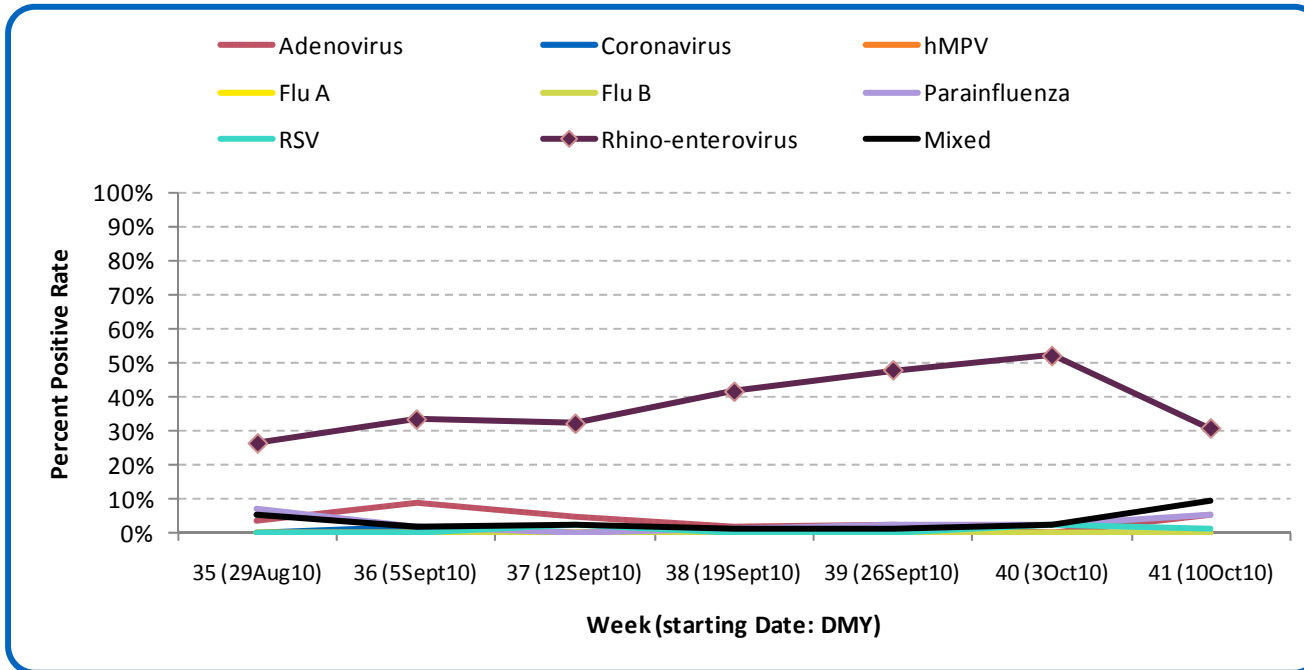
Figure 3A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 3B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

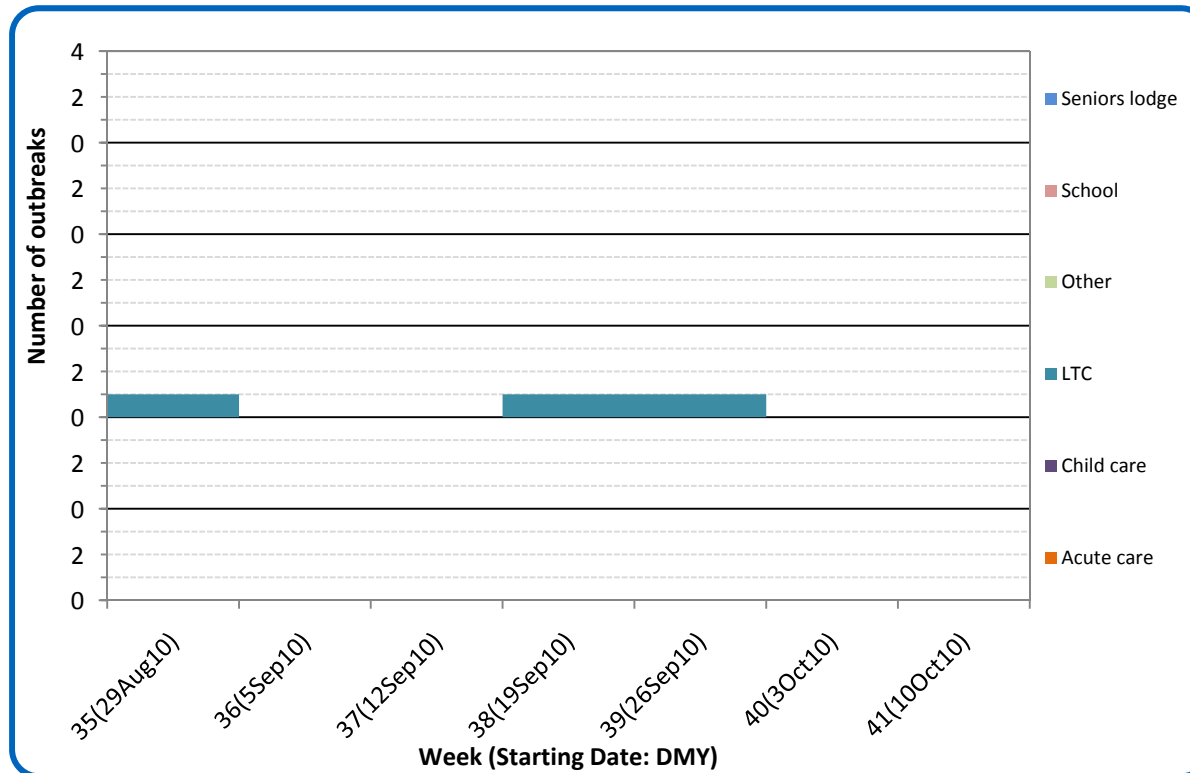


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

There have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks reported for hospitals or residential institutions in the Calgary Zone since October 3 (Week 40)

Figure 3C: Reported respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)

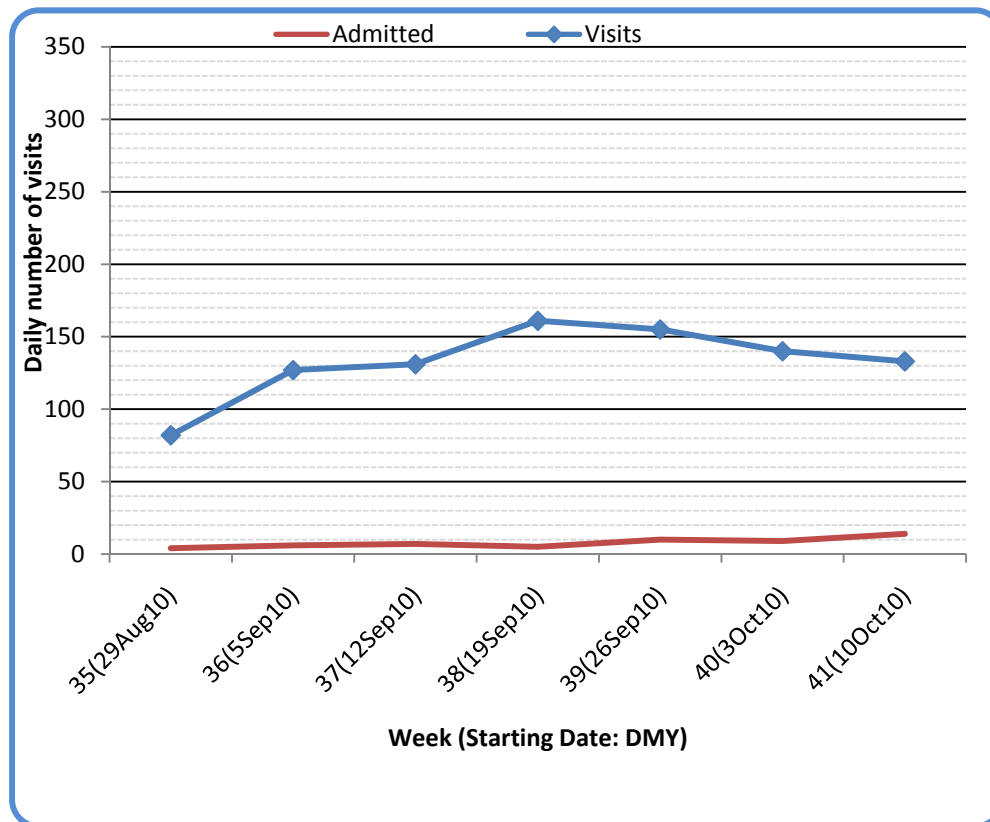


Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 16, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

There were slightly fewer visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers, but slightly more admissions to hospitals for cough symptoms in the City of Calgary in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) than in Week 40. For the data period shown in the following graph, admissions have demonstrated a gentle upward trend.

Figure 3D: Visits to urban emergency departments/urgent care centers in the City of Calgary with cough symptoms and admissions to hospitals, by week (2010)



Source: Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on October 16, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: October 19, 2010

[Back to first page](#)

Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

Of the recently laboratory confirmed outbreaks previously reported, rhino-enteroviruses were the primary virus detected. The attack rates averaged around 28%.

Influenza-like illness visits and “Left Without Being seen”

The number of visits to urban emergency departments/ urgent care centers (EDs) for influenza-like illness (ILI) in the City of Calgary has shown little changes in recent weeks. The number of hospital admissions of patients with ILI was similar in Weeks 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9) and 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16), whereas the number of patients who left EDs without being seen decreased by 60% in Week 41 from the Week 40 level.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough and breathing difficulties by residents of the Calgary Zone remained unchanged in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) from the Week 40 level. This pattern is close to the pattern for ED visits with cough symptoms.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness

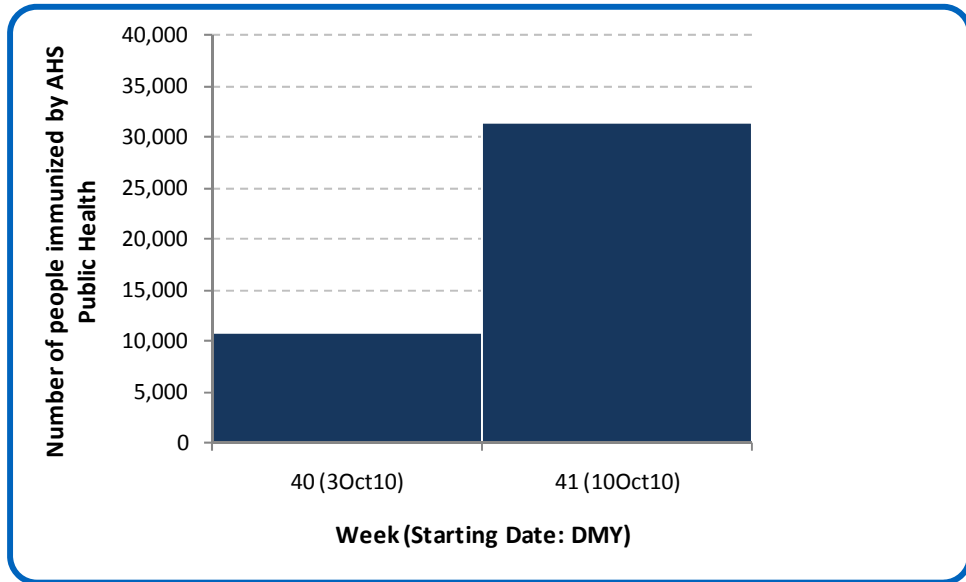
The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for ILI by residents of the Calgary Zone has remained low, less than 1%, from late August to early October.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for LRTI by residents of the Calgary Zone in Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9) returned to the level of Weeks 34 to 38, being lower than in Week 39 (Sept 26 to Oct 2) and far less than 1%.

Figure 3E: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Calgary Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

Table 3A: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Calgary Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 41 – Oct 10-16, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	105	250
Health care workers	891	2,294
Pregnant women	183	463
Residents of long term care	174	540
65 year of age and over	11,218	17,165
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	847	1,347
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	1,089	1,436
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	371	396
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,538	3,903
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	832	966
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	12,158	13,507
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	31,406	42,267

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses

Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

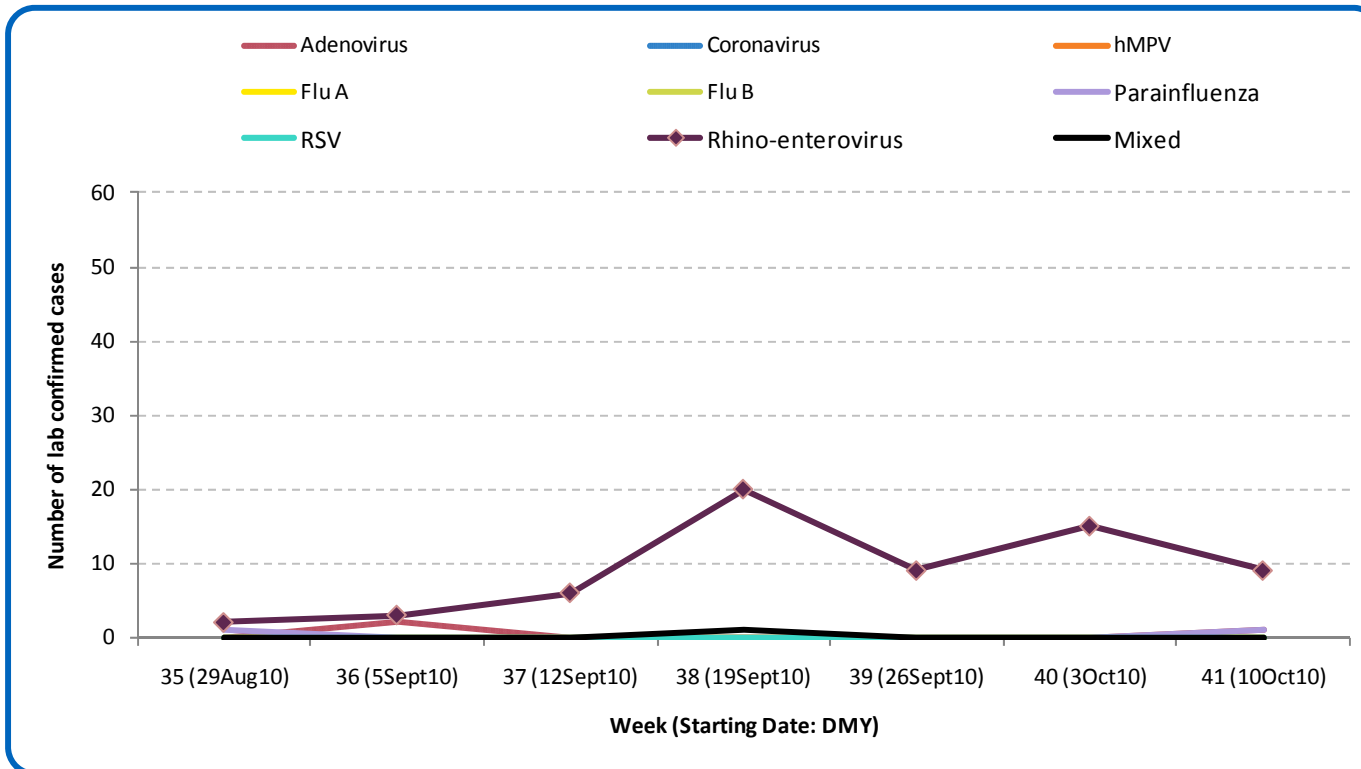
Report Date: October 19, 2010

SECTION 4: ZONE 3 - CENTRAL

[Back to first page](#)

Rhino-enterovirus is still the predominant respiratory virus circulating in the Central Zone. There have been no recent confirmed cases of influenza in the Central Zone.

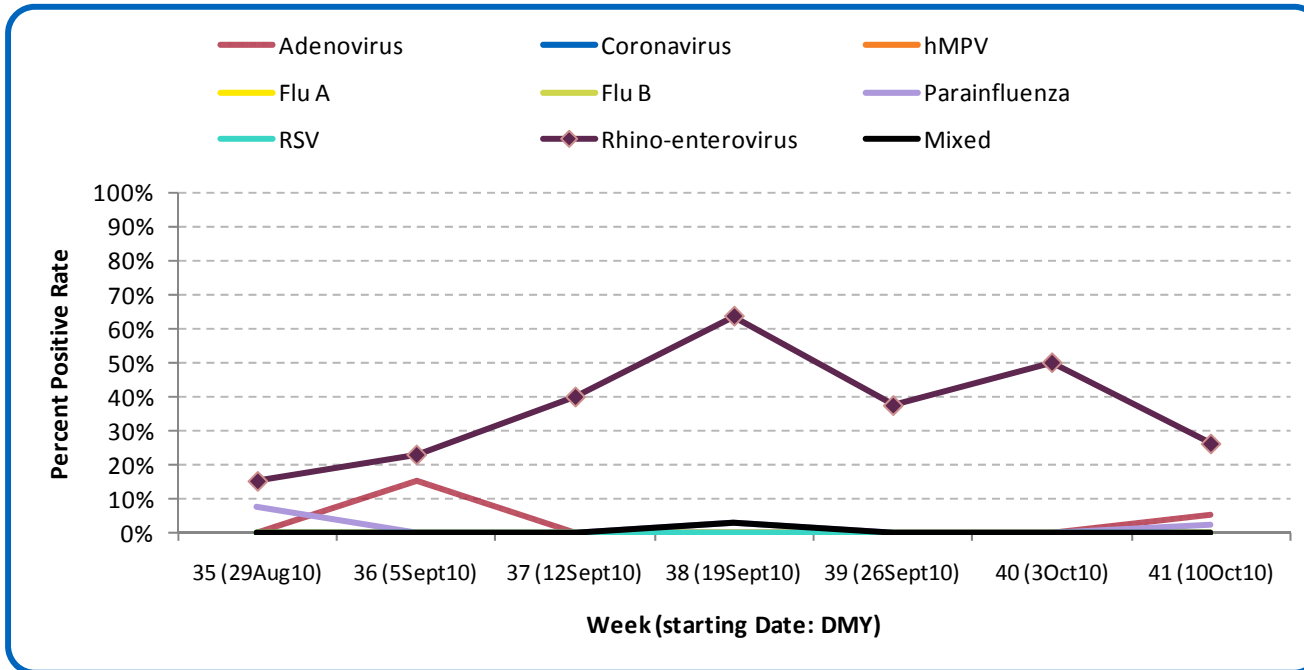
Figure 4A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Central Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 4B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Central Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

Attack Rates in respiratory outbreaks

There have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks reported in the Central Zone since late August.

Influenza-like illness visits and “Left Without Being seen”

There are no data available from this zone.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of the Central Zone for cough or breathing difficulties in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) was comparable to that in the previous week.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness

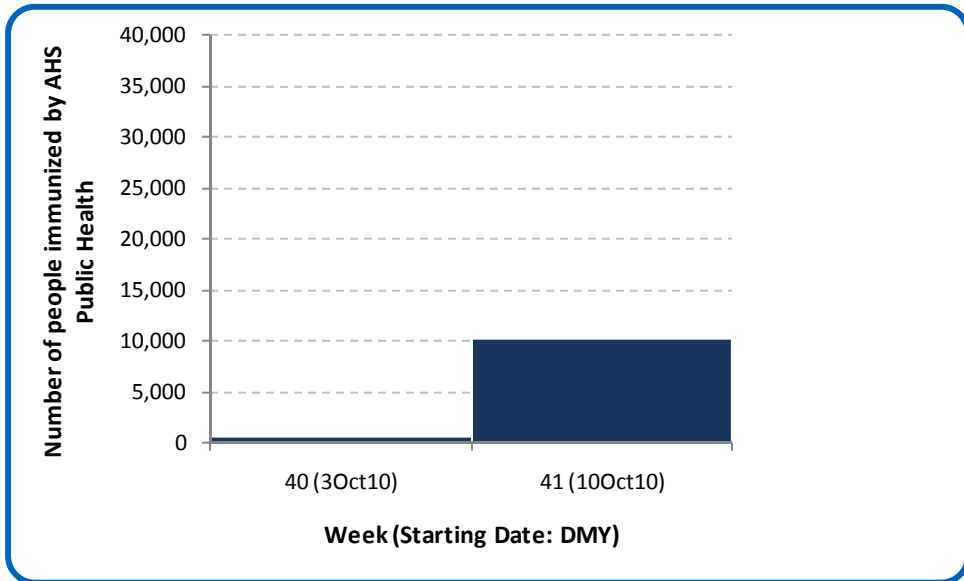
From late August to late September, there were no visits to sentinel physician offices for ILI symptoms by residents of the Central Zone. In Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9), this percentage remained very low.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

In Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9), the weekly percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for LRTI symptoms by residents of the Central Zone remained unchanged from the Week 39 level.

Figure 4C: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Central Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

Table 4C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Central Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 41 – Oct 10-16, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	105	125
Health care workers	635	741
Pregnant women	50	50
Residents of long term care	236	293
65 years of age and over	5,041	5,360
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	172	245
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	205	213
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	75	78
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	996	1,003
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	232	244
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	2,547	2,580
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	10,294	10,932

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

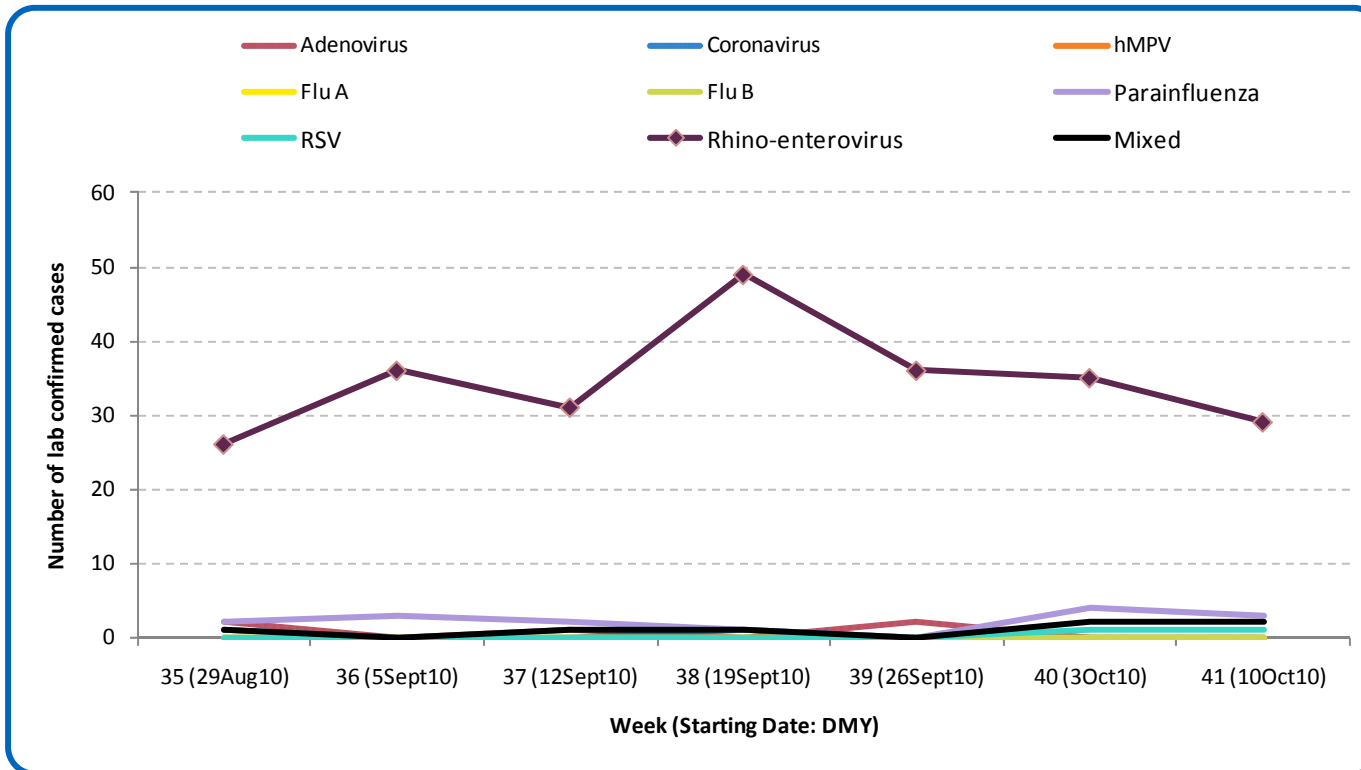
Report Date: October 19, 2010

SECTION 5: ZONE 4 – EDMONTON

[Back to first page](#)

Rhino-enterovirus is still the predominant respiratory virus circulating in the Edmonton Zone, although this activity has declined in recent weeks. There have been no recent confirmed cases of influenza in the Edmonton Zone.

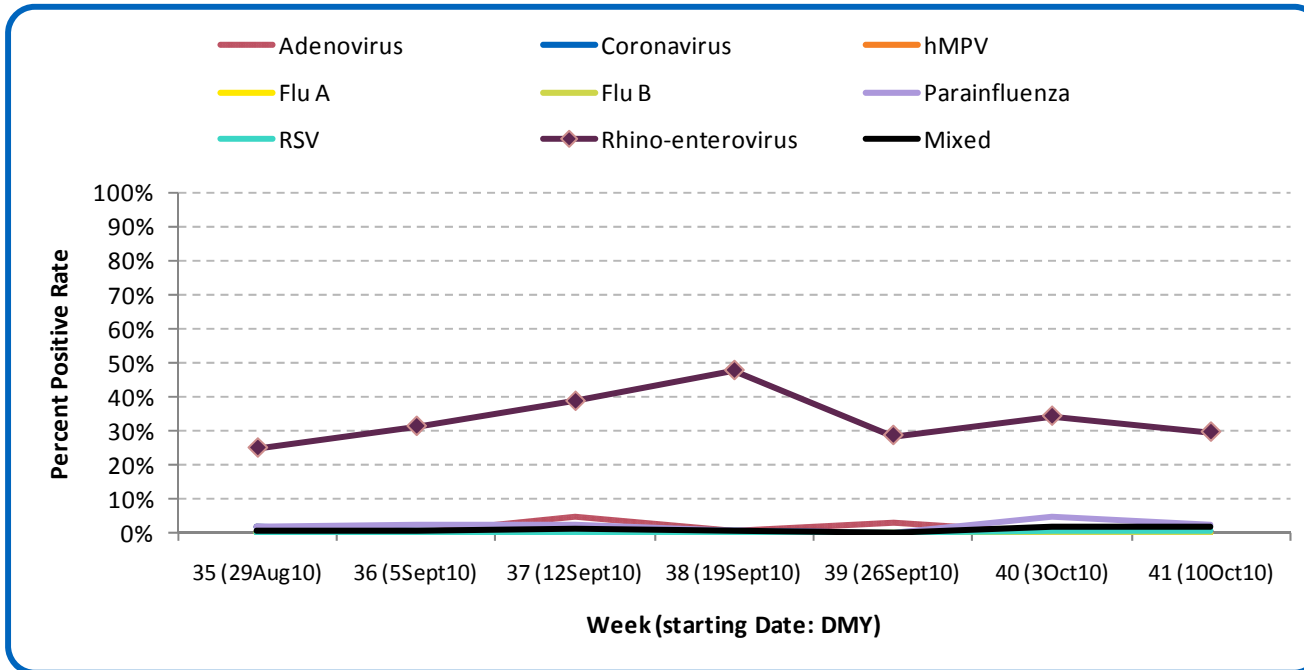
Figure 5A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 5B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

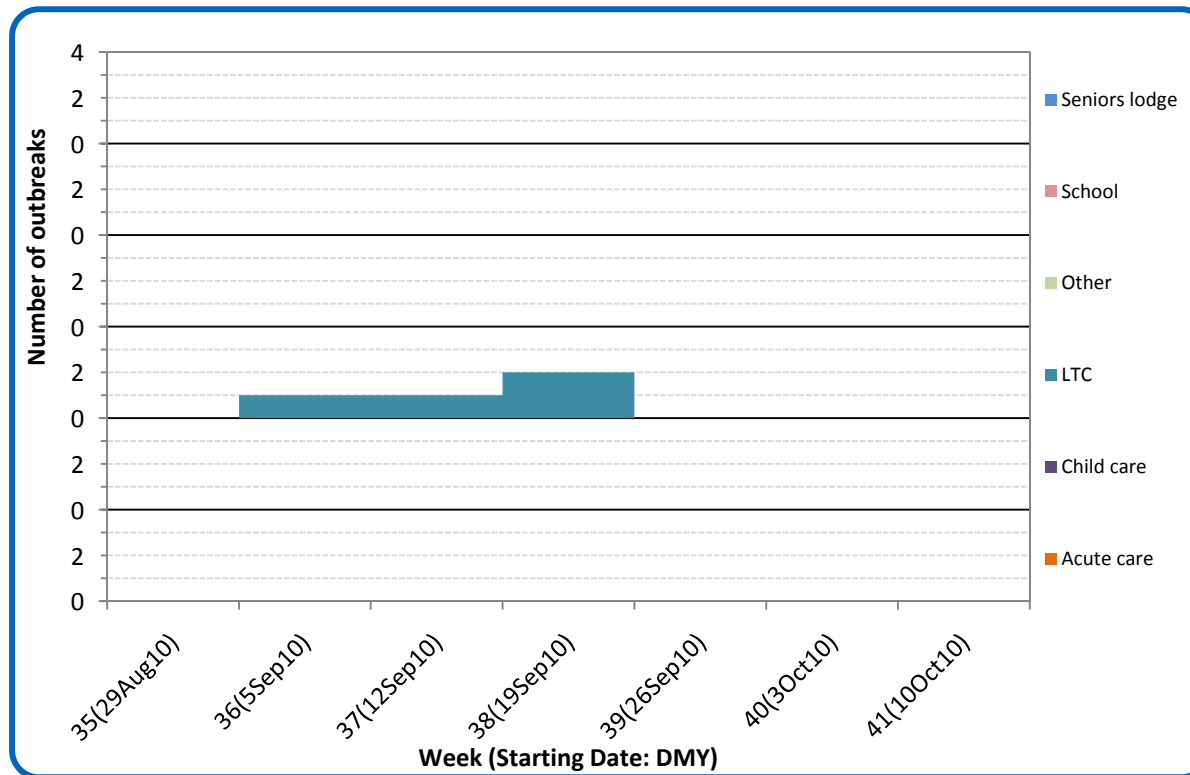


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

There have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks reported for hospitals or residential institutions in the Edmonton Zone since September 26 (Week 39).

Figure 5C: Reported respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010)

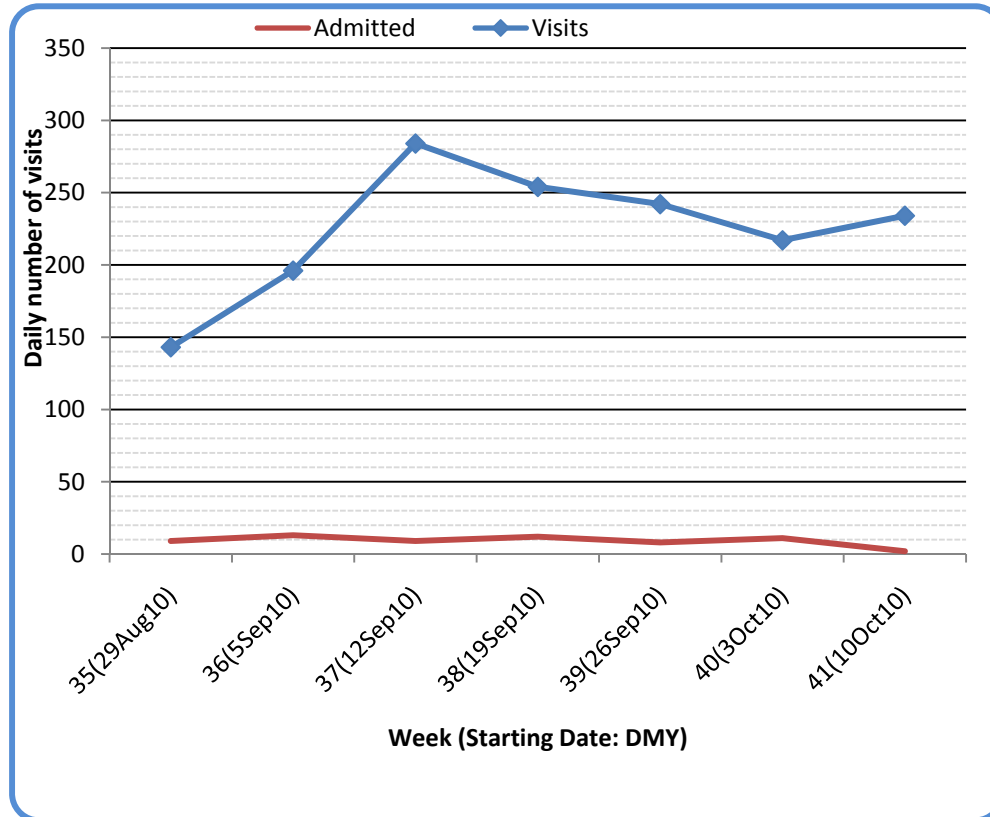


Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 16, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

Visits to nine emergency departments/urgent care centers in the Edmonton Zone for cough/congestion in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) were within the range established since September 12 (week 37), and the number of admissions to hospitals also showed no increasing trend.

Figure 5D: Visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for cough/congestion and admissions to hospitals, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010)



Source: Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on October 16, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

Of the recently laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks previously reported in the Edmonton Zone, rhino-enteroviruses were the primary virus detected. The attack rate averaged around 10%.

Influenza-like illness visits and “Left Without Being seen”

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for ILI symptoms, hospital admissions for ILI symptoms and visits of people with ILI who left emergency departments without being seen were all slightly less in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) than in Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9).

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of the Edmonton Zone for cough and breathing difficulties remained the same in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) as in Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness

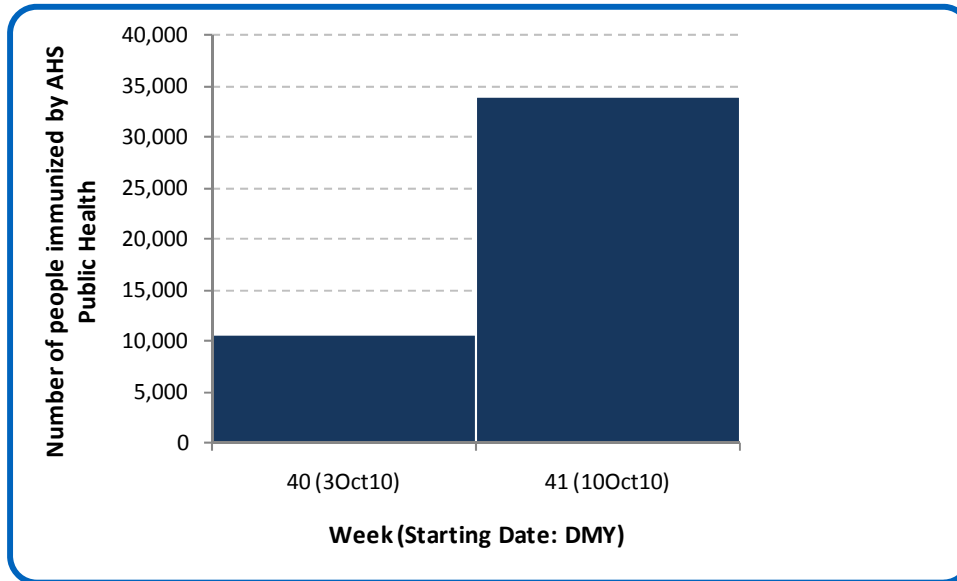
The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for ILI by residents of the Edmonton Zone remains low (less than 1%) since late August (Week 35).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for LRTI symptoms by residents of the Edmonton Zone has remained stable since early August, with a weekly average of less than 2%. However, this weekly percentage had been increasing since Week 38 (September 19) from the Week 37 level.

Figure 5E: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Edmonton Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

Table 5C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Edmonton Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 41 – Oct 10-16, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	59	169
Health care workers	848	1,977
Pregnant women	163	176
Residents of long term care	16	741
65 years of age and over	15,066	21,623
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	528	785
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	856	993
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	182	218
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,610	4,380
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	781	823
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	11,895	12,679
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	34,004	44,564

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

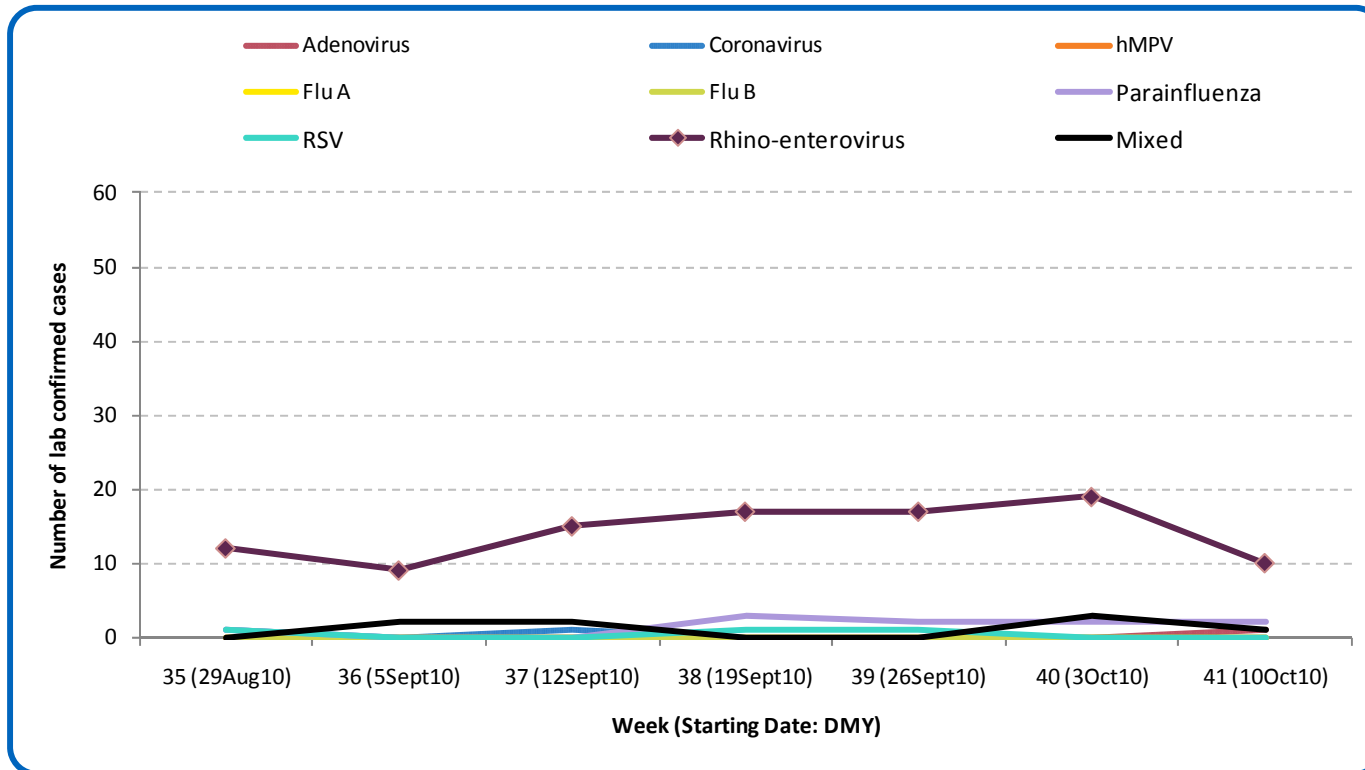
Report Date: October 19, 2010

SECTION 6: ZONE 5 – NORTH

[Back to first page](#)

Rhino-enterovirus is still the predominant respiratory virus circulating in the North Zone. There have been no recent confirmed cases of influenza in the North Zone.

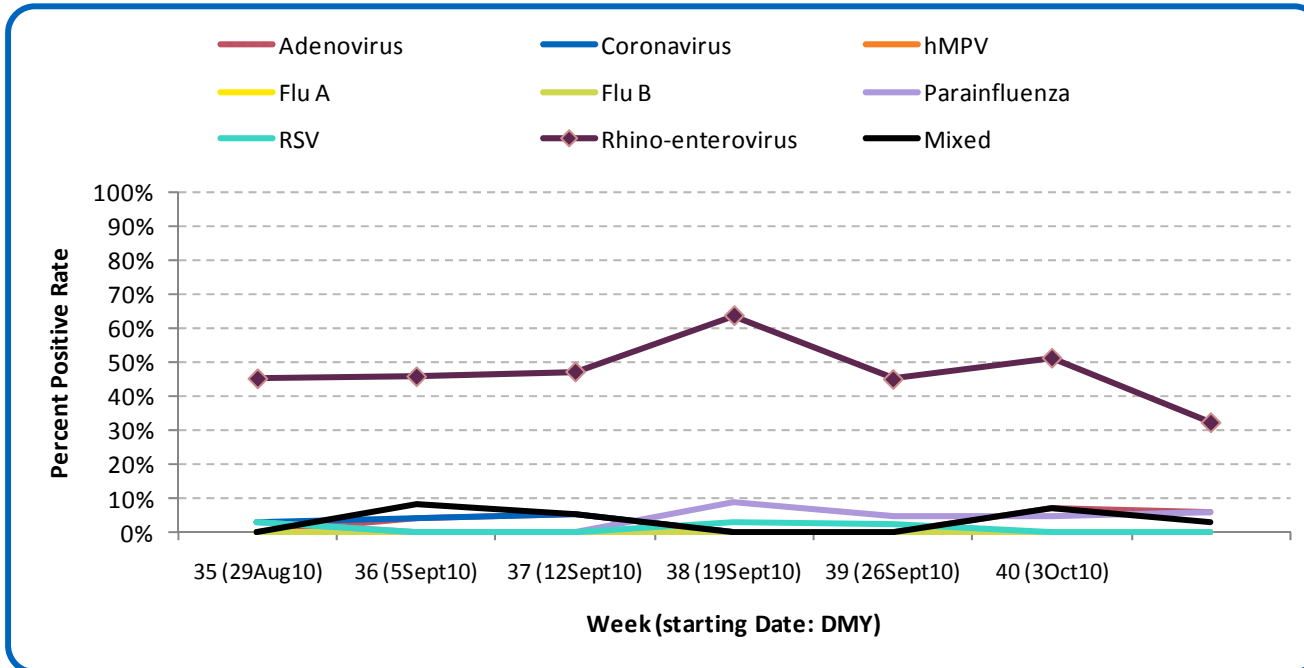
Figure 6A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, North Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

Figure 6B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, North Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

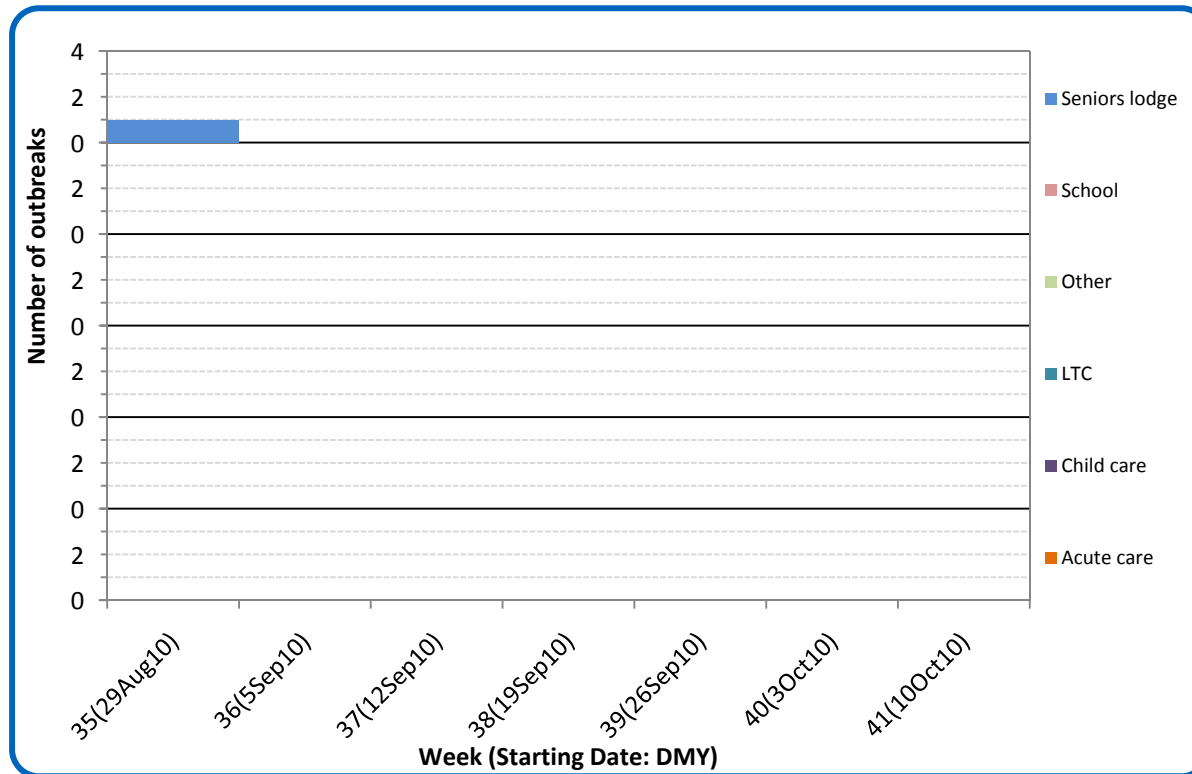


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 16, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)

Since late August, there has been only one laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreak reported for a seniors' lodge/assisted living facility in the North Zone.

Figure 6C: Reported respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by week, North Zone (2010)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 16, 2010
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

[Back to first page](#)**Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks**

The laboratory confirmed agent for the one respiratory outbreak previously reported was rhino-enterovirus. The attack rate was 5%.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of the North Zone for cough and breathing difficulties has decreased in Weeks 40 and 41 (Oct 3 to Oct 16) from the Week 39 level (Sept 26 to Oct 2).

Influenza-like illness visits and “Left Without Being seen”

There are no data available for the North Zone.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness

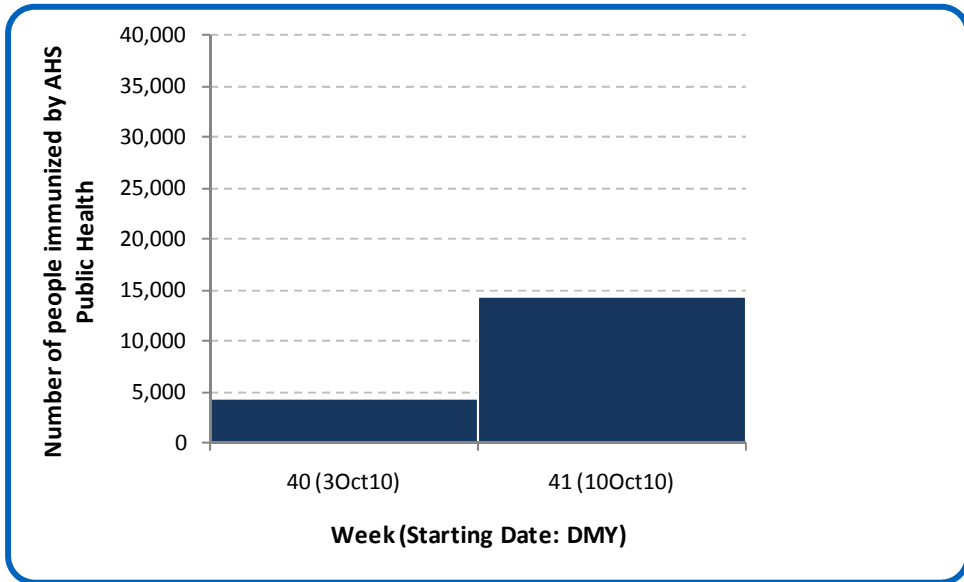
No visits to sentinel physician offices for influenza-like illness were reported in residents of the North Zone in Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

No visits to sentinel physician offices for lower respiratory tract infection were reported in residents of the North Zone in Week 40 (Oct 3 to Oct 9).

Figure 6D: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, North Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

Table 6A: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, North Zone (2010)

[Back to first page](#)

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 41 – Oct 10-16, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	168	422
Health care workers	825	2,595
Pregnant women	77	87
Residents of long term care	261	794
65 years of age and over	5,077	6,182
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	243	317
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	405	437
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	222	312
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,912	2,065
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	440	526
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	4,701	4,833
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	14,331	18,570

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
 Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: October 19, 2010

ANNEX: DATA NOTES

[Back to first page](#)

LABORATORY

Information on the respiratory virus activity in Alberta is based on data from 2 sources:

- 1) The Alberta Provincial Public Health Laboratory DIAL system (Data Integration for Alberta Laboratories). The data in this system is specimen-based, therefore case-based information is determined by rationalizing samples from the same patient with the same virus identified within a 30 day period. The information (i.e. received date) from the first sample identifying the identical virus is used in this report. The data in this report are based on specimens obtained from residents of Alberta; according to the date the specimen was received by the laboratory.
- 2) The Alberta Influenza Case Management System, a database within the Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit, an outbreak event management tool. The data in this system is case-based; according to the date the specimen was classified.

Both data sources are web-based applications supported by the Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence.

Definition for “mixed” – a single sample where multiple viral organisms were isolated.

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS

Four data sources are used to provide information on utilization of primary and acute care services by people with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI). *Caution: Each source uses potentially different definitions of ILI.*

1. Primary care summaries are obtained from the TARRANT system. Patients seen by TARRANT physicians may not be representative of the general population. Reported ILI cases represent people seen by TARRANT physicians, according to the date seen by the physician. The percentage of ILI represents the proportion of patients with ILI of all patients seen by the physician.
2. Information on visits for ILI in Emergency Departments (ED) and urgent care centers are provided by the Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) data repository. ILI designation is based on patients being screened in emergency departments with an ILI screening tool. The primary purpose of the ILI screening tool is to implement appropriate infection control measures. The original data sources fed to the ARTSSN data repository are EDIS (Emergency Department Information System) for the Edmonton Zone and REDIS for the Calgary Zone.
3. Health Link Alberta is a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week nurse telephone advice and health information service that provides the public with advice and information about health symptoms and concerns. The original data source for the daily calls to Health Link Alberta for ILI, cough, and breathing difficulties is the Health Link database called Sharp Focus.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: October 19, 2010

OUTBREAKS

[Back to first page](#)

Upon notification of an outbreak, the *Alberta Health & Wellness/Alberta Health Services* Outbreak Reporting Form (Fillable PDF) is completed by Zone Public Health investigators and sent to *Alberta Health & Wellness and AHS Public Health Surveillance*. The form includes information about the type and location of the outbreak, type of facility, and the causative organism (confirmed or suspected). There may be a delay between the reporting of an outbreak and the identification of the organism. In this report, the outbreaks are those that are caused by influenza-like illness viruses; those that are caused by bacteria (i.e. pertussis, invasive pneumococcal disease) and other types of viruses (i.e. measles, rubella (German measles), chickenpox) are excluded. Also excluded are those outbreaks that have no causative agent identified by the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health or where specimens are not tested. This follows the PHAC FluWatch definition for ILI/influenza outbreak. The naming convention of that definition “residential institutions” is also adopted.

INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATIONS

Influenza immunization data are reported by AHS zones. Numbers are available to the Public Health Surveillance team at the beginning of the week for the doses administered the previous week (Sunday to Saturday). It includes those doses administered by AHS (Public Health) only. Clients can only exist in one priority group. Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of March, 2011.

POPULATION NUMBERS

Population data values used to calculate rates are for June 30, 2009 and are estimated using actual population values from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCHIP) Registration File as of March 31, 2009. The following registrants are included: residents of Alberta; ‘residents’ of Alberta temporarily living elsewhere, such as extended visits or vacations or students attending an educational institute outside of Alberta, or Albertans temporarily (up to four years) working outside Alberta; persons during the first three months after they move from Alberta to another Canadian province; dependants of members of the RCMP and Armed Forces; persons from another country who are working or studying in Alberta on valid visas; and Natives/Aboriginals whose premiums are paid by Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. Not included are: members of the Armed Forces and RCMP; inmates at federal penitentiaries; persons from other provinces during their first three months in Alberta; and persons who have not registered for eligibility, or have opted out.

Slight differences between values provided at this level of aggregation and data provided at other levels of aggregation may occur because of round-off error. Population values are subject to change without notice when new source data is received.