

Weekly Report

October 26, 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?

- Globally, influenza A (H3N2) continues to be the predominant influenza virus worldwide, most of which are A/Perth/16/2009-like, the same strain included in the seasonal influenza vaccine.
- The influenza season in the temperate Southern Hemisphere has peaked. Activity in these areas continues to decline. The tropical areas of the world are reporting decreasing influenza activity in most areas however some countries in Southeast Asia, Central and South America are experiencing an increase in transmission. China and most African and European countries have also reported declining or low levels of activity.
- Currently, the ILI and influenza activity in the US is below baseline. Canada has recently seen a slight increase in ILI activity, positive influenza specimens [still mainly A (H3N2) subtypes] and antiviral prescriptions.
- Of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses recently tested in Canada, most were found to be resistant to amantadine, but sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir.
- A recent article published in *Eurosurveillance* reports that the Pandemic (H1N1)2009 virus has undergone several genetically distinct changes since it initially emerged on the global scene in March/April 2009. Variants were first detected in early 2010 in Singapore and have since spread through Australia and New Zealand. At this point, the antigenic changes have not been significant enough to warrant concern about the effectiveness of the current influenza vaccine, however further changes will be closely monitored.
- In the past 3 weeks, no new cases of influenza have been confirmed in Alberta. Since late August, a total of 6 cases of influenza A (H3) have been confirmed in the province, all in the South Zone. Currently, one respiratory outbreak in the Calgary Zone is pending investigation. There have been no laboratory confirmed outbreaks in the province in the past 2 weeks.

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

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Indicators		Cumulative Counts					Alberta	
		Week 35 (starting Aug 29/10) to week 42 (starting Oct 17/10)						
		South	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	North		
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	Number of cases with a positive respiratory specimen ¹	Adenovirus	2	7	3	8	1	21
		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	2	5	2	17	12	38
		Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	2	6	0	2	3	13
		Rhino enterovirus	36	186	70	263	111	666
		Mixed	1	16	2	8	9	36
		Total	50	222	77	300	138	787
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)	27,088	73,891	26,605	76,094	30,334	234,012	

-- Information not available

¹ Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 2010)

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

³ Source: 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 26, 2010

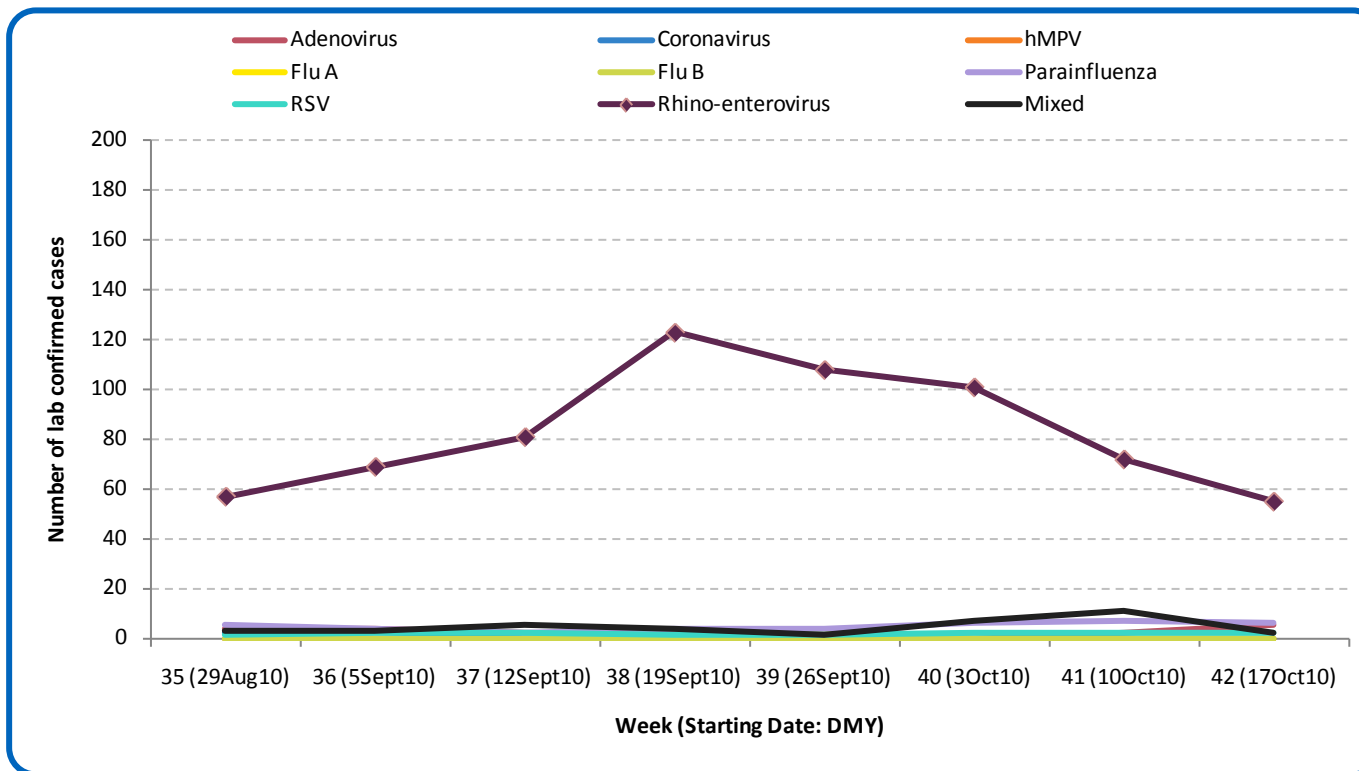
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 1: ALBERTA

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The predominant respiratory virus in Alberta is still rhino-enterovirus. 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.

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 23, 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

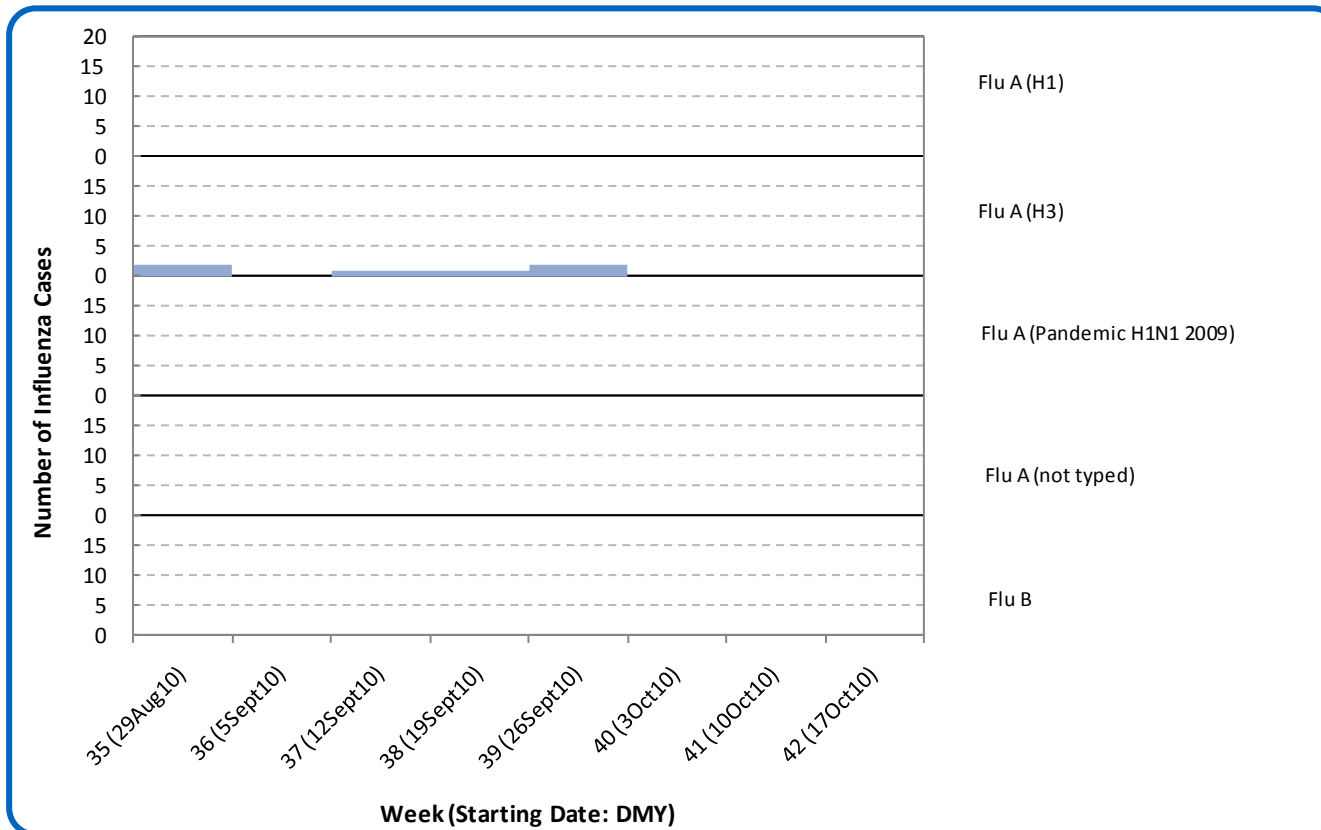
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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

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Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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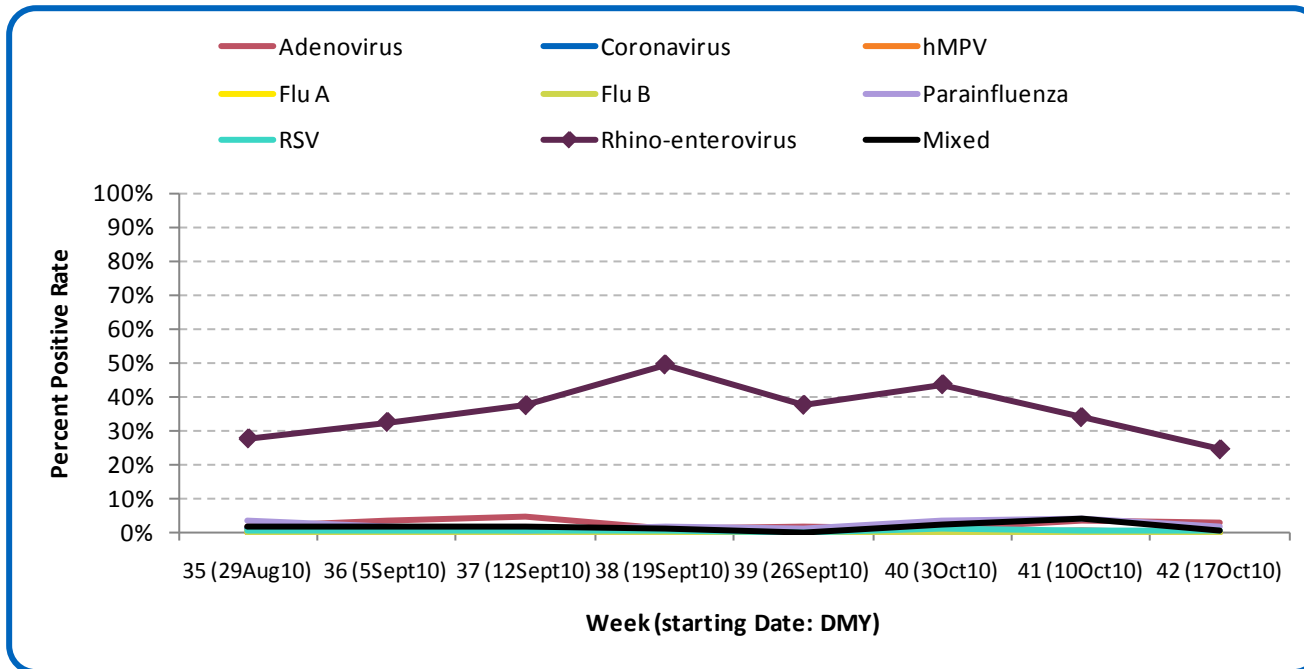
Table 1A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Aug 29 – Oct 23, 2010)

	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 23, 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)

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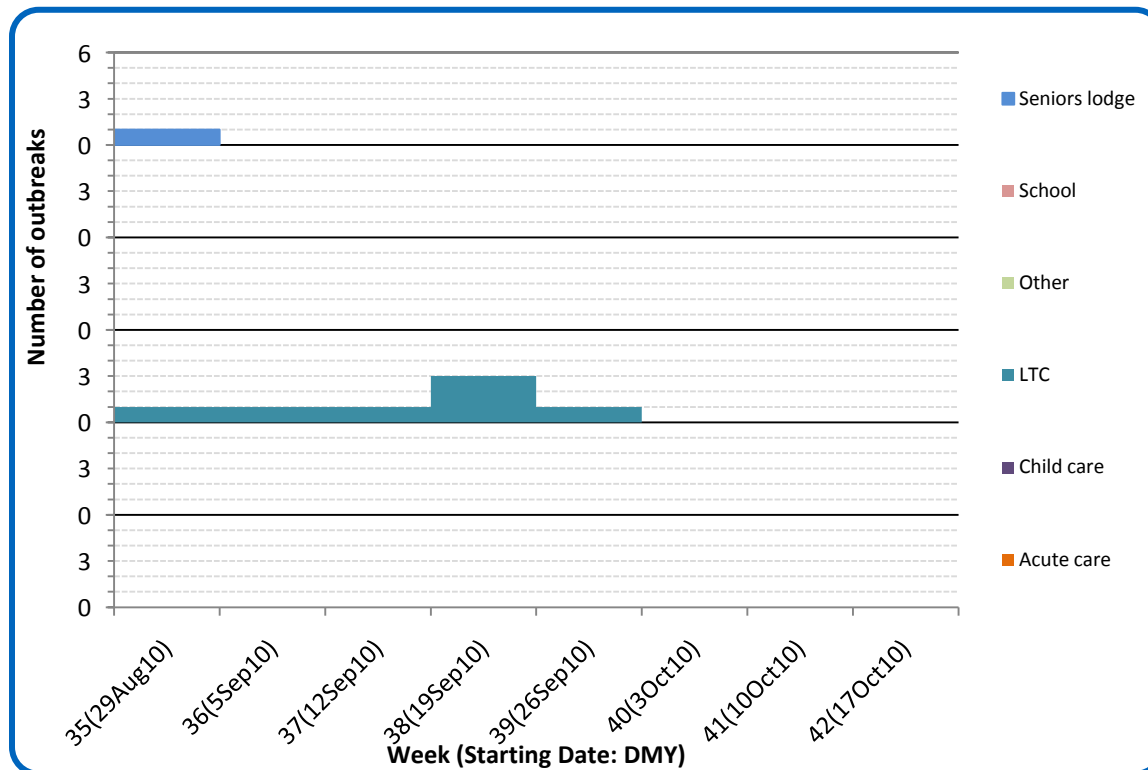


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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No laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks have been reported for hospitals or residential institutions in Alberta since October 3 (Week 40). However, there was one initial respiratory outbreak report filed from the Calgary Zone in last week (Oct 17 to Oct 23), which had an onset date of October 15. This pending outbreak is currently under investigation.

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



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

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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

No laboratory confirmed outbreaks have been reported in Alberta since Oct 3 (Week 40). The pending respiratory outbreak in the Calgary Zone with an onset date of Oct 15 had an initial attack rate of 7.5%.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties in Week 42 (Oct 17 to Oct 23) was slightly less than the level of Week 41.

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

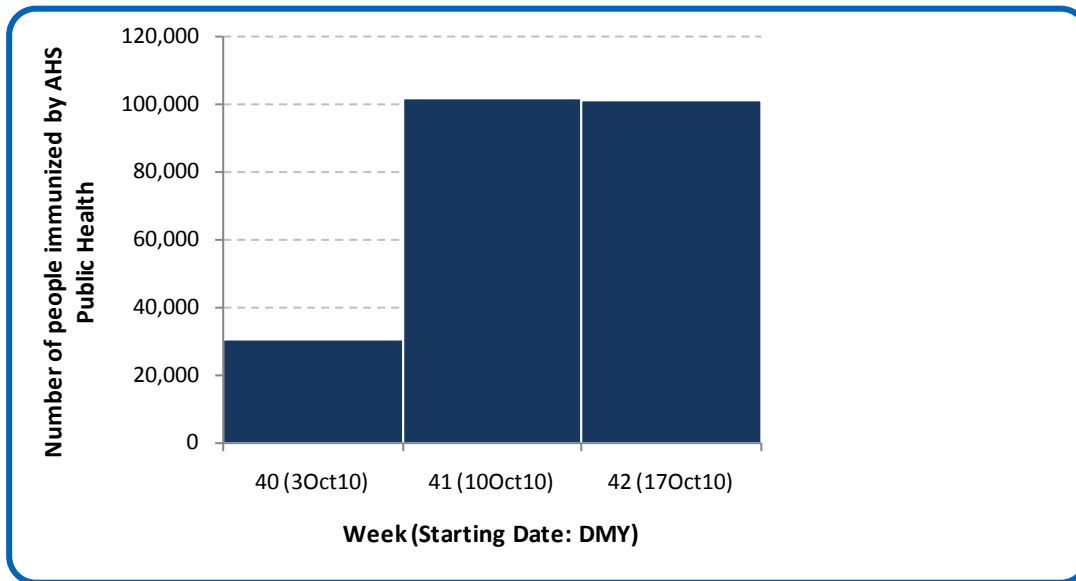
In Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16), the province-wide percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices with ILI symptoms was relatively unchanged from that in Week 40, remaining well below the 1% mark.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infections

The province-wide percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI) exceeded 1% in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16); this rate has been consistently increasing every week since Week 37 (Sept 12).

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



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

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

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 42 – Oct 17-23, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	391	1,872
Health care workers	2,946	11,516
Pregnant women	731	1,557
Residents of long term care	1,031	4,064
65 years of age and over	34,470	92,402
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	2,555	5,459
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	4,085	7,612
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	1,059	2,164
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	11,327	24,272
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	3,269	6,090
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	39,697	77,004
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	101,561	234,012

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

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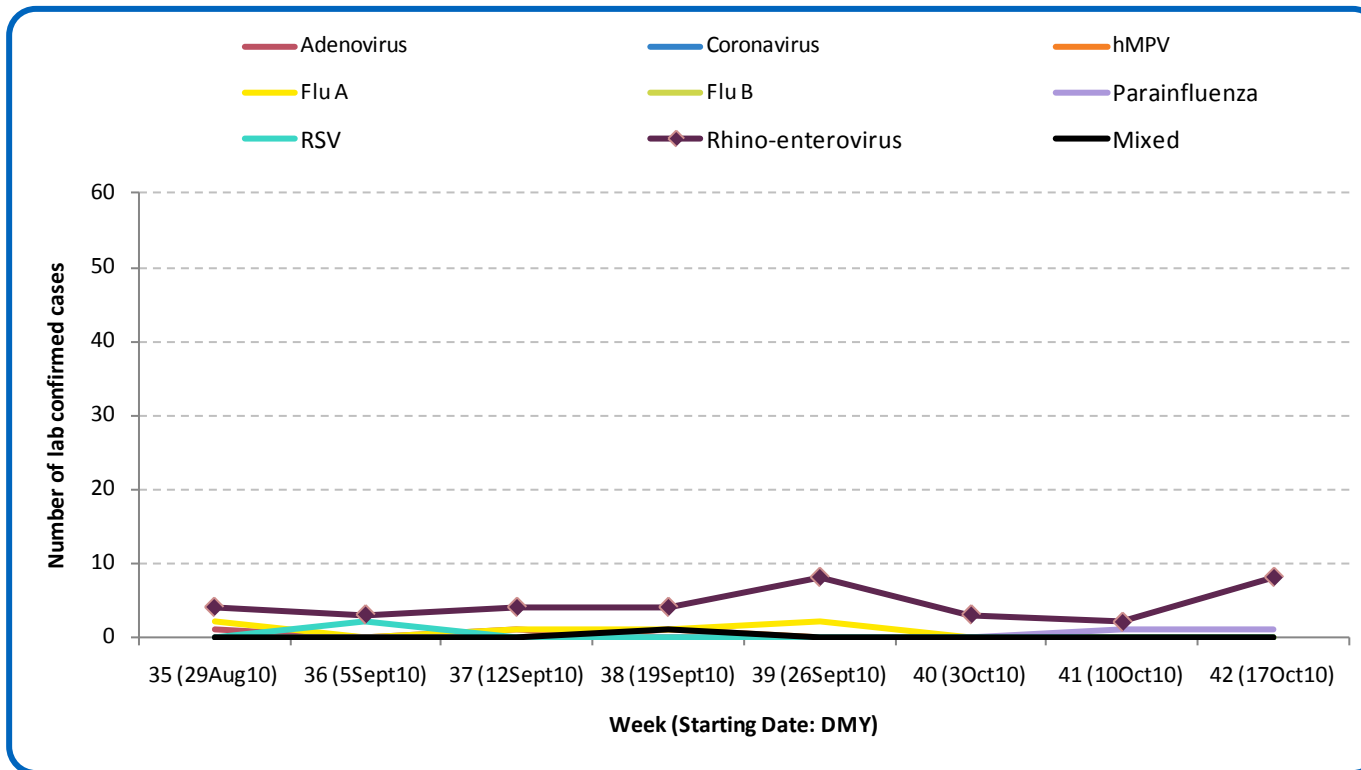
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 2: ZONE 1 - SOUTH

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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 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

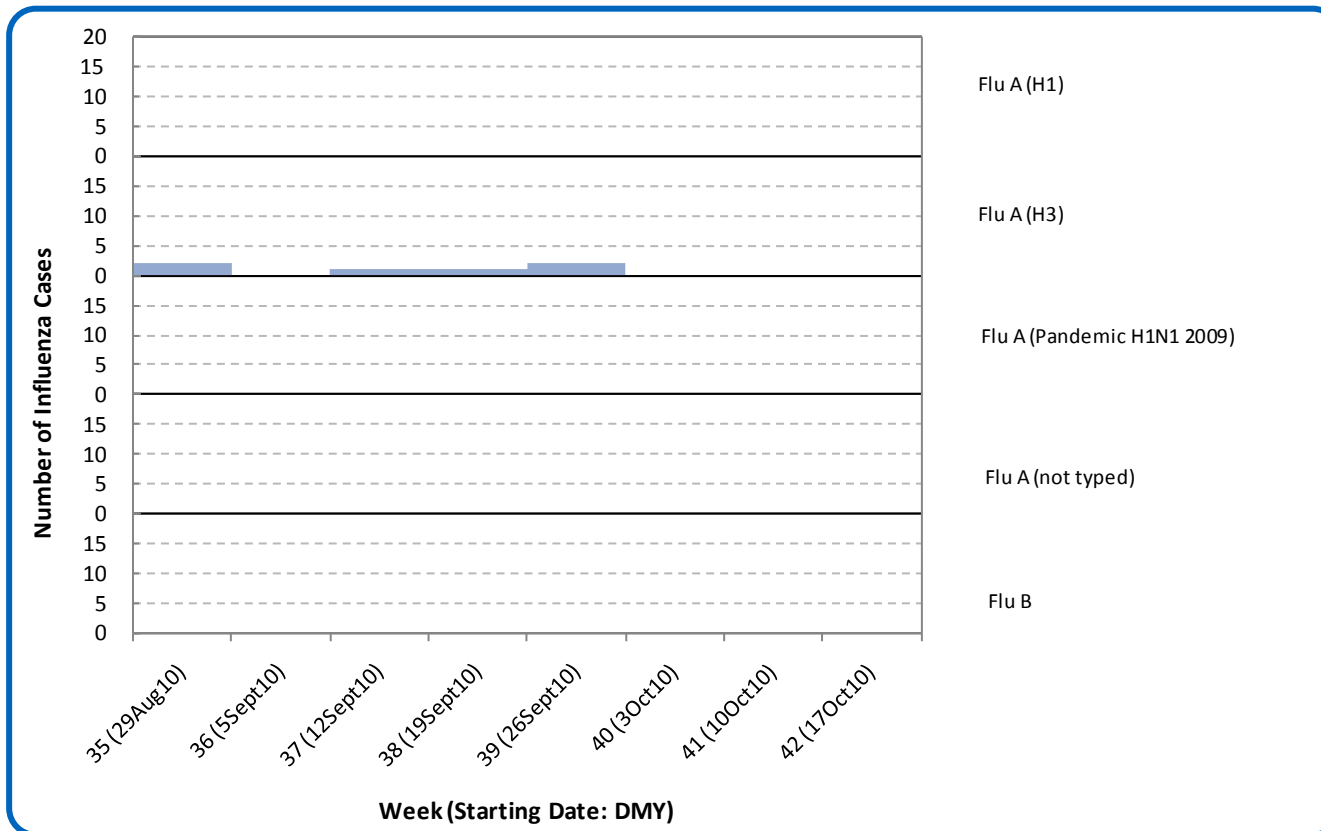
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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

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Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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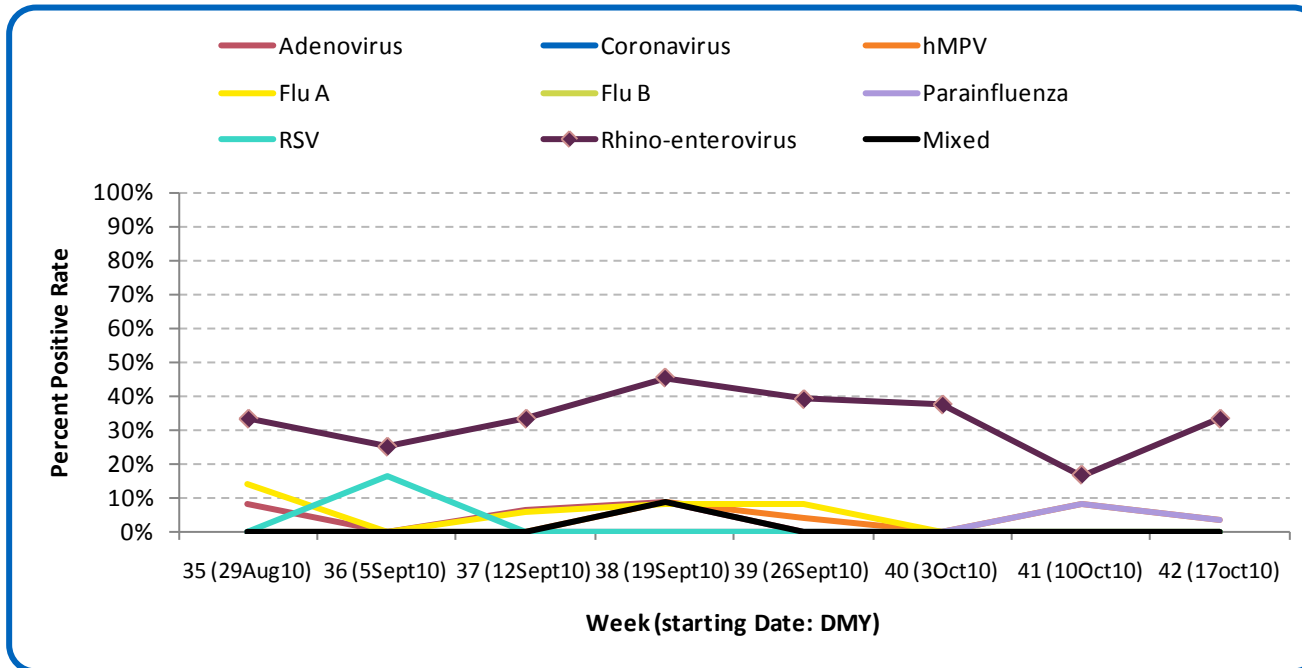
Table 2A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Aug 29–Oct 23, 2010)

	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 23, 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)

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Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

Since late August, there have been no laboratory confirmed or investigation-pending 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 42 (Oct 17-23) was less than that in the previous five weeks.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness

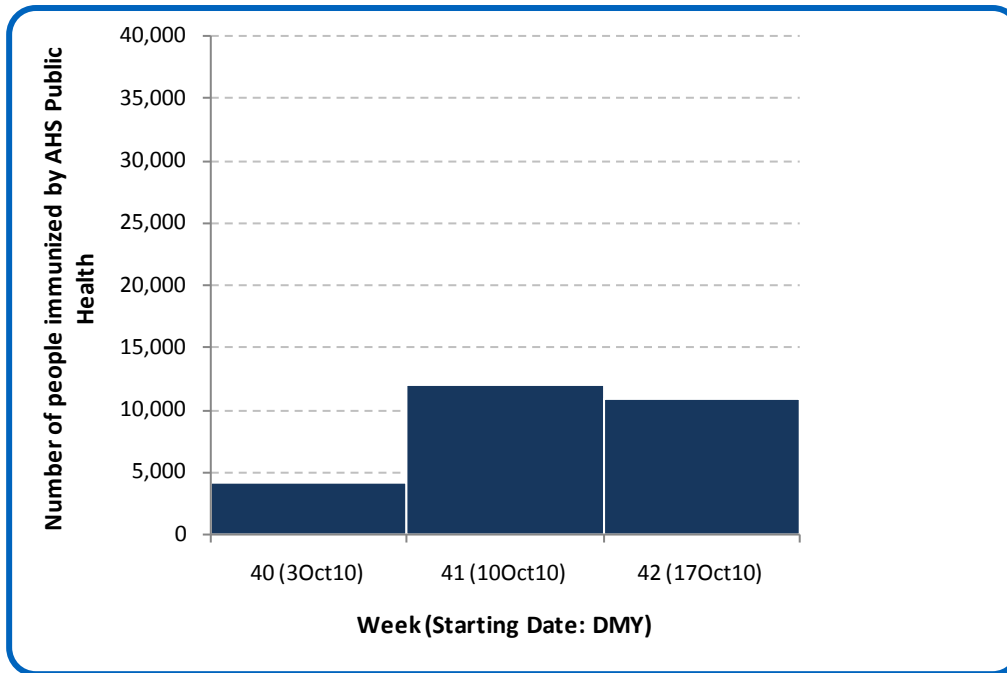
The percentage of ILI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the South Zone was less than 1% in Week 41 (Oct 10-16). No ILI visits occurred in Week 40 (Oct 3-9).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) symptoms by residents of the South Zone was less than 1% in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16). No LRTI related visits occurred during the period from late August (Week 35) to early October (Week 40, Oct 3-9).

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



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)

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 42 – Oct 17-23, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	30	545
Health care workers	241	1,204
Pregnant women	74	124
Residents of long term care	37	702
65 years of age and over	4,061	11,663
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	231	441
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	459	907
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	154	255
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,031	2,625
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	437	699
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	4,215	7,923
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	10,970	27,088

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

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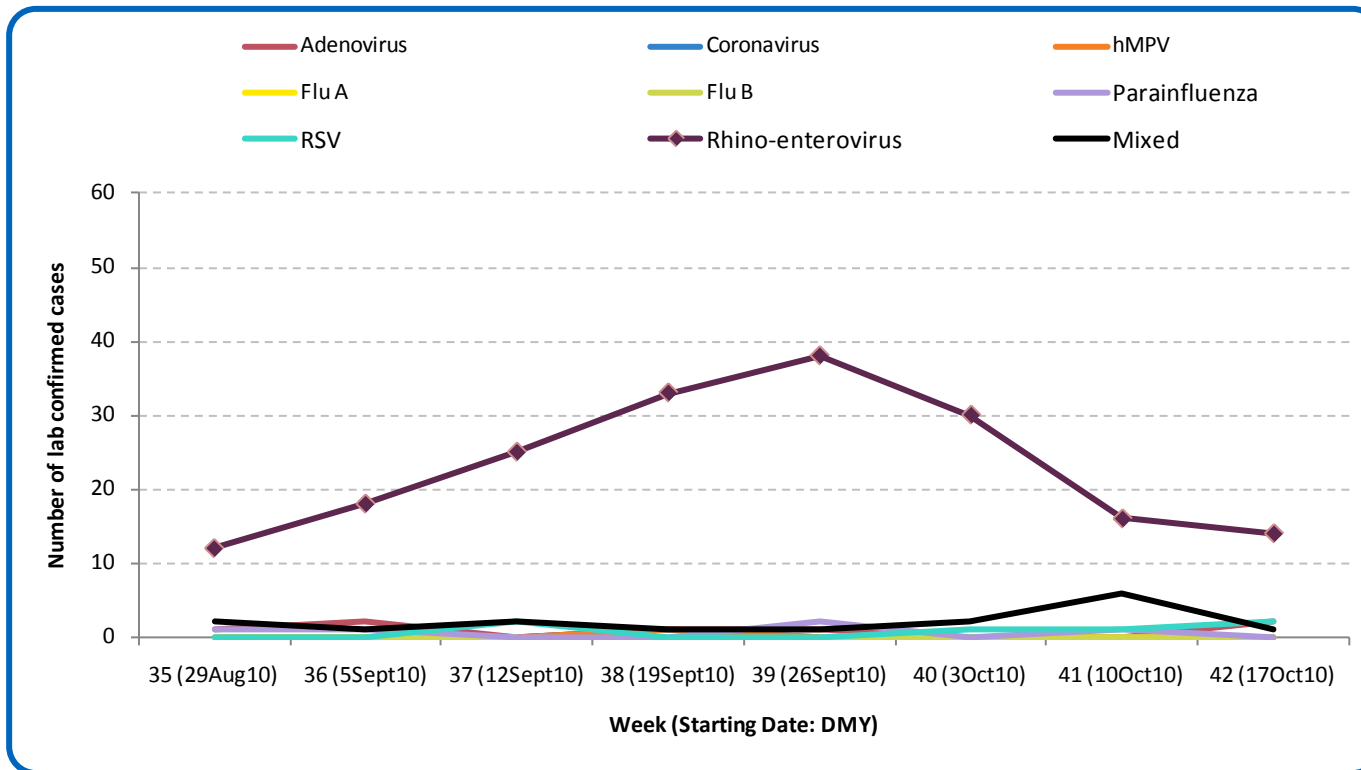
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 3: ZONE 2 - CALGARY

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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 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

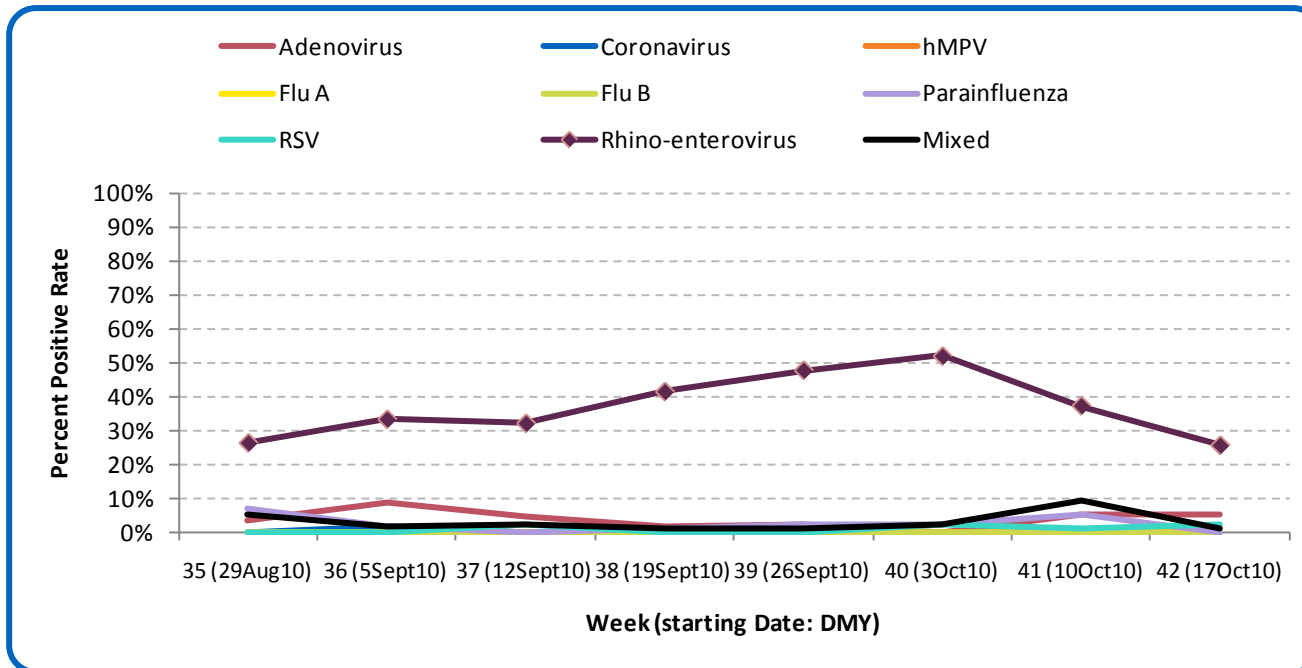
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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

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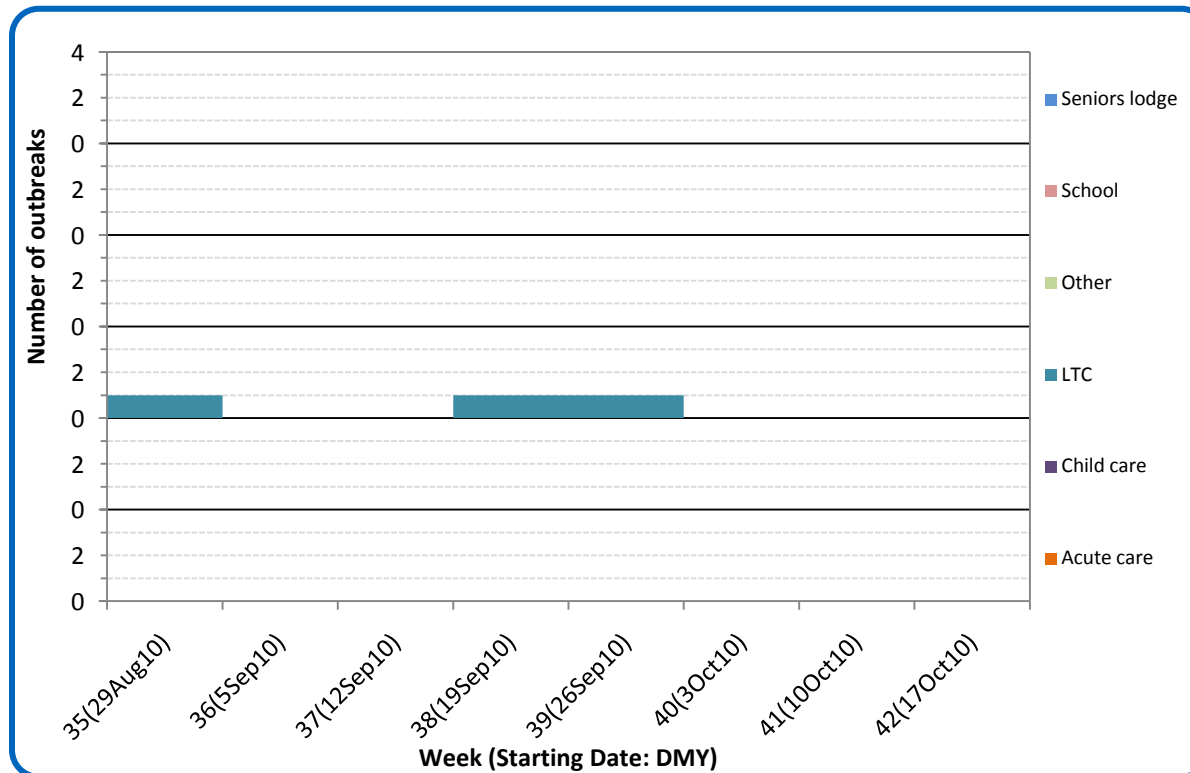


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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There have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks reported for hospitals or residential institutions in the Calgary Zone since October 3 (Week 40). However, there is a pending investigation of a respiratory outbreak reported on October 21.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 23, 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

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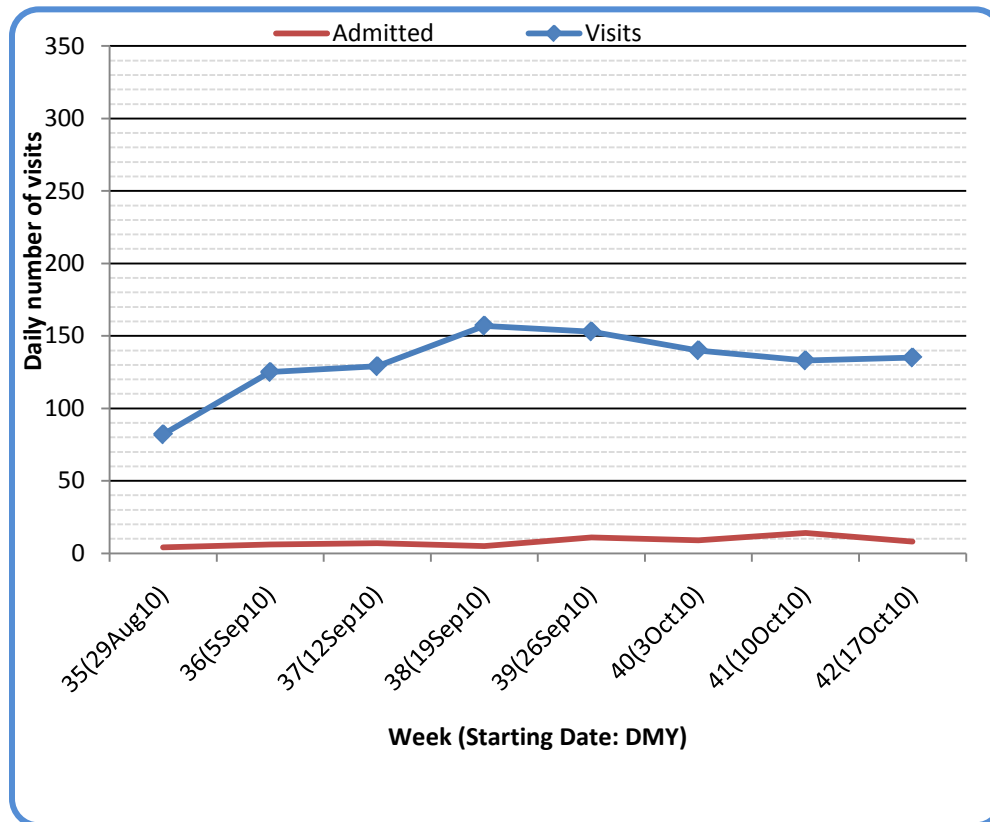
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Both the number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers and the number of admissions to hospitals for cough symptoms in the City of Calgary in Week 42 (Oct 17 to Oct 23) were within their range established since September 5 (Week 36).

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 23, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

There have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks in the Calgary Zone since October 3. The pending investigation of a respiratory outbreak with an onset date of October 15 has an initial reported attack rate of 7.5%.

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 change since late August. The number of hospital admissions of patients with ILI was within the same range established since Week 37 (Sept 12-18). The number of the patients with ILI who left EDs “without being seen” did not deviate from the range established since Week 37 (Sept 12-18).

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 relatively unchanged last week compared to the previous six weeks. This pattern is close to the pattern for ED visits with cough symptoms.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness

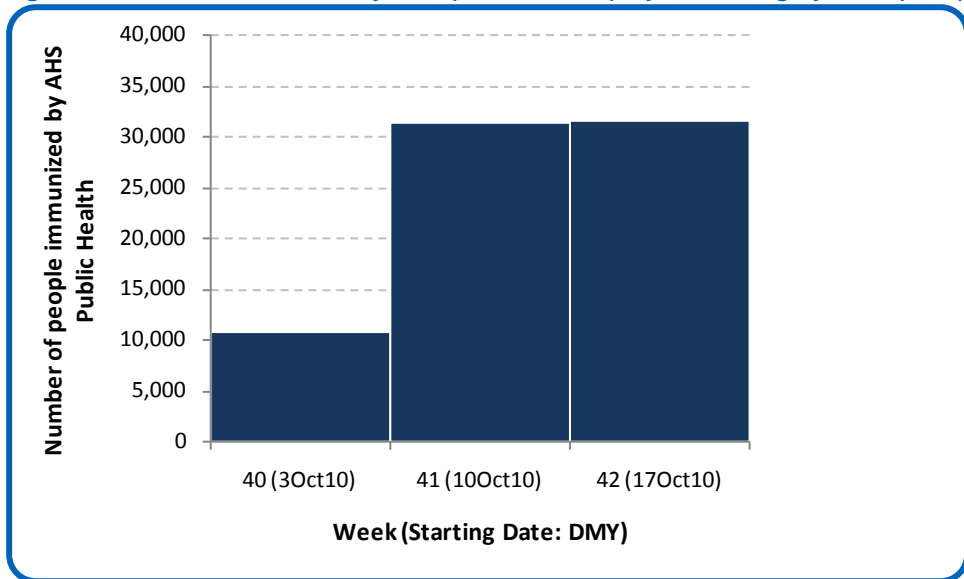
The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for influenza-like-illness by residents of the Calgary Zone remained low in Week 41 (Oct 3 to Oct 9), less than 1%, a declining trend since Week 38 (Sept 19 to Sept 25) that is consistent with the trend for ED visits for cough symptoms.

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 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16) remained within the range established since late August (Weeks 34) and was less than 1%.

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



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)

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 42 – Oct 17-23, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	63	313
Health care workers	803	3,097
Pregnant women	291	754
Residents of long term care	31	571
65 year of age and over	9,629	26,794
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	949	2,296
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	1,403	2,839
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	402	798
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,678	7,581
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	1,015	1,981
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	13,360	26,867
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	31,624	73,891

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

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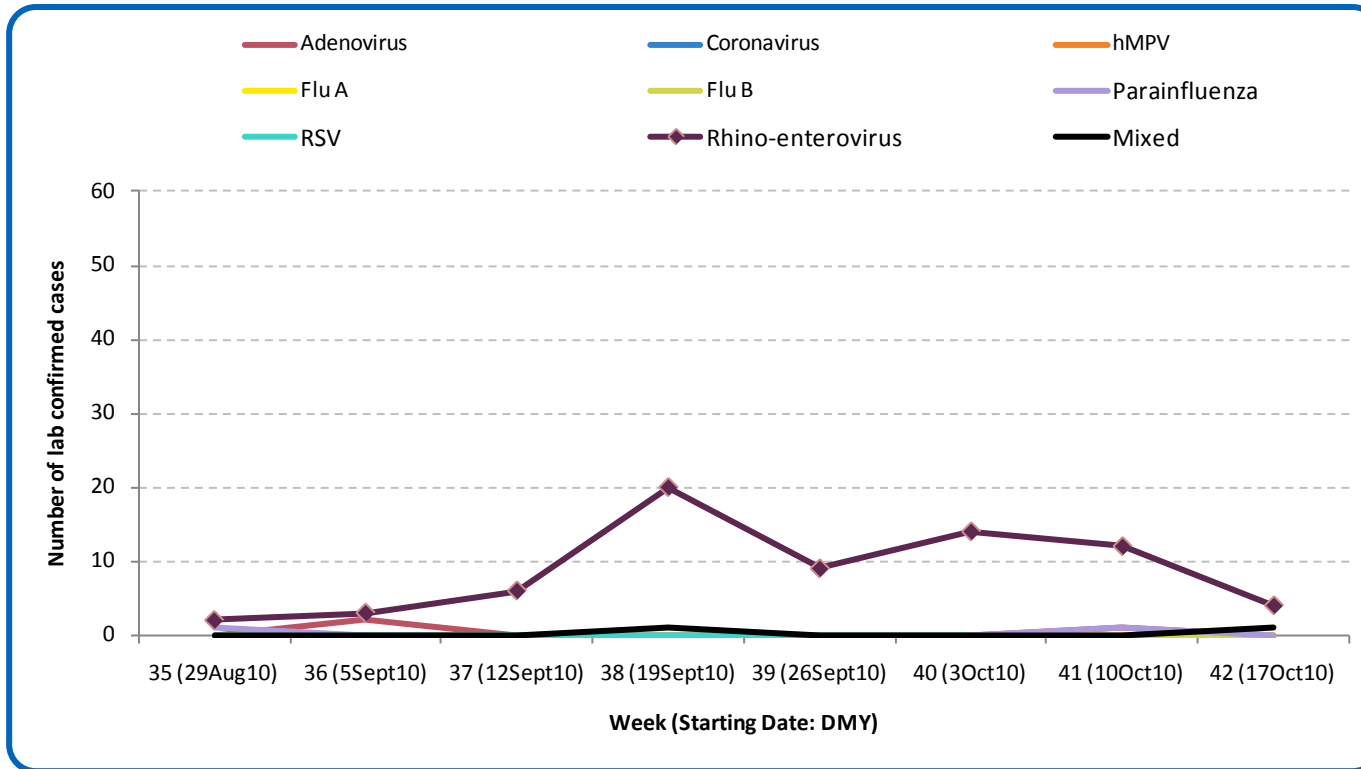
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 4: ZONE 3 - CENTRAL

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There have been no recent confirmed cases of influenza in the Central Zone.

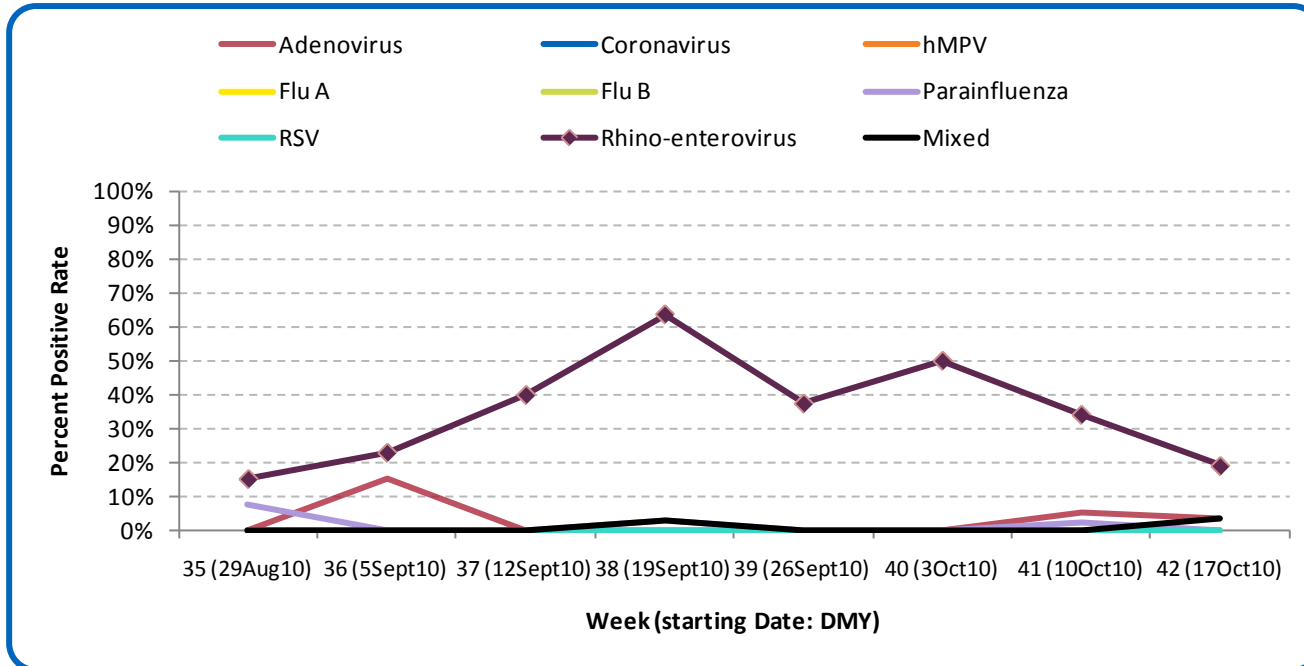
Figure 4A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Central Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 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)

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Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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Attack Rates in respiratory outbreaks

There have been no laboratory confirmed or investigation-pending 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 that occurred last week was comparable to the previous four weeks; no increasing trend has developed.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness

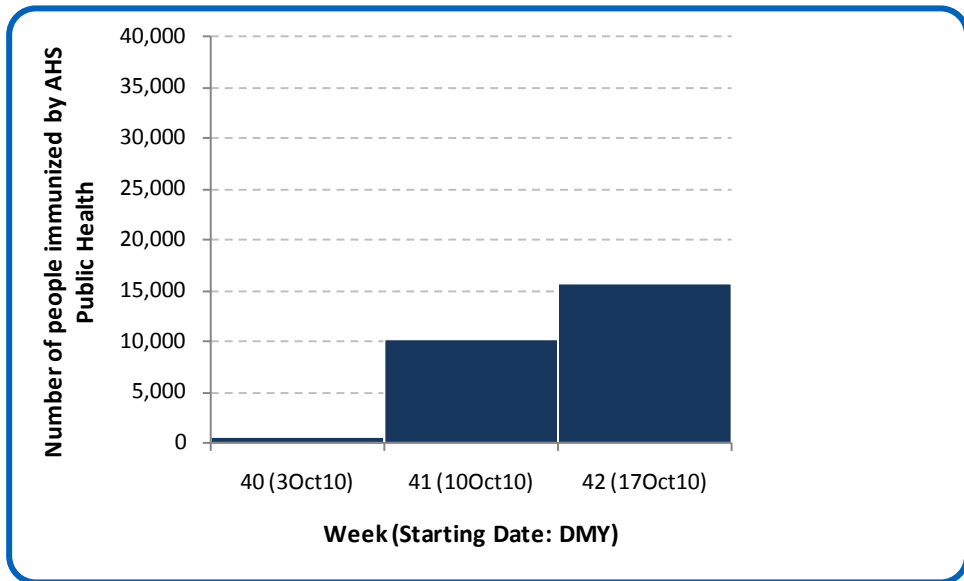
No visits to sentinel physician offices for influenza-like illness by residents of the Central Zone occurred in Week 41 (Oct 17 to Oct 23).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

In Week 41 (Oct 17 to Oct 23), the percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for LRTI symptoms by residents of the Central Zone remained less than 1%.

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

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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)

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 42 – Oct 17-23, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	122	247
Health care workers	685	1,426
Pregnant women	59	109
Residents of long term care	643	936
65 years of age and over	6,812	12,172
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	270	515
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	385	598
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	150	228
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,755	2,758
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	361	605
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	4,431	7,011
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	15,673	26,605

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

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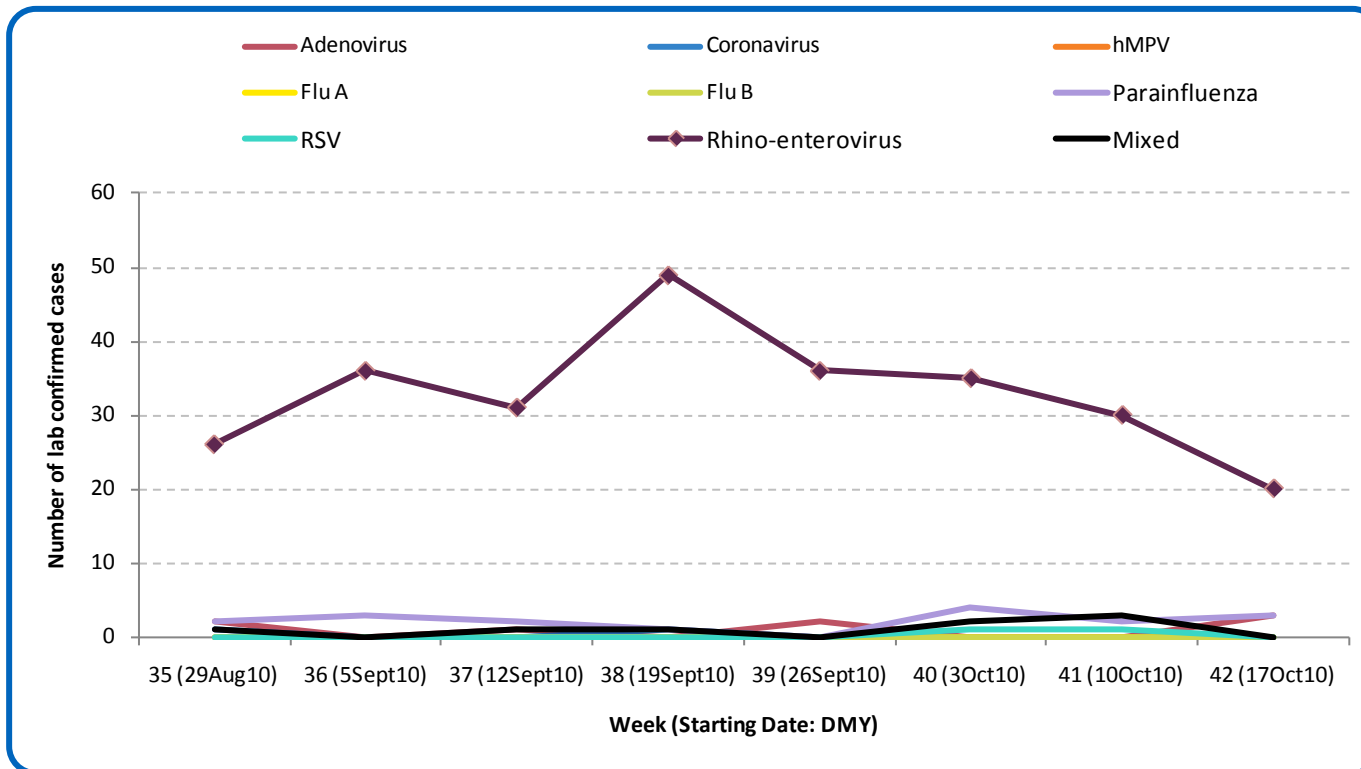
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 5: ZONE 4 – EDMONTON

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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.

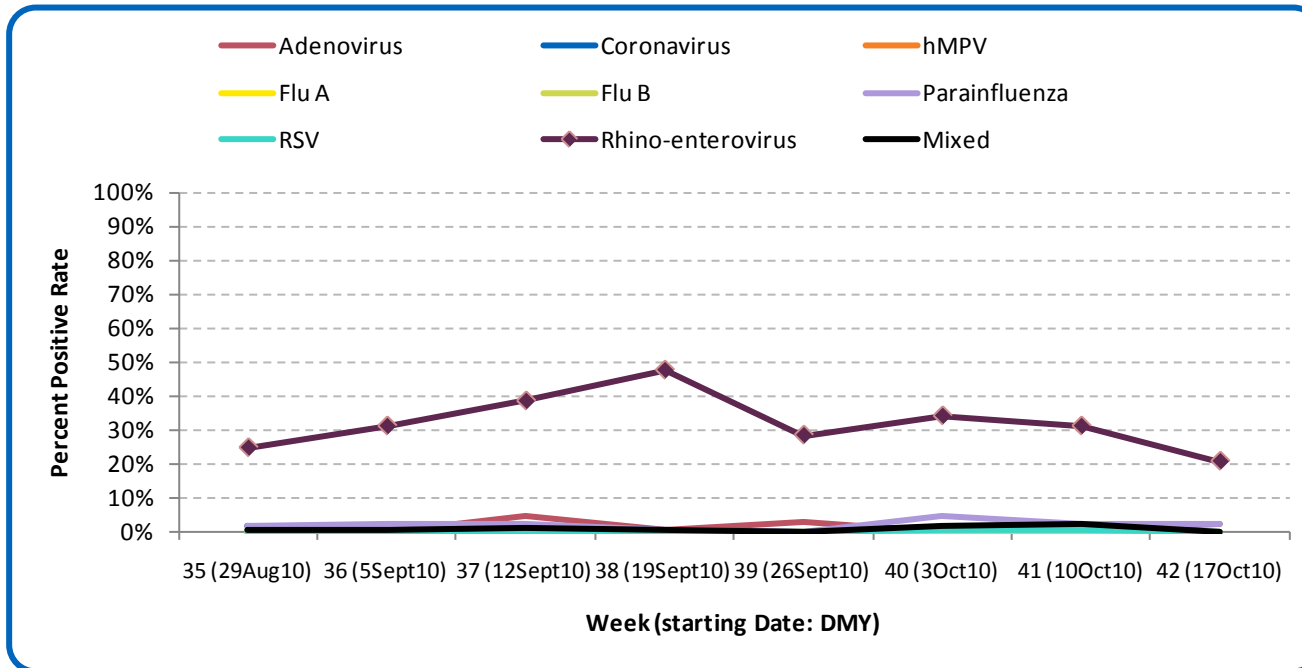
Figure 5A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 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)

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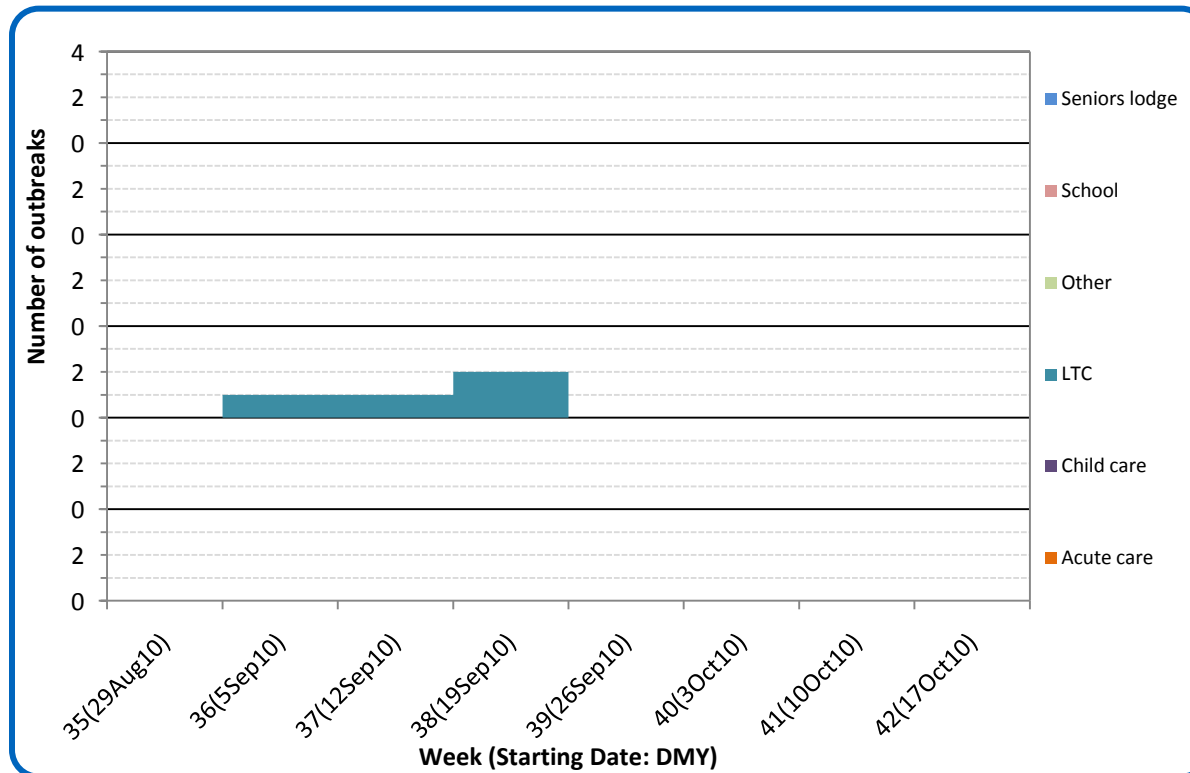


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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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 23, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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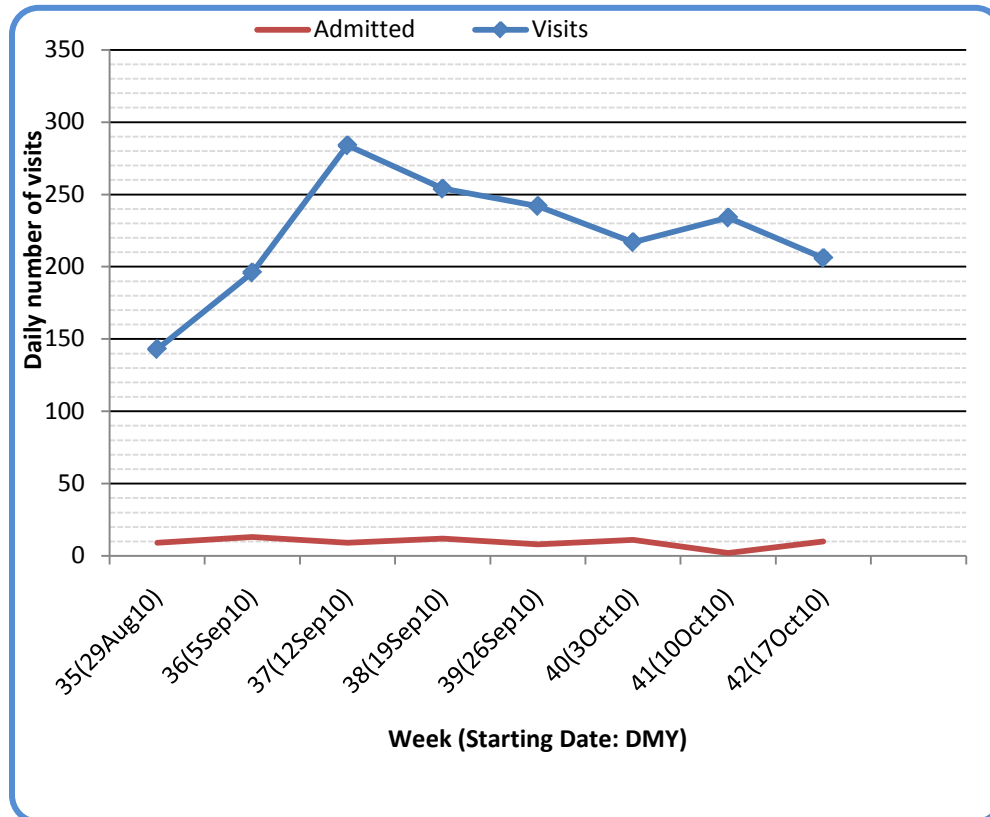
Report Date: October 26, 2010

An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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Visits to nine emergency departments/urgent care centers in the Edmonton Zone for cough/congestion in Week 42 (Oct 17-23) were within the range established since September 12 (week 37); both the number of visits and the number of admissions to hospitals 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 23, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

There have been no laboratory confirmed or investigation-pending respiratory outbreaks reported from the Edmonton Zone since September 26.

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

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for ILI symptoms in Week 42 (Oct 17 to Oct 23) were slightly above the level in the previous week; hospital admissions for ILI symptoms and visits of people with ILI who left emergency departments without being seen were all slightly less in Week 42 (Oct 17 to Oct 23) than in the previous week.

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 for week 42 (Oct 17-23) remained relatively unchanged compared to the previous two weeks.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness

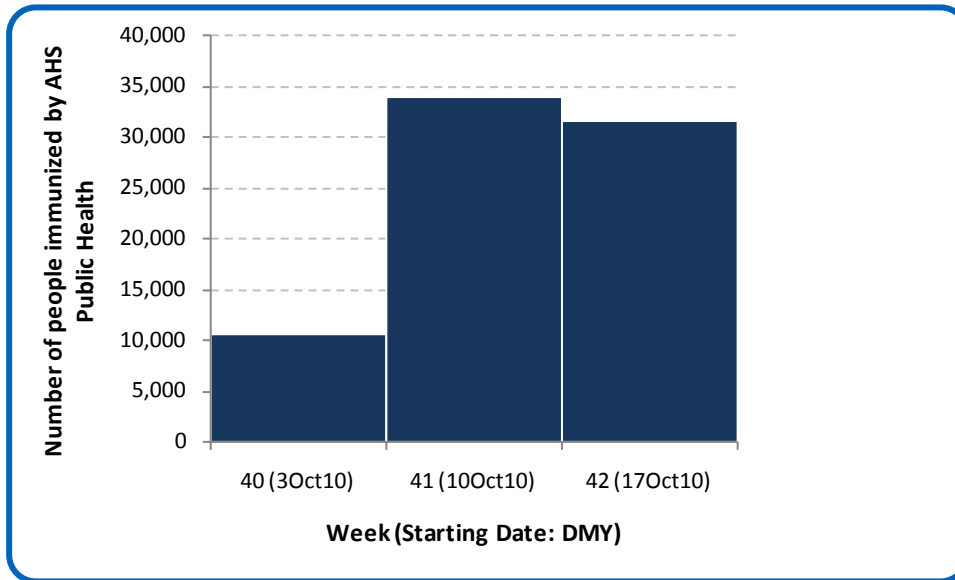
The percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for ILI by residents of the Edmonton Zone remains low (less than 1%) since late August (Week 35). No increasing trend has developed.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

The weekly percentage of visits to sentinel physician offices for lower respiratory tract infections has been consistently increasing since Week 38 (starting September 19). Last week, this percentage exceeded 3%.

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

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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)

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 42 – Oct 17-23, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	45	214
Health care workers	673	2,650
Pregnant women	219	395
Residents of long term care	180	921
65 years of age and over	10,671	32,294
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	763	1,548
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	1,280	2,273
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	217	435
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,330	7,710
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	1,003	1,826
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	13,149	25,828
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	31,530	76,094

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

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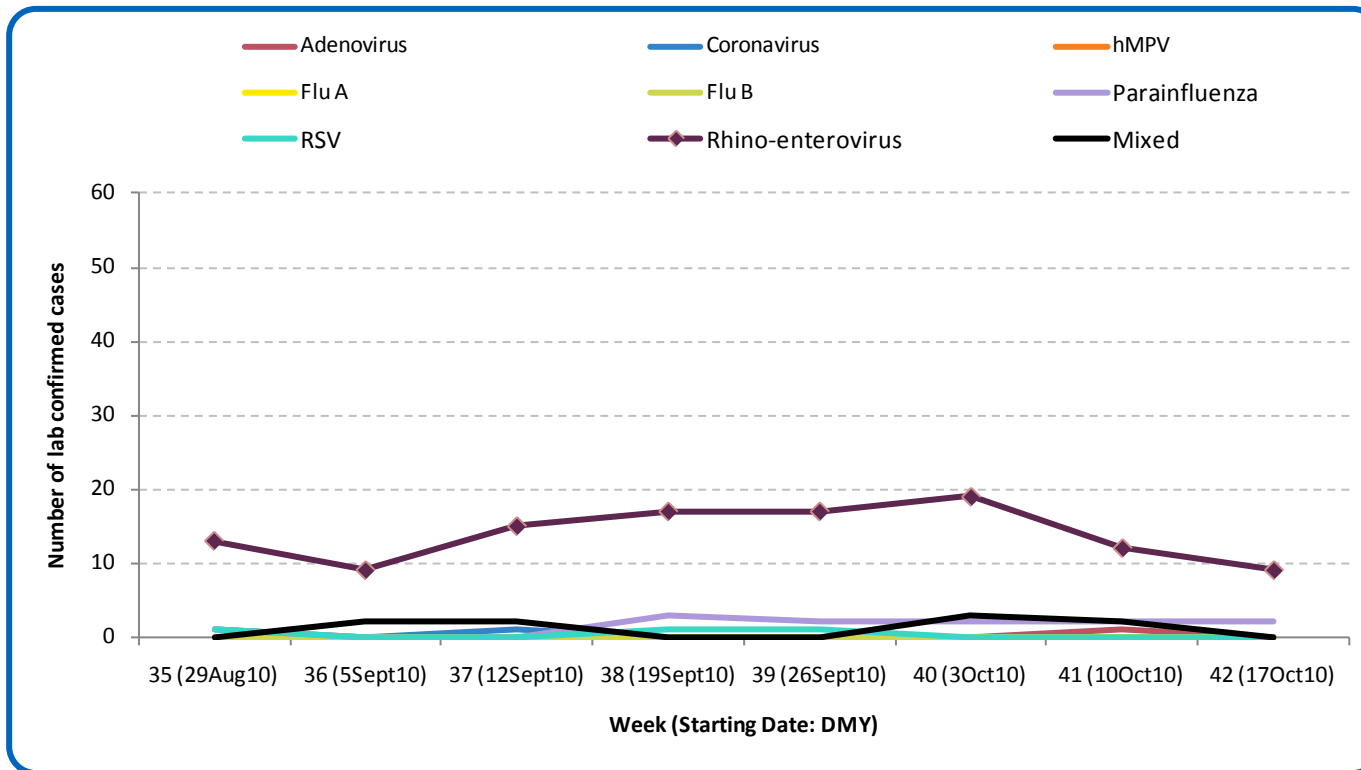
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 6: ZONE 5 – NORTH

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Rhino-enterovirus is still the predominant respiratory virus circulating in the North Zone, although this activity has declined in recent weeks. 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 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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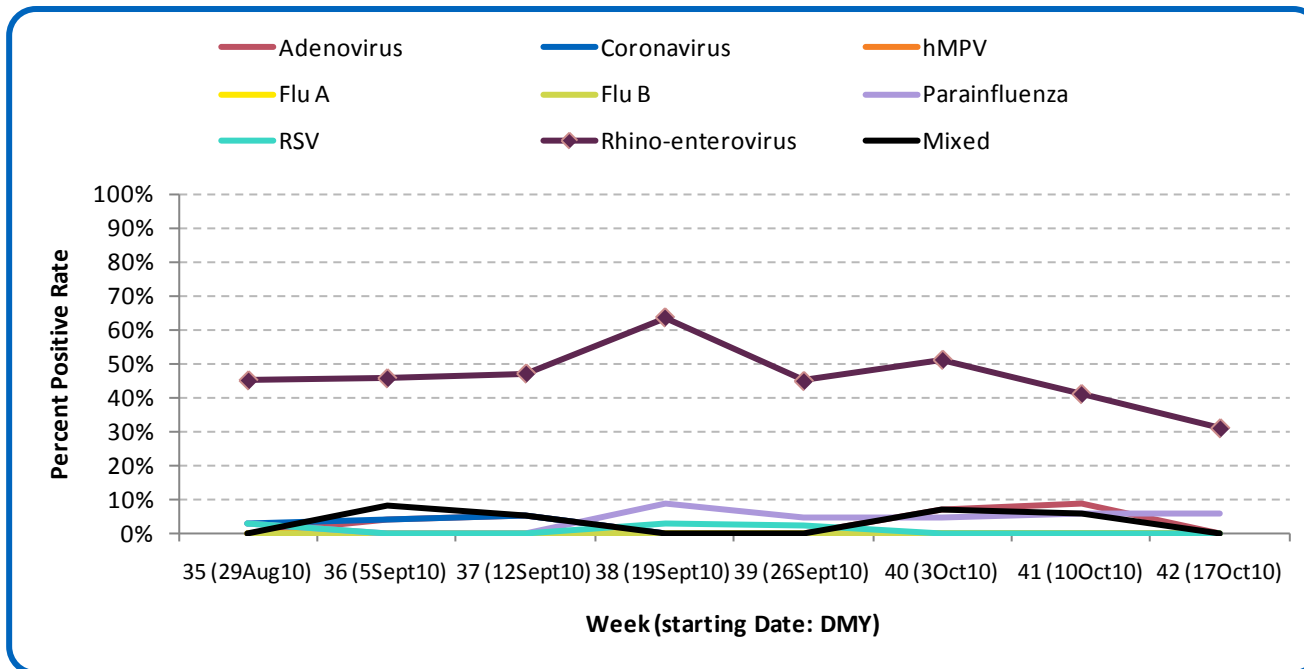
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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

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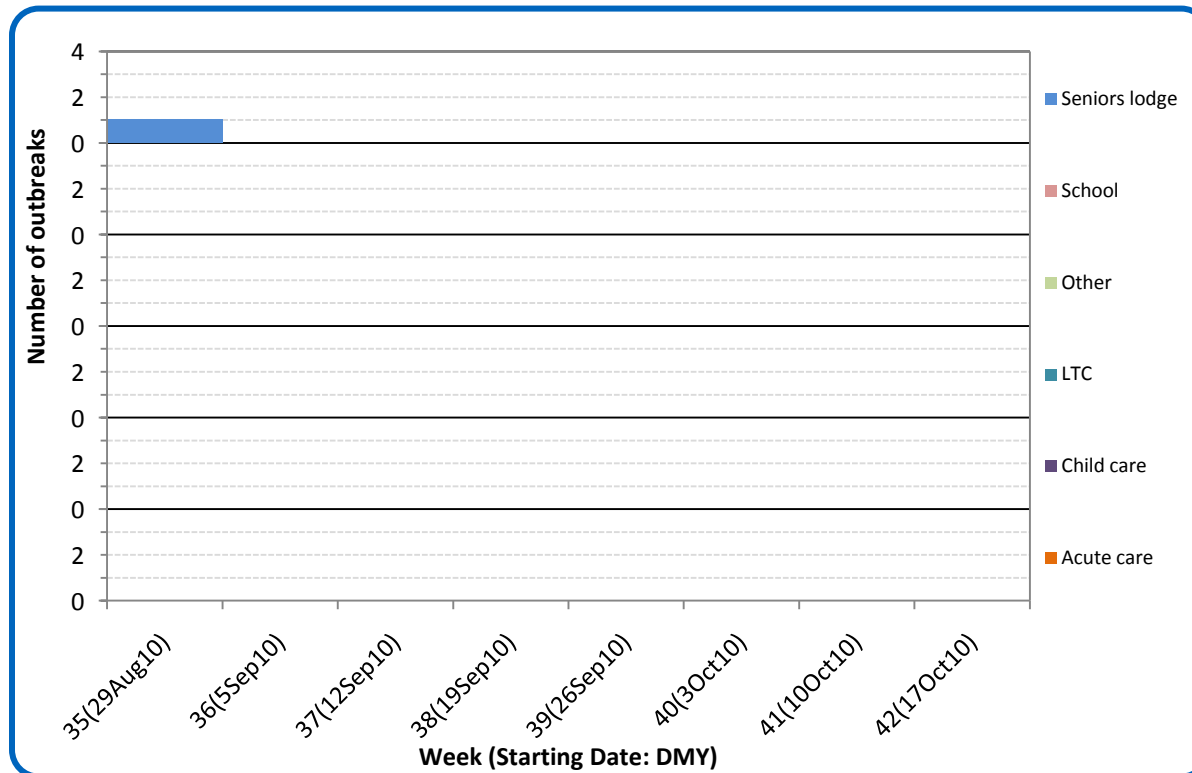


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 23, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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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 23, 2010
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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

There have been no laboratory confirmed or investigation-pending respiratory outbreaks in the North Zone since September 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 been declining in recent weeks.

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

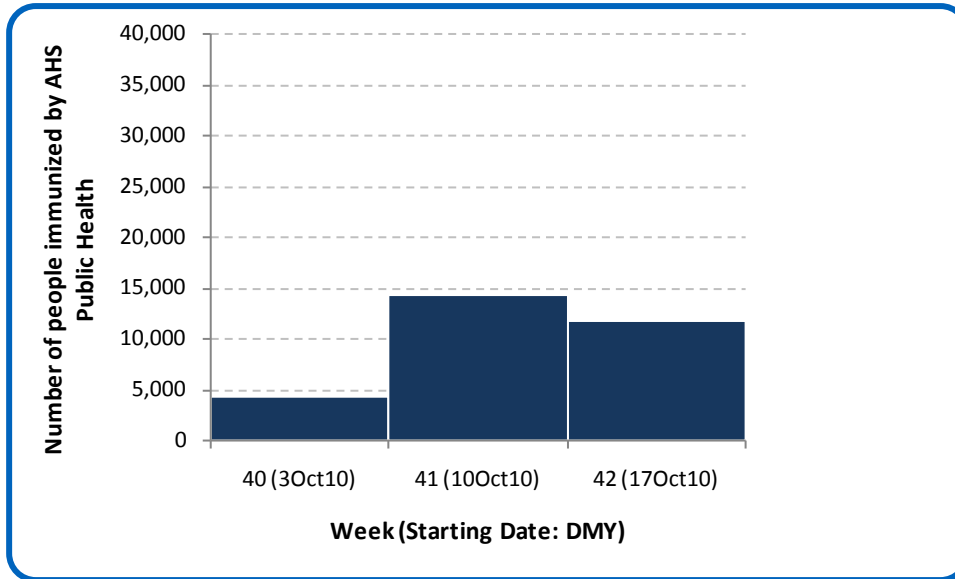
No visits to sentinel physician offices for influenza-like illness were reported in residents of the North Zone in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

No visits to sentinel physician offices for lower respiratory tract infections were reported in residents of the North Zone in Week 41 (Oct 10 to Oct 16).

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

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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)

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 42 – Oct 17-23, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	131	553
Health care workers	544	3,139
Pregnant women	88	175
Residents of long term care	140	934
65 years of age and over	3,297	9,479
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	342	659
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	558	995
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	136	448
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,533	3,598
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	453	979
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	4,542	9,375
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	11,764	30,334

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

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ANNEX: DATA NOTES

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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.

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OUTBREAKS

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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.

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