

Weekly Report

November 2, 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?

- 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 most recent update from the WHO indicates that the influenza season in the temperate Southern Hemisphere has peaked as activity in these areas continues to decline. The US continues to report low or sporadic levels of influenza activity.
- Canada has seen a slight increase in influenza activity in recent weeks however the levels are still within those expected for this time of year. The predominant influenza virus circulating in Canada continues to be influenza A (H3N2). Of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses tested in Canada this season, most have been found to be resistant to amantadine, but sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir.
- Four new cases of influenza A (H3) were confirmed in Alberta last week (one in the South Zone and three in the Calgary Zone). The three new cases from Calgary are all associated with the first influenza outbreak confirmed in the province this season. It occurred in a long term care facility and was the only respiratory outbreak confirmed in Alberta last week.
- Rhino-enterovirus is still the predominant respiratory virus circulating in Alberta.

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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

Alberta Snapshot

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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	9	3	10	1	25
		Coronavirus	0	2	0	3	3	8
		Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	1	1	0	0	0	2
		Influenza A (H3)	7	3	0	0	0	10
		Influenza B	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Parainfluenza	2	10	4	24	13	53
		Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	3	6	0	3	3	15
		Rhino enterovirus	41	209	79	298	124	751
		Mixed	1	19	2	10	12	44
		Total	57	259	88	348	156	908
Outbreaks	# respiratory outbreaks reported ²	0	5	0	4	1	10	
Influenza Immunizations	Total number immunized by AHS Public Health ³ (cumulative since Oct 3, 2010)	34,221	104,694	35,523	99,017	40,163	313,618	

-- Information not available

¹ Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 30, 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: November 2, 2010

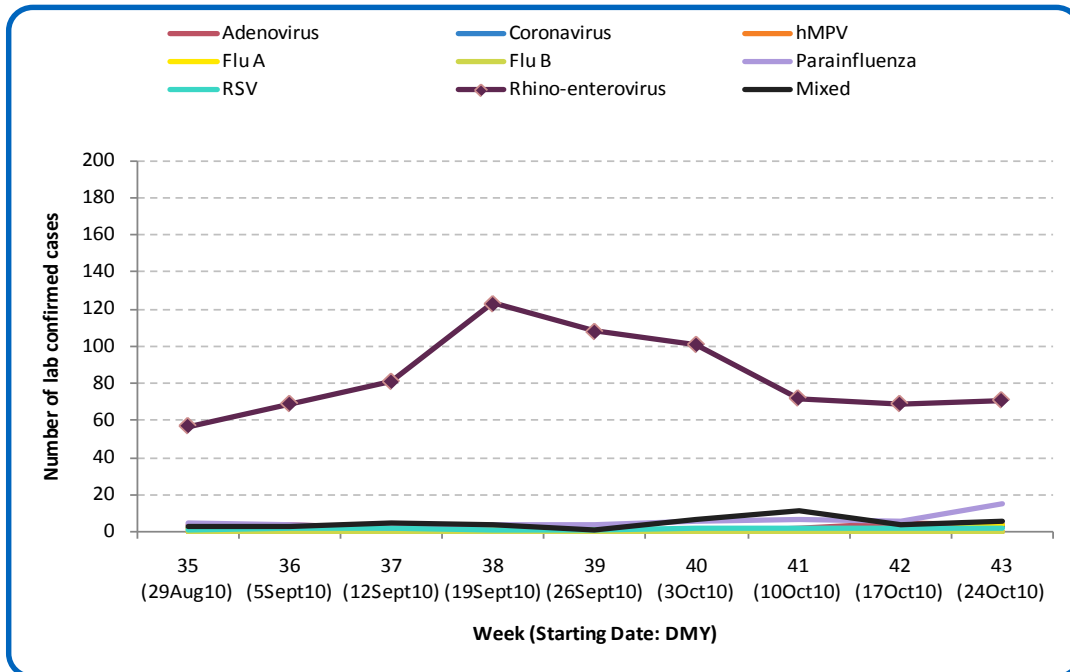
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 1: ALBERTA

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The predominant respiratory virus in Alberta is still rhino-enterovirus. Four new cases of influenza A (H3) have been reported in the province in the past week: one in the South Zone and three in the Calgary Zone (all associated with the first influenza outbreak confirmed in the province this season). In total, there have been ten confirmed cases of influenza A (H3) in Alberta since late August. Five cases have been in adults aged 18 to less than 65 years, one case has been in an adult aged 65 to less than 75 years, two have been in adults aged 75 years and over, and two cases have occurred in children under the age of 5 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 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

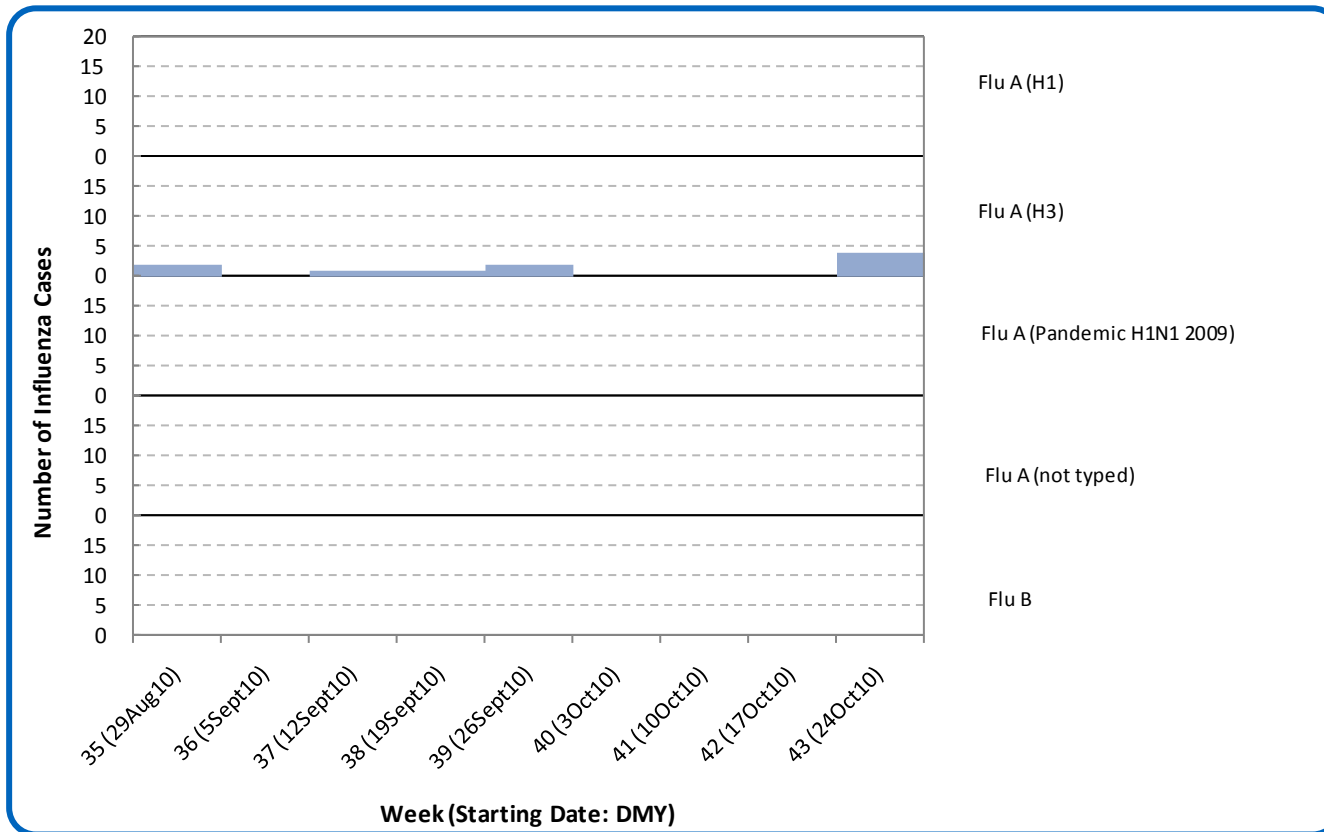
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Figure 1B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week, Alberta (2010)

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Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 30, 2010)
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Table 1A: New Influenza cases (and rates), by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Week 43- Oct 24-30, 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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
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	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1
75+ years	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
Total	0	0.0	4	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	<0.1

Table 1B: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Aug 29 – Oct 30, 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	5	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	<0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1
75+ years	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
Total	0	0.0	10	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	<0.1

Source for Table 1A and 1B: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 30, 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

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

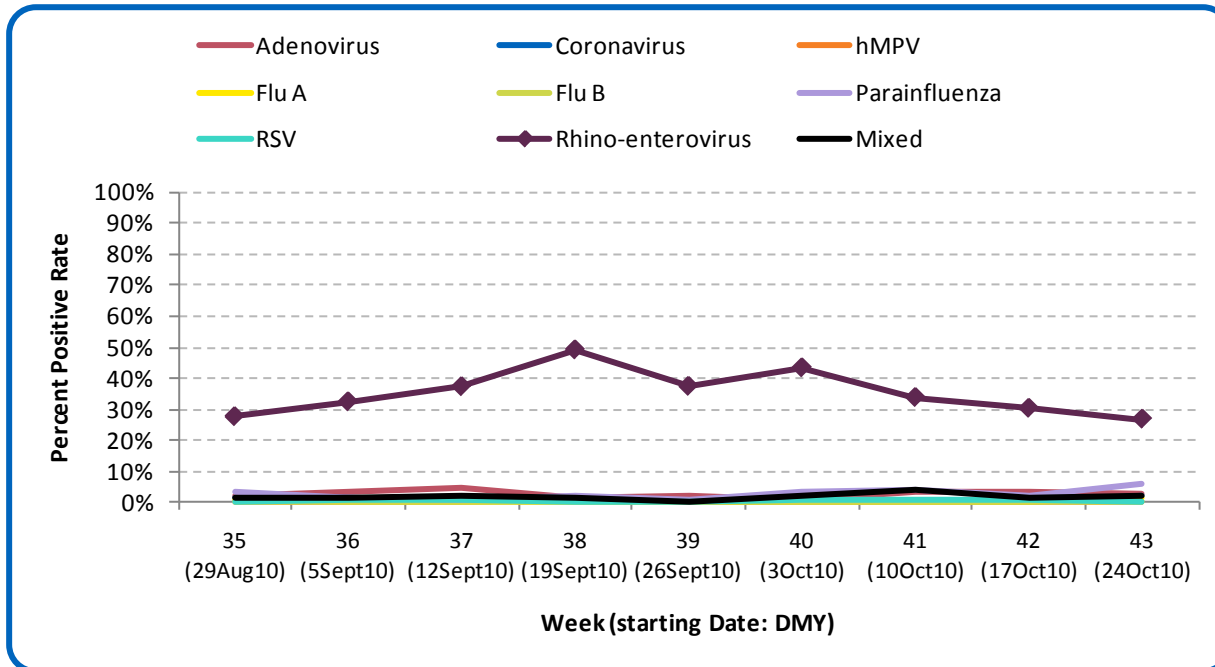
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Report Date: November 2, 2010

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



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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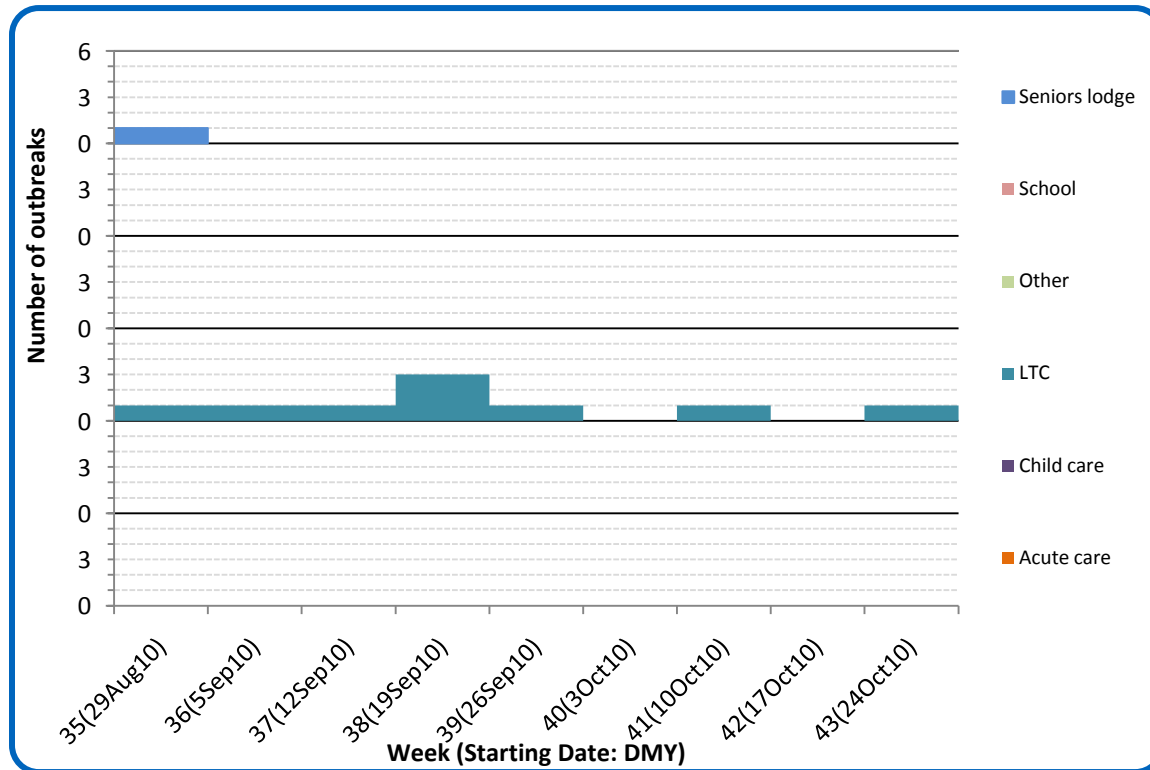
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Two respiratory outbreaks occurring in long term care facilities from the Calgary Zone have been confirmed, one in Week 41 (Oct 10-16) and another in Week 43 (Oct 24-30). The first outbreak was caused by rhino-enterovirus, and the second one by seasonal influenza A (H3). This most recent outbreak is the first influenza outbreak confirmed for this season in Alberta.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 30, 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

Of the two most recent Calgary outbreaks, the rhino-enterovirus outbreak in Week 41 (Oct 10-16) had a final attack rate of 7.5%. The influenza outbreak has a preliminary attack rate of 5.4%.

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

The weekly number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for influenza-like illness (ILI) or cough symptoms has remained relatively stable in recent weeks in both Calgary and Edmonton Zones; no upward trends have developed. The number of visits for which patients left without being seen has followed a similar pattern.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties for Week 43 (Oct 24-30) has remained relatively unchanged since Week 38 (Sept 19-25).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness (ILI)

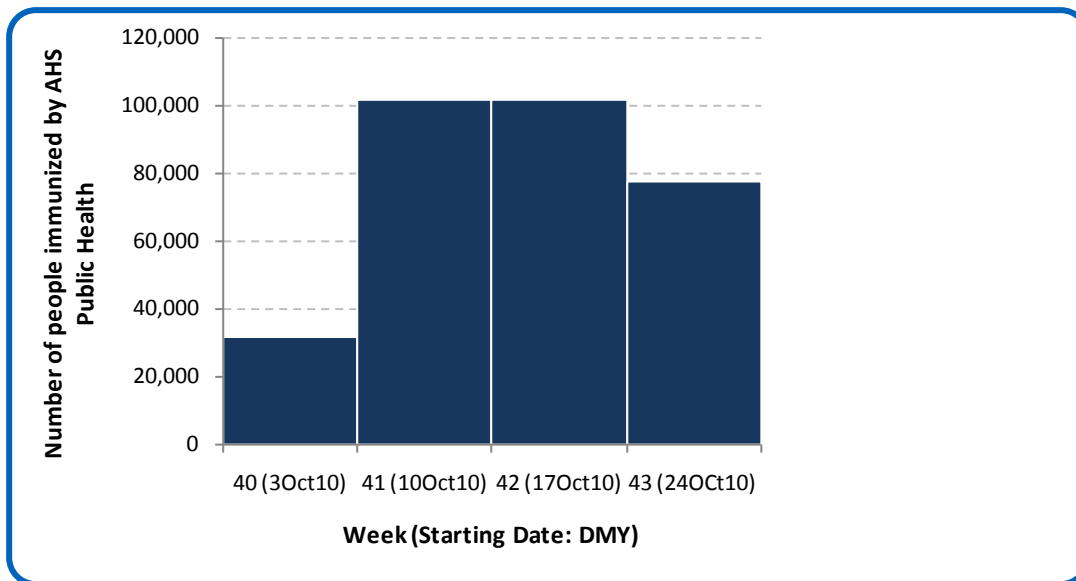
In Week 42 (Oct 17-23), the province-wide percentage of ILI visits to sentinel physician offices was lower than in Weeks 40 and 41 (Oct 3-16) and has remained well below the 1% mark.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The province-wide percentage of LRTI visits to sentinel physician offices decreased in Week 42 (Oct 24-30), reversing the rising trend occurring in previous weeks.

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

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 43 – Oct 24-30, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	210	2,088
Health care workers	1,864	13,596
Pregnant women	714	2,054
Residents of long term care	182	4,387
65 years of age and over	20,450	114,081
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	2,578	8,123
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	3,731	11,394
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	768	2,948
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	8,612	33,033
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	3,143	9,225
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	35,469	112,689
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	77,721	313,618

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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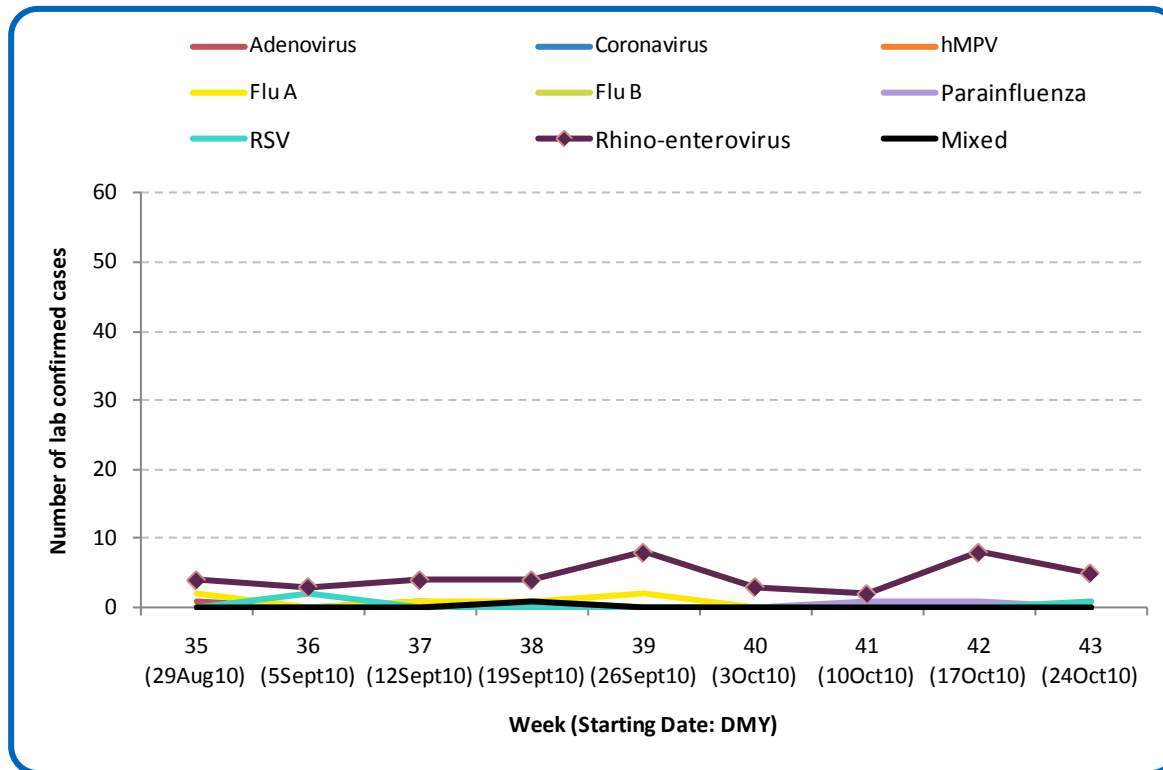
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SECTION 2: ZONE 1 - SOUTH

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One new influenza A (H3) case was reported in the South Zone last week. In total, there have been seven confirmed cases of influenza A (H3) in the South Zone since late August. Five cases have been in adults aged 18 to less than 65 years and two cases have been in children under the age of 5 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 30, 2010)
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SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

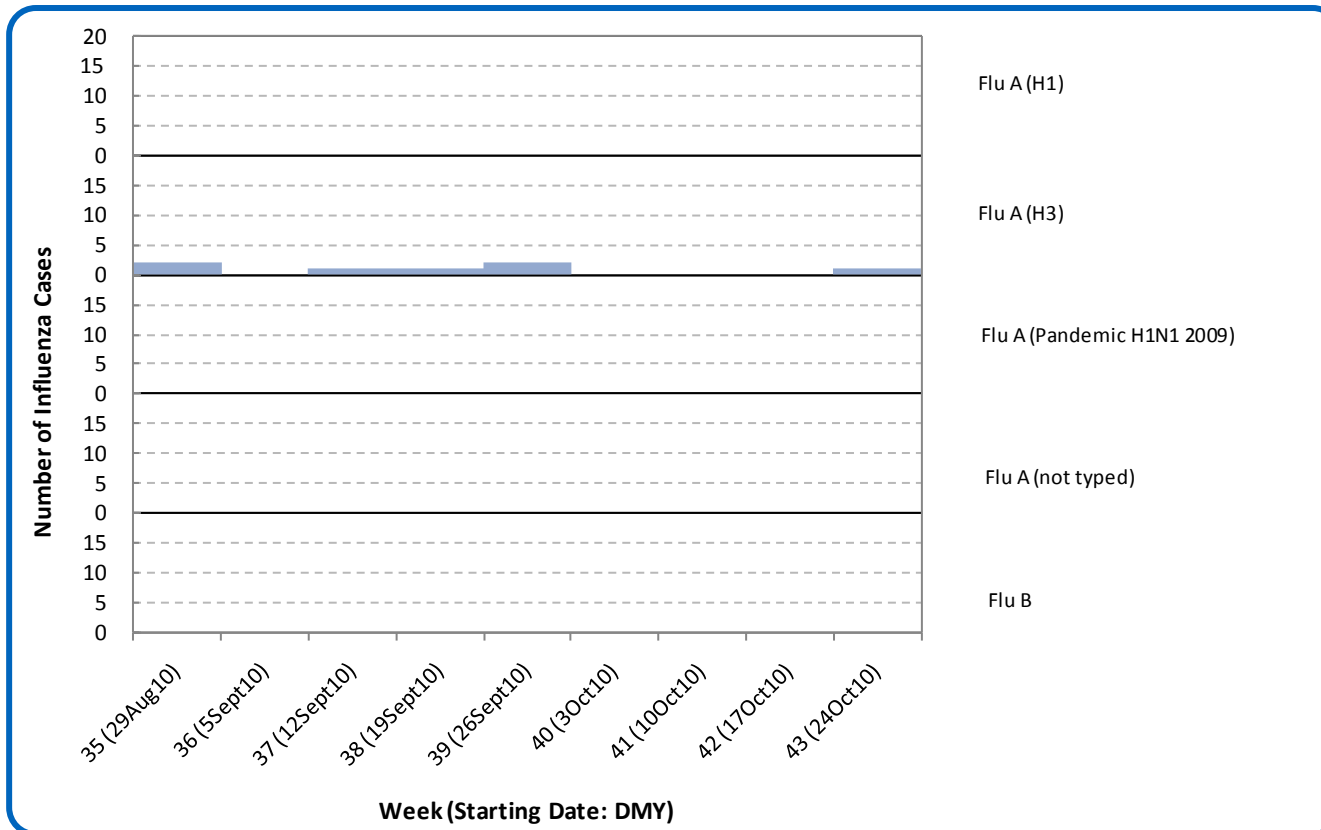
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Figure 2B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week South Zone (2010)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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2A: New Influenza cases (and rates), by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Week 43- Oct 24-30, 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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
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	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
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	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1

Table 2B: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Aug 29–Oct 30, 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	5	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.3
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	7	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0.3

Source for tables 2A and 2B: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 30, 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

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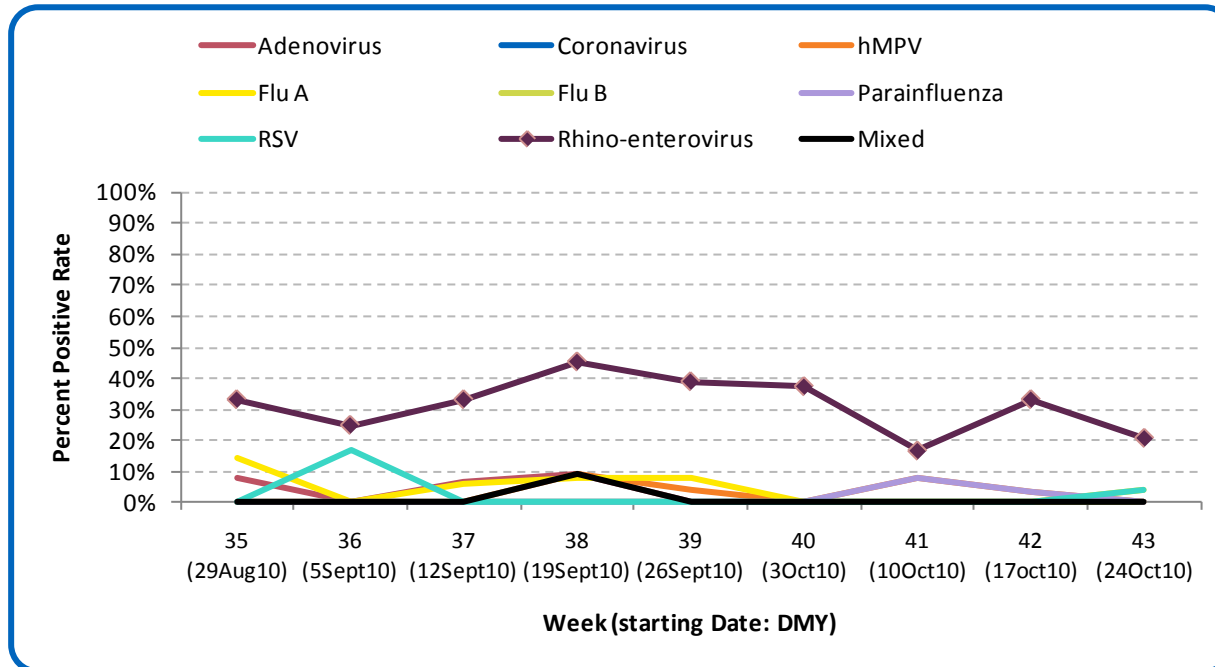
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Figure 2C: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 30, 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 for Week 43 (Oct 24-30) was at the same level as the previous week.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness (ILI)

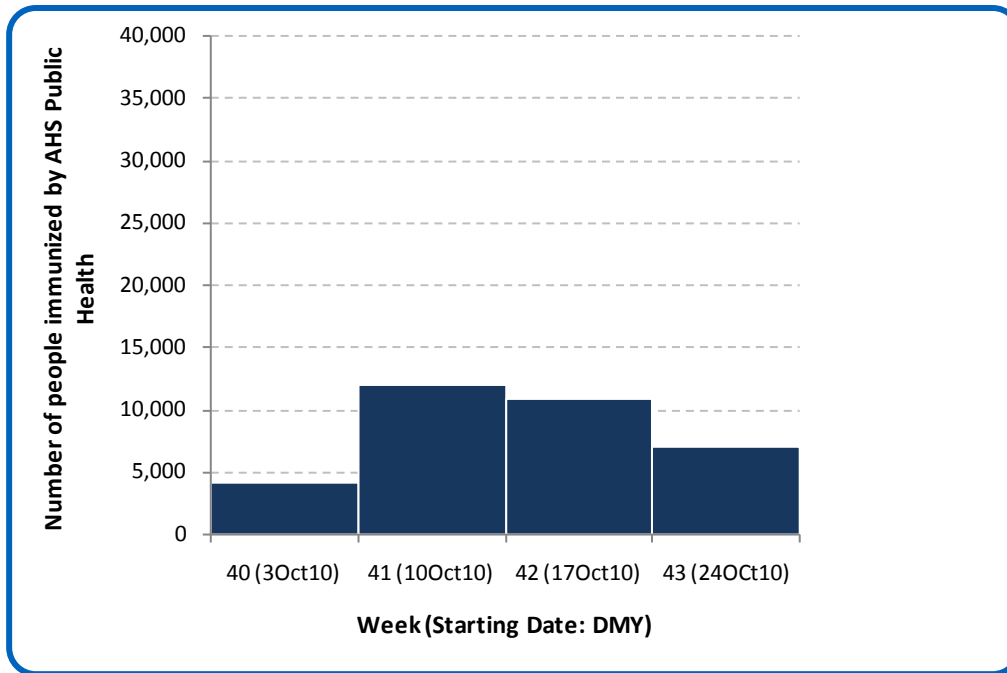
The percentage of ILI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the South Zone was less than 1% in Week 42 (Oct 17-23), which was lower than in Week 41 (Oct 10-16).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

There were no reports of LRTI related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the South Zone in Week 42 (Oct 17 - 23).

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

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 43 – Oct 24-30, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	22	567
Health care workers	162	1,366
Pregnant women	66	190
Residents of long term care	7	709
65 years of age and over	2,206	13,869
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	210	651
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	379	1,286
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	84	339
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	678	3,303
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	322	1,021
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	2,997	10,920
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	7,133	34,221

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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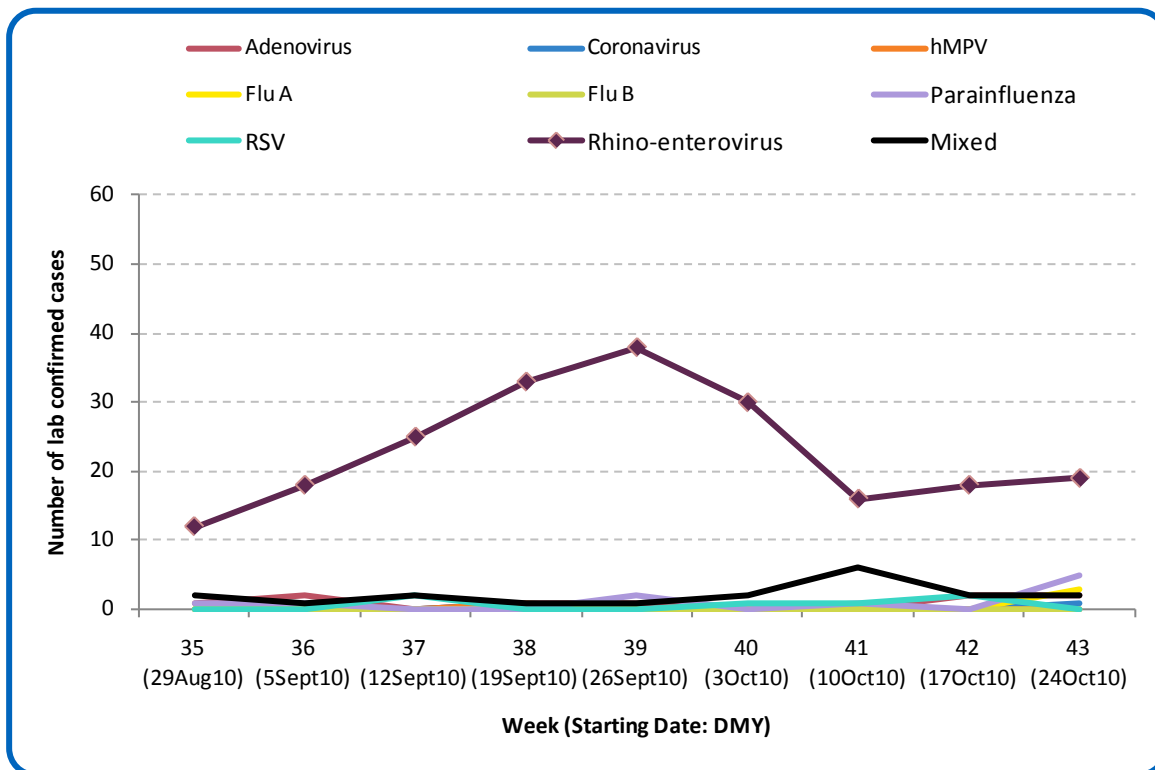
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SECTION 3: ZONE 2 - CALGARY

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The predominant respiratory virus in the Calgary Zone is still rhino-enterovirus. Three cases of influenza A (H3) were confirmed in the Calgary Zone last week. These are the first cases to be lab confirmed in this Zone this season. One case was in an adult 65 to less than 75 years of age and the other two were in adults aged 75 years and over. All three cases are associated with an outbreak in a long term care facility.

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 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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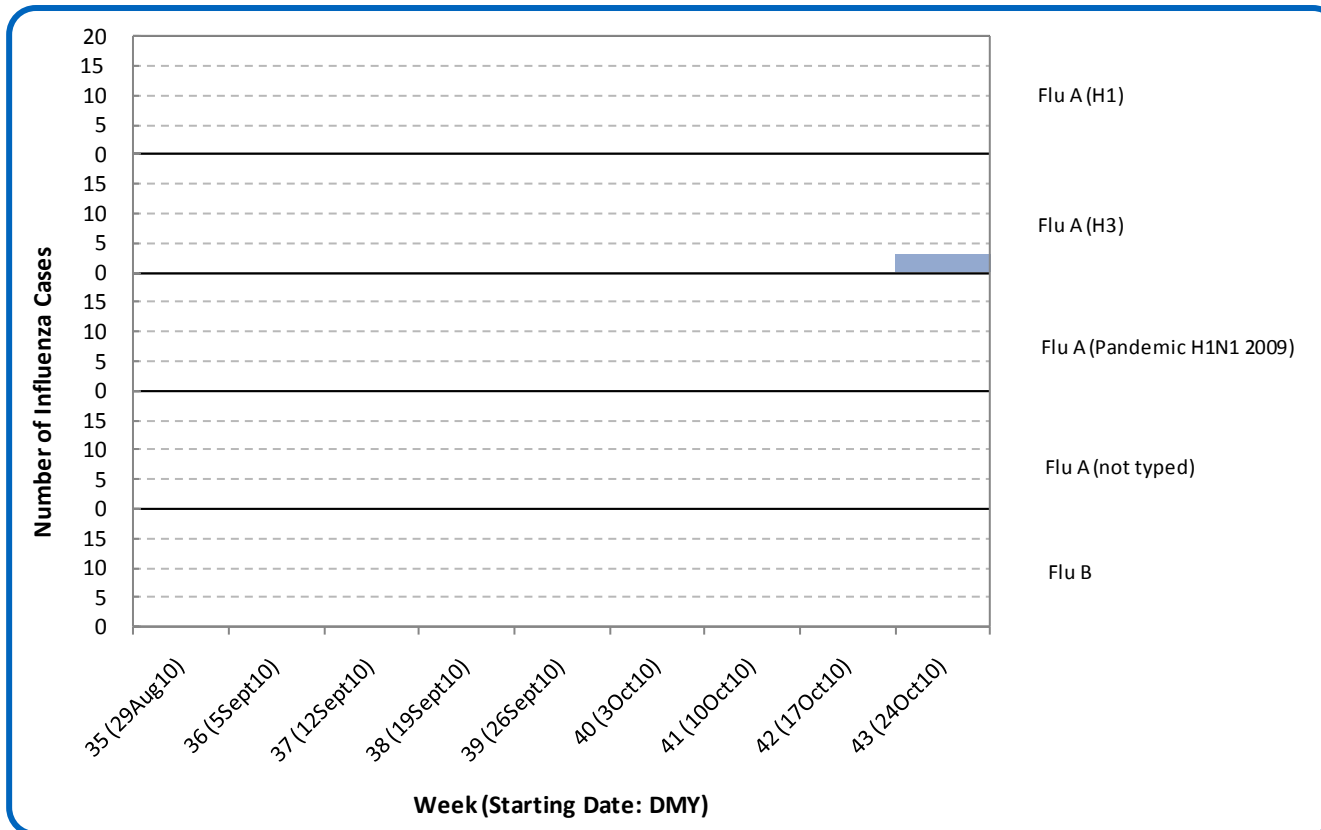
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Figure 3B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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3A: New Influenza cases (and rates), by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Week 43- Oct 24-30, 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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
75+ years	0	0.0	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3
Total	0	0.0	3	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	<0.1

Table 3B: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Aug 29 – Oct 30, 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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
75+ years	0	0.0	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3
Total	0	0.0	3	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	<0.1

Source for tables 3A and 3B: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Oct 30, 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

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

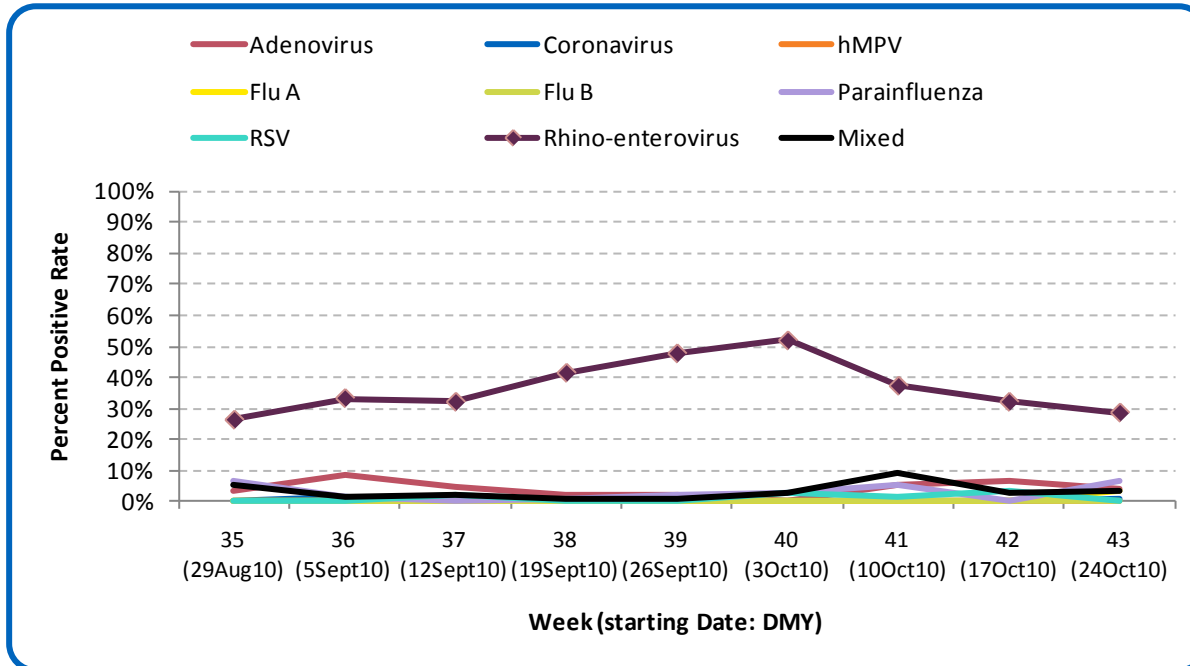
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: November 2, 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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Figure 3C: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)

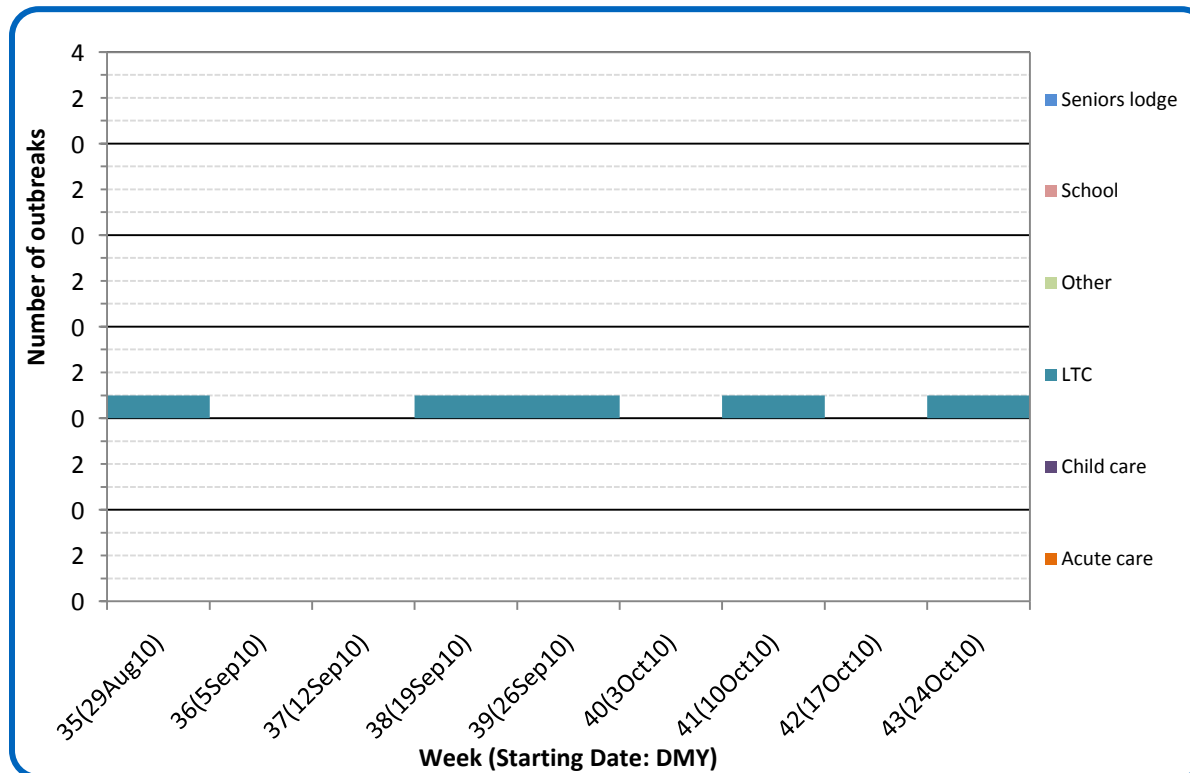


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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The pending investigation of the respiratory outbreak mentioned in last week’s report has now been confirmed as a rhino-enterovirus outbreak (the onset date for this outbreak was Oct 15). A new outbreak, which has an onset date of Oct 25, has been confirmed as a seasonal influenza A (H3) outbreak. This is the first influenza outbreak confirmed this season in the province.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 30, 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

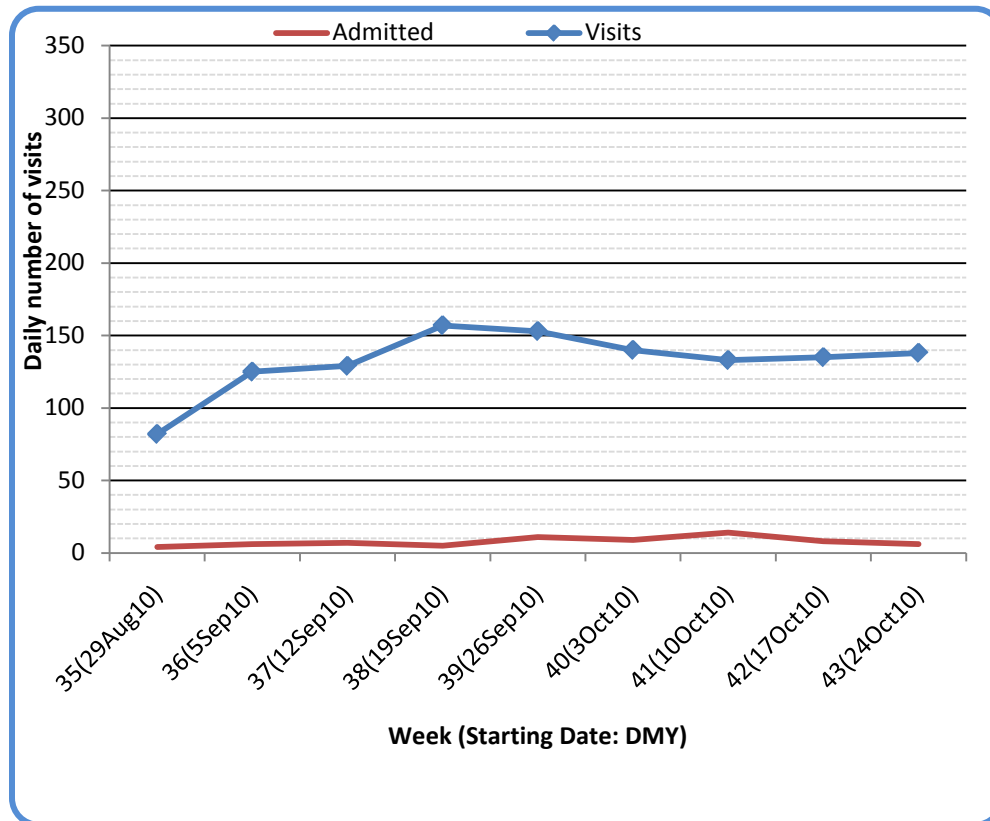
Public Health Surveillance
Report Date: November 2, 2010

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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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 have remained relatively unchanged since the week of Sept 5, maintaining an essentially flat trend in recent weeks.

Figure 3E: 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 30, 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

The rhino-enterovirus outbreak with an onset date of Oct 15 had a final attack rate of 7.5%. The more recent influenza outbreak has a preliminary attack rate of 5.4%.

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

The weekly number of visits to urban emergency departments/ urgent care centers (EDs) for influenza-like illness (ILI) in the city of Calgary has relatively unchanged since late August. The number of hospital admissions of patients with ILI has remained stable since Week 37 (Sept 12-18). The number of patients with ILI who left EDs “without being seen” has also remained relatively unchanged 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 for Week 43 (Oct 24-30) remained relatively unchanged compared to the previous six weeks. This pattern matches that for ED visits with cough symptoms.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness (ILI)

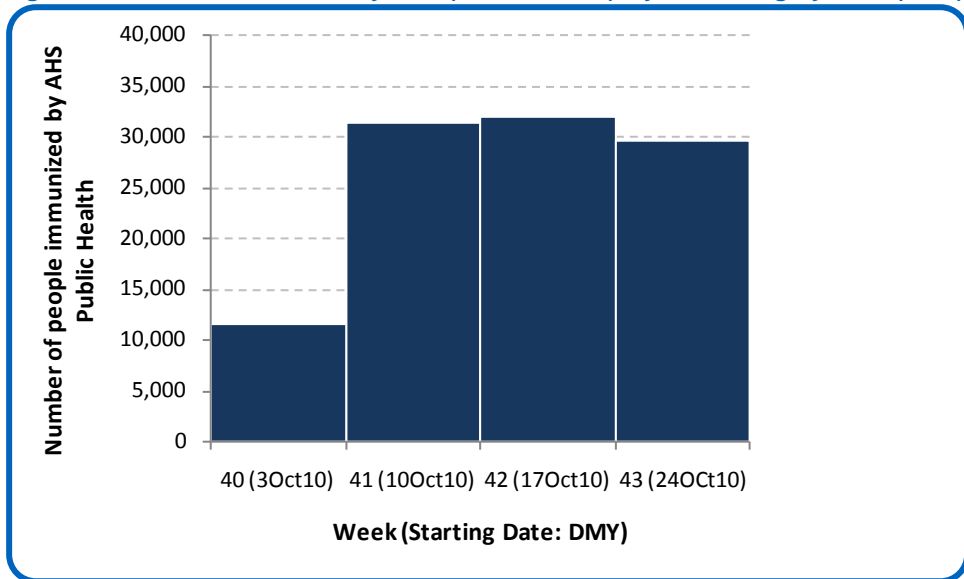
The percentage of ILI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Calgary Zone remained low in Week 42 (Oct 17-23), less than 1%, and did not change significantly from the previous week.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The percentage of LRTI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Calgary Zone in Week 42 (Oct 17-23) has remained stable since late August at less than 1%.

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

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 43 – Oct 24-30, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	59	350
Health care workers	605	3,754
Pregnant women	274	808
Residents of long term care	37	633
65 year of age and over	6,836	34,637
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	1,236	3,606
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	1,578	4,441
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	315	1,120
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,321	10,927
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	1,167	3,148
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	14,271	41,270
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	29,699	104,694

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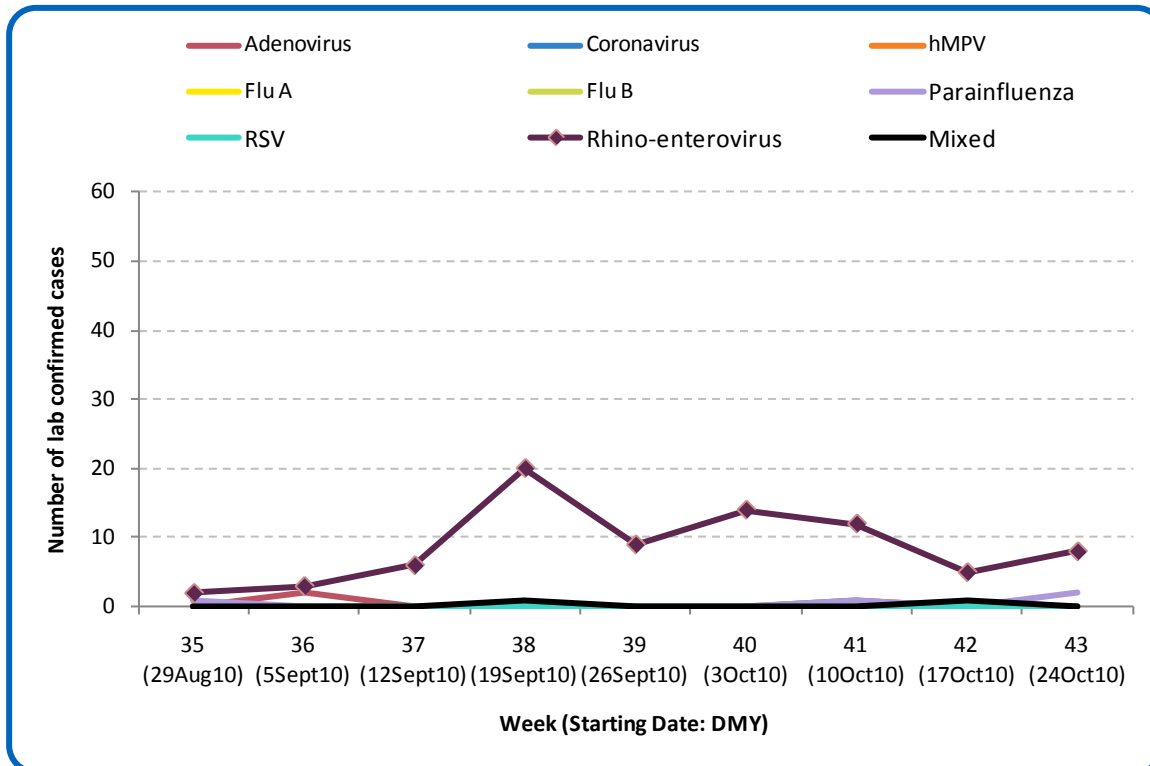
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 4: ZONE 3 - CENTRAL

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There have been no laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in the Central Zone this season. Rhino-enterovirus is the predominant respiratory virus circulating 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 30, 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

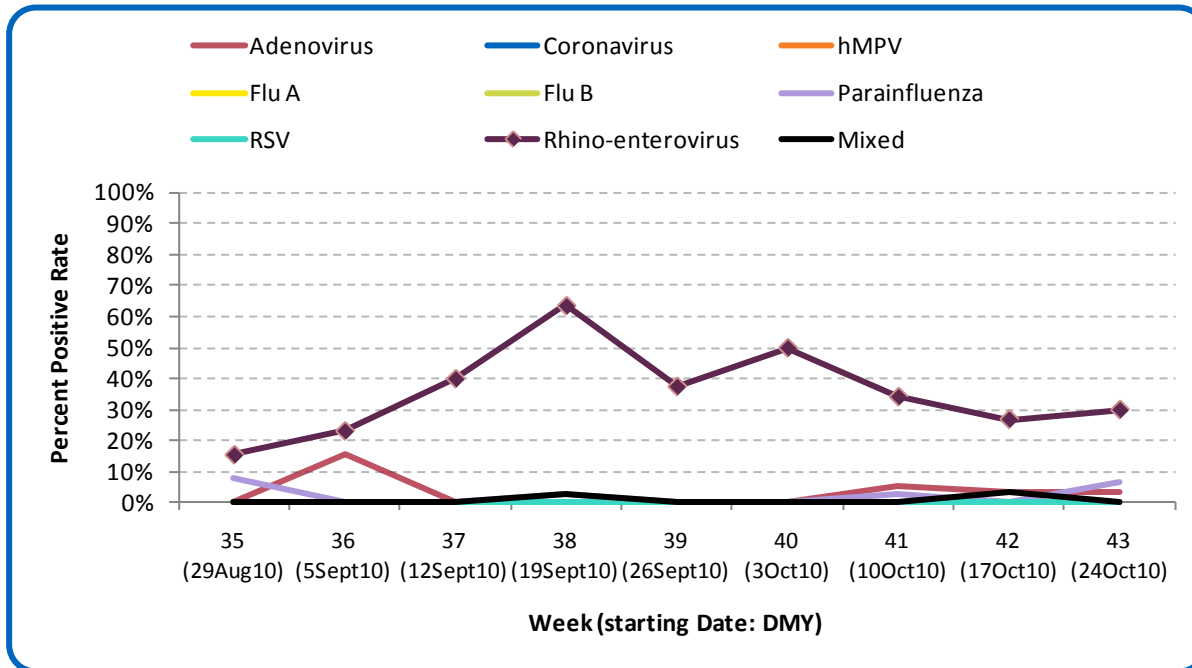
Public Health Surveillance

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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 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 30, 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 weekly number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of the Central Zone for cough or breathing difficulties for Week 43 (Oct 24-30) was comparable to the previous four weeks; no increasing trend has developed.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness (ILI)

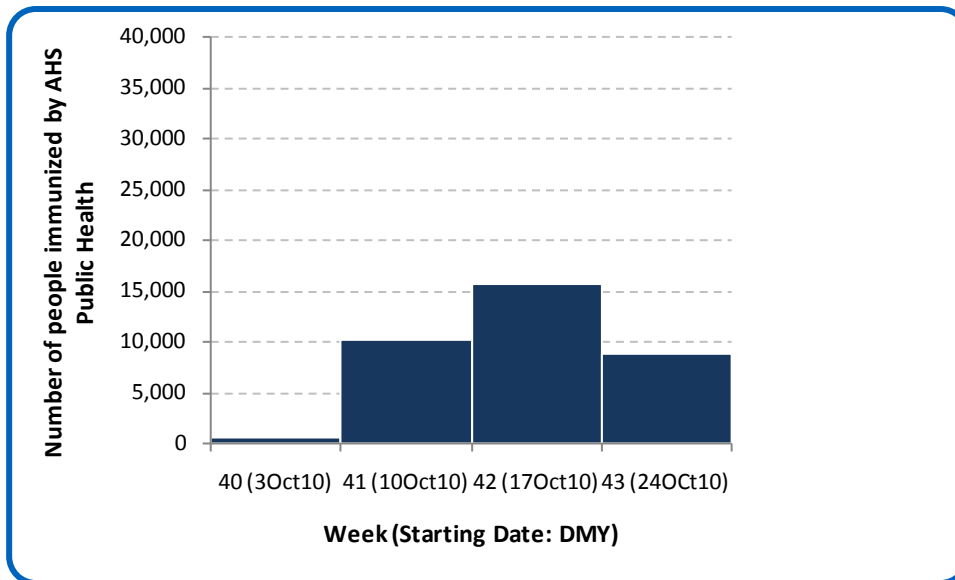
There were no reports of ILI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Central Zone in Week 42 (Oct 17-23).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection (LTRI)

There were no reports of LTRI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Central Zone in Week 42 (Oct 17-23).

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

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

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 43 – Oct 24-30, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	42	289
Health care workers	318	1,744
Pregnant women	60	169
Residents of long term care	4	940
65 years of age and over	3,150	15,322
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	199	714
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	322	920
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	53	281
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,063	3,821
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	295	900
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,412	10,423
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	8,918	35,523

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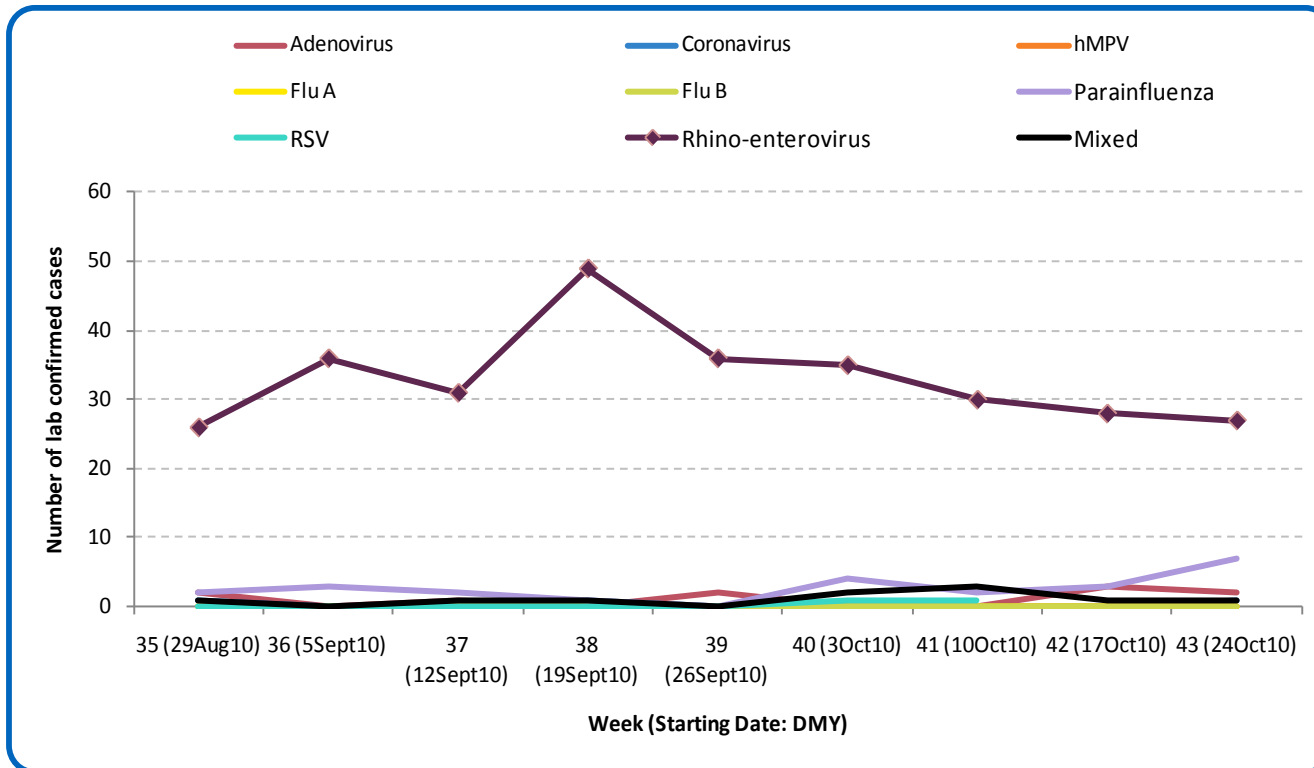
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 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 slightly in recent weeks. There have been no laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in the Edmonton Zone this season.

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 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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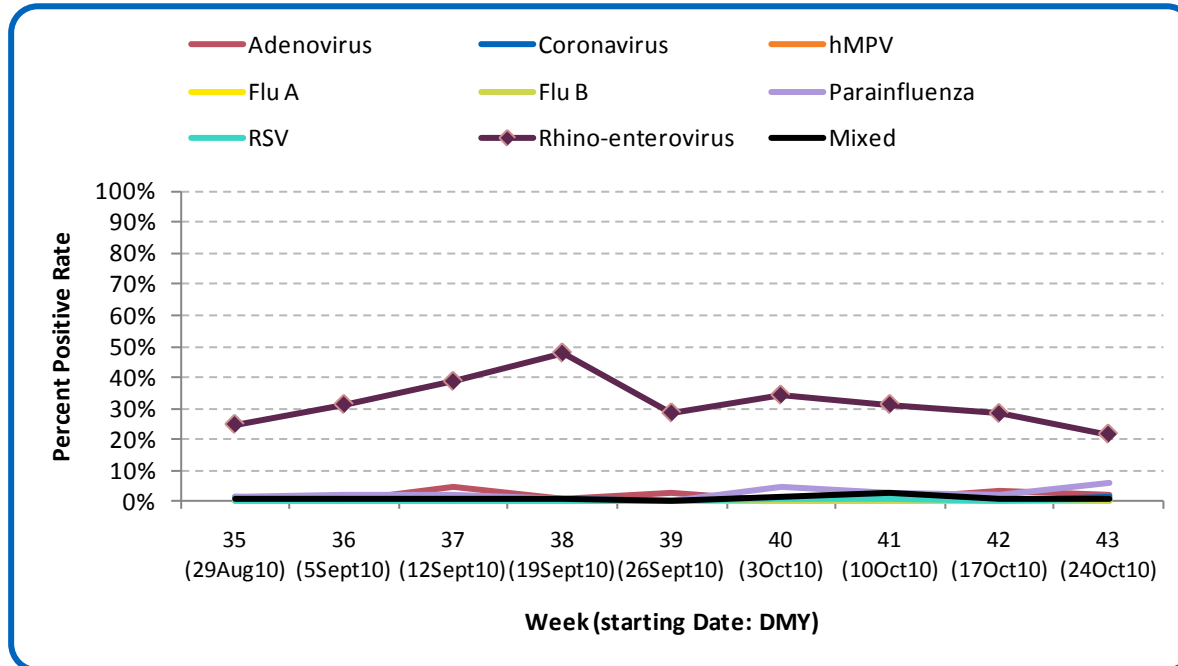
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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

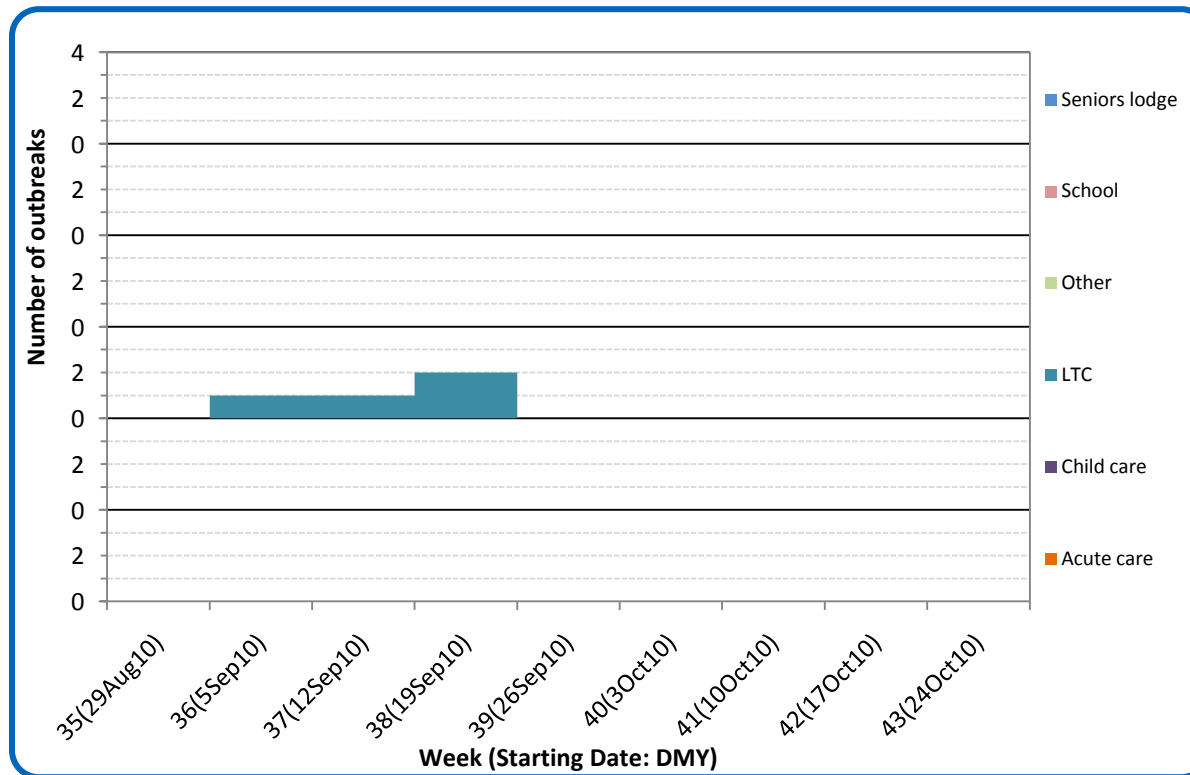


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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There have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks reported for hospitals or residential institutions in the Edmonton Zone since the week of Sept 26.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 30, 2010.
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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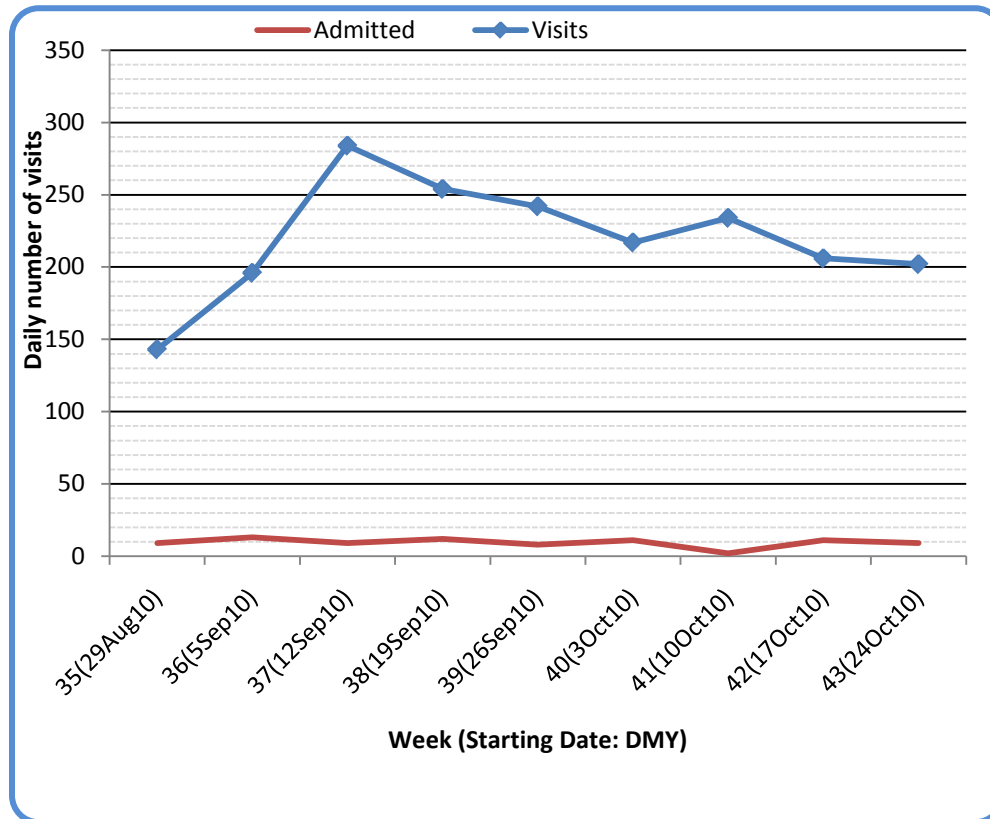
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The number of visits to nine emergency departments/urgent care centers in the Edmonton Zone for cough/congestion for the week of Oct 24 has generally been on a declining trend since the week of Sept 12. Both the weekly number of visits and admissions 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 30, 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 or investigation-pending respiratory outbreaks reported from the Edmonton Zone since the week of Sept 26.

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

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for ILI symptoms for Week 43 (Oct 24-30) remained relatively unchanged since Week 36 (Sept 5-11). Weekly admissions to hospitals and visits of people with ILI who left emergency departments without being seen were higher in Week 43 (Oct 24-30) than in the previous week, but were still below the level of Week 40 (Oct 3-9).

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The weekly number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of the Edmonton Zone for cough and breathing difficulties has remained relatively unchanged in recent weeks.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with influenza-like illness (ILI)

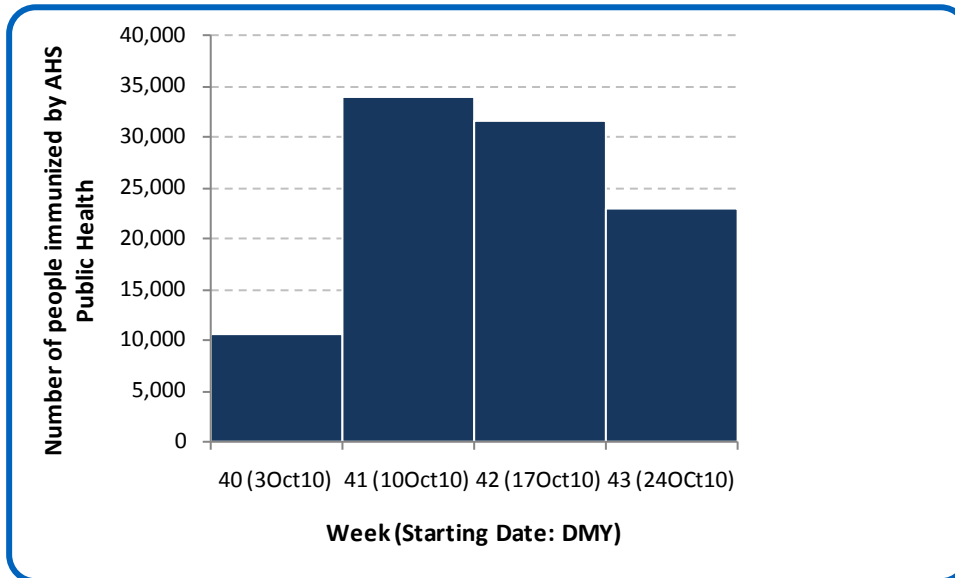
There were no reports of ILI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Edmonton Zone in Week 42 (Oct 17-23).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The percentage of LRTI visits to sentinel physician offices was 1% in Week 42 (Oct 17-23), which is less than the level the previous week.

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

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

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 43 – Oct 24-30, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	34	248
Health care workers	490	3,140
Pregnant women	210	605
Residents of long term care	16	937
65 years of age and over	6,029	38,323
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	668	2,216
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	1,060	3,333
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	178	613
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	2,397	10,107
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	877	2,703
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	10,964	36,792
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	22,923	99,017

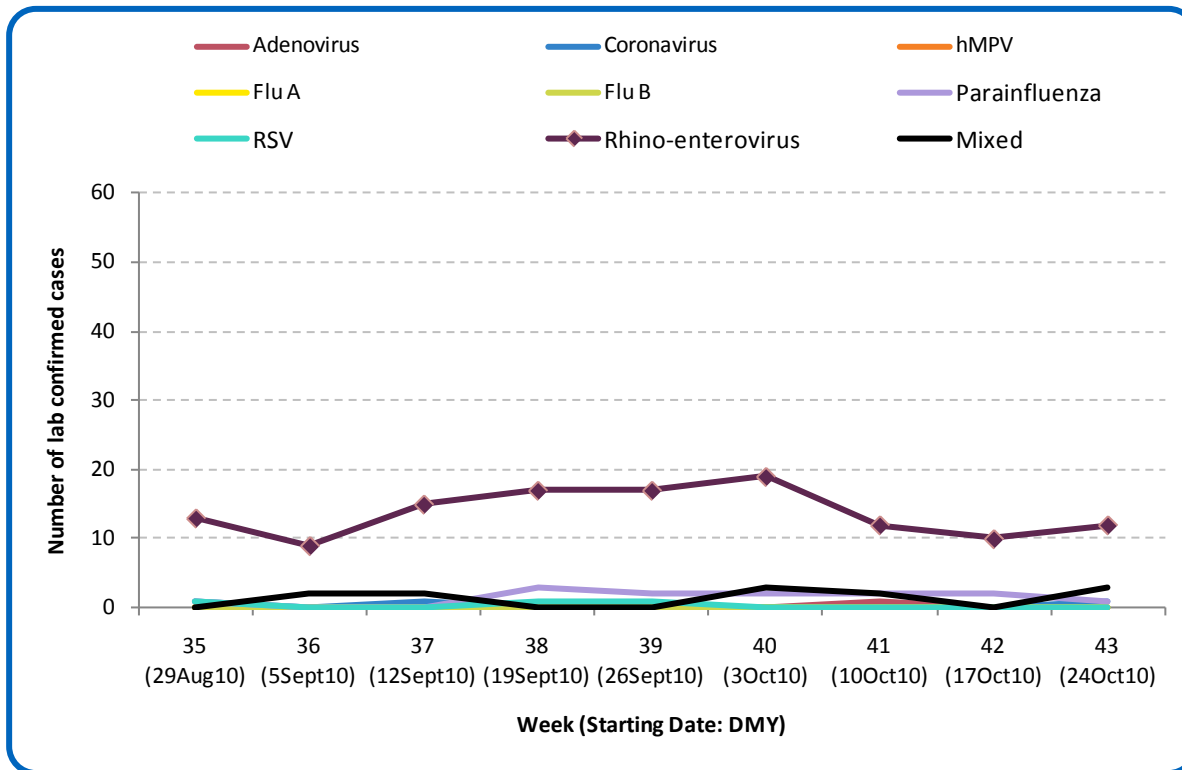
Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers); Includes first doses only for those that require two doses
Note: Immunization coverage rates will be reported at the end of the influenza season

SECTION 6: ZONE 5 – NORTH

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

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 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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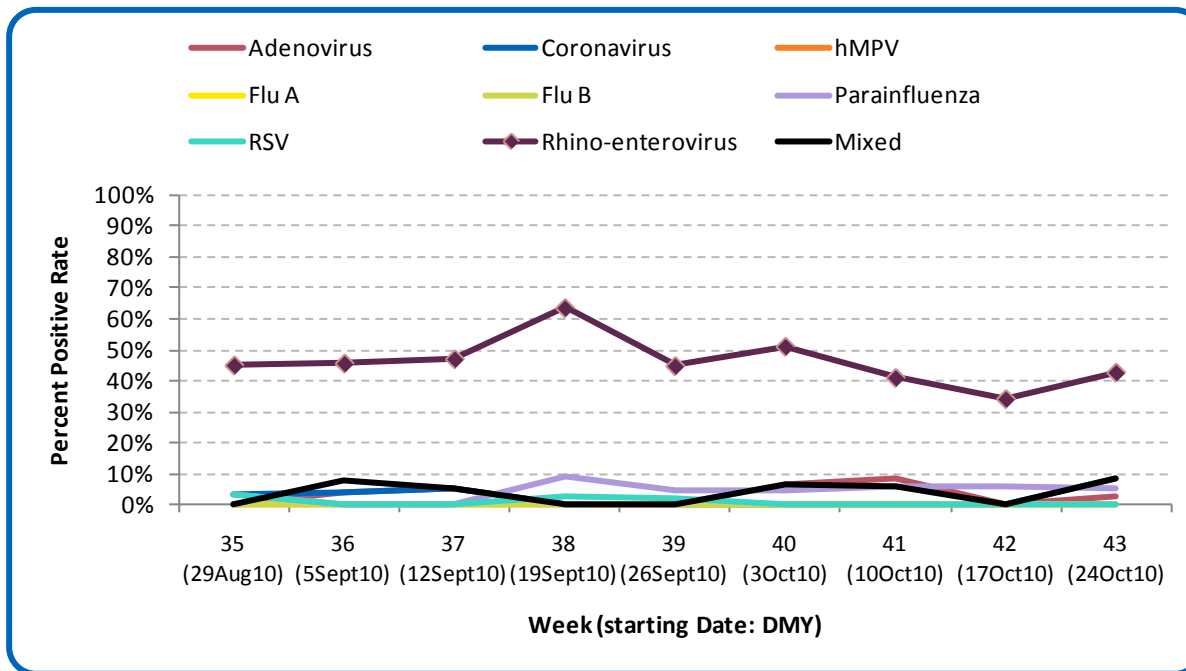
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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

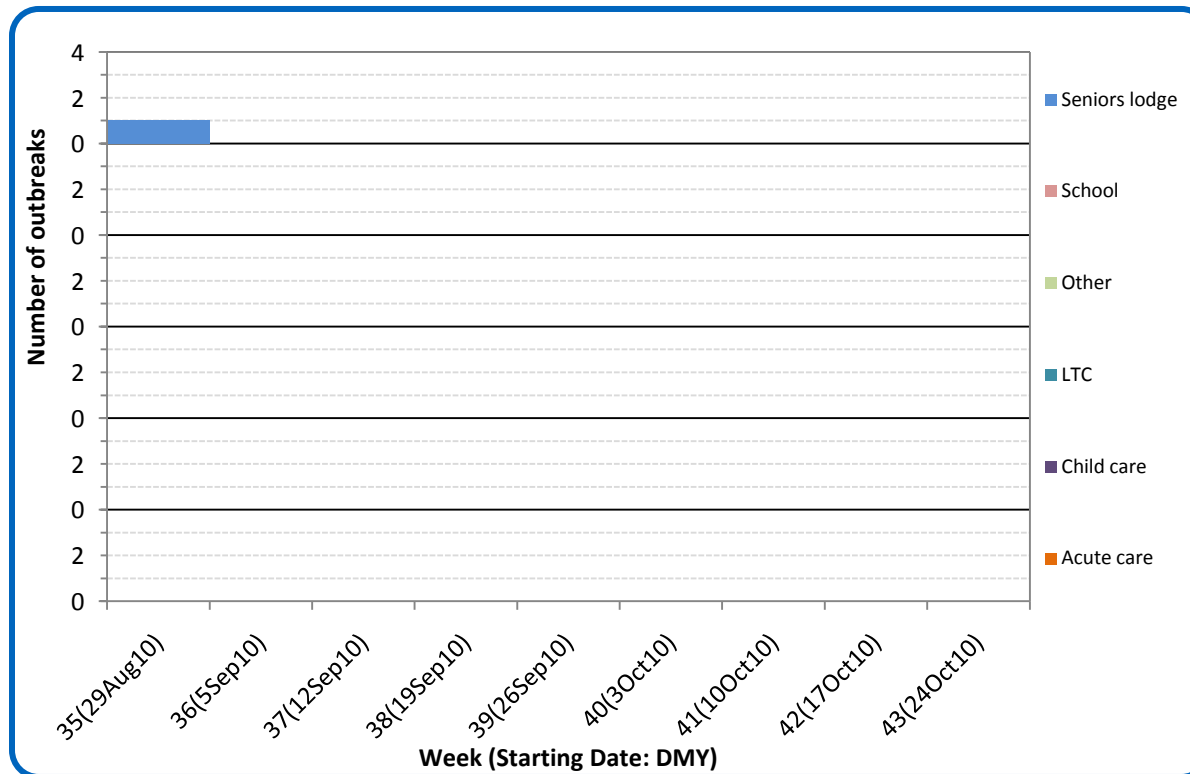


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Oct 30, 2010)
For more information on data definitions and sources see Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report

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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, which was caused by rhino-enterovirus. No respiratory outbreaks are pending for investigation.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on October 30, 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 in the North Zone since the week of Sept 5.

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

There are no data available for the North Zone.

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 increased slightly last week compared to the previous week, but did not exceed the level of Week 39 (Sept 26-Oct 2).

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness

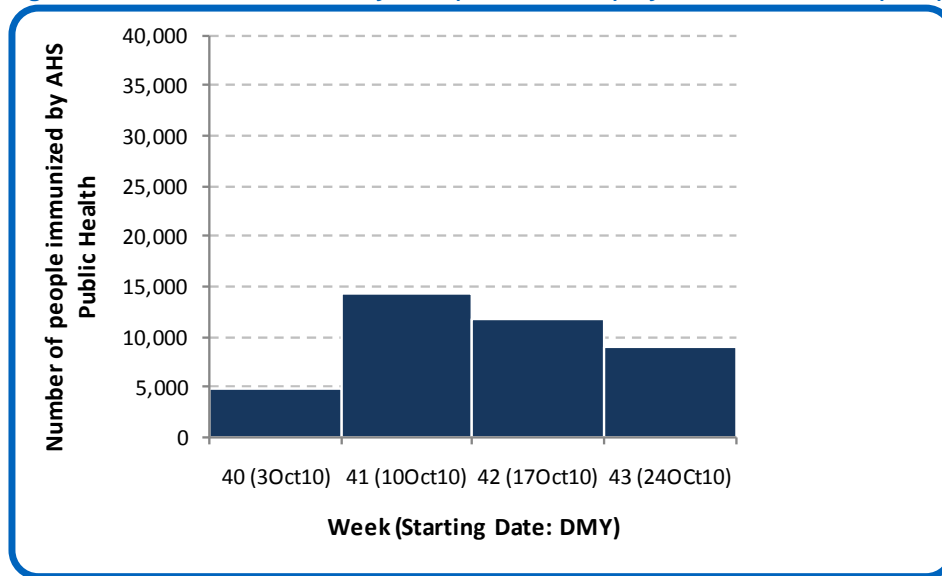
There were no reports of ILI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the North Zone in Week 42 (Oct 17-23). There was a revision to the data collected in Week 41, but the ILI percentage was still well below 1%.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

There were no reports of LRTI visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the North Zone in Week 42 (Oct 17-23).

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

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

Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 43 – Oct 24-30, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	53	634
Health care workers	289	3,592
Pregnant women	104	282
Residents of long term care	118	1,168
65 years of age and over	2,229	11,930
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	265	936
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	392	1,414
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	138	595
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,153	4,875
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	482	1,453
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	3,825	13,284
Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)	9,048	40,163

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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