

## Weekly Report

November 9, 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.
- Overall, influenza activity in Europe, the US and Canada remains low.
- The predominant influenza virus circulating in Canada is influenza A (H3N2). Of the influenza viruses tested in Canada this season, most have been found to be resistant to amantadine, but sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir.
- In Alberta, no new cases of influenza were confirmed last week. The total number of laboratory confirmed cases in the province this season remains at ten (seven in the South Zone and three in the Calgary Zone). All were typed as H3.
- There were no reports of laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks in Alberta last week. There is however one potential outbreak in the Edmonton Zone (with an onset date of Nov 4), which is pending confirmation.
- Rhino-enterovirus continues to be the predominant respiratory virus circulating in Alberta.

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### Current Global Information

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[WHO](#)

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### Contact Us

If you have questions about the Alberta Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update, or any of the indicators, please contact:  
[AHSPublicHealthSurveillance@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto: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 44 (starting Oct 31/10)						
		South	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	North		
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	Number of cases with a positive respiratory specimen <sup>1</sup>	Adenovirus	2	11	3	12	1	29
		Coronavirus	0	4	1	6	4	15
		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	3	13	5	27	16	64
		Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	3	10	0	5	4	22
		Rhino enterovirus	48	231	85	319	142	825
		Mixed	1	21	2	11	14	49
		Total	65	294	96	380	181	1016
Outbreaks	# respiratory outbreaks reported <sup>2</sup>	0	5	0	4	1	10	
Influenza Immunizations	Total number immunized by AHS Public Health <sup>3</sup> (cumulative since Oct 3, 2010)	37,902	126,604	41,236	118,516	46,342	370,600	

-- Information not available

<sup>1</sup> Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 6, 2010)

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

<sup>3</sup> 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 9, 2010

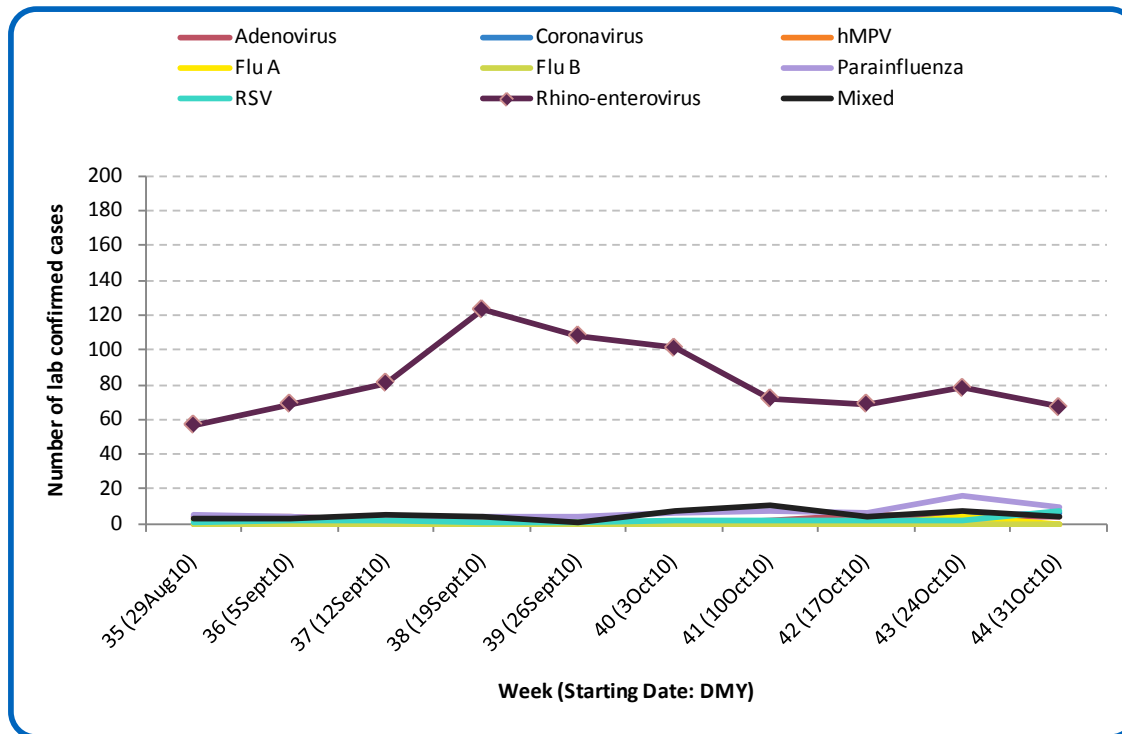
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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 in the past week. 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 Nov 6, 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

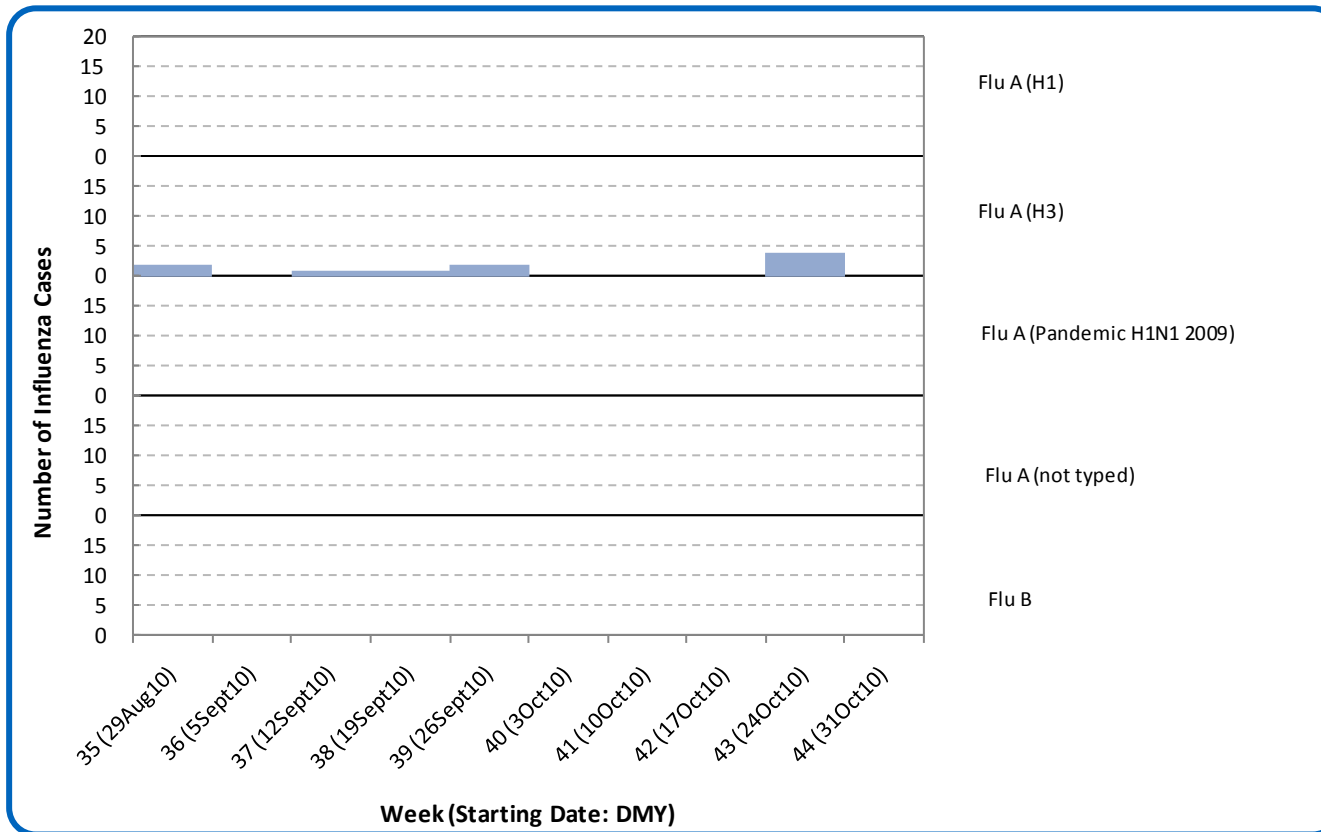
Public Health Surveillance

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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 Nov 6, 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 – Nov 6, 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>

Source for Table 1A and 1B: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Nov 6, 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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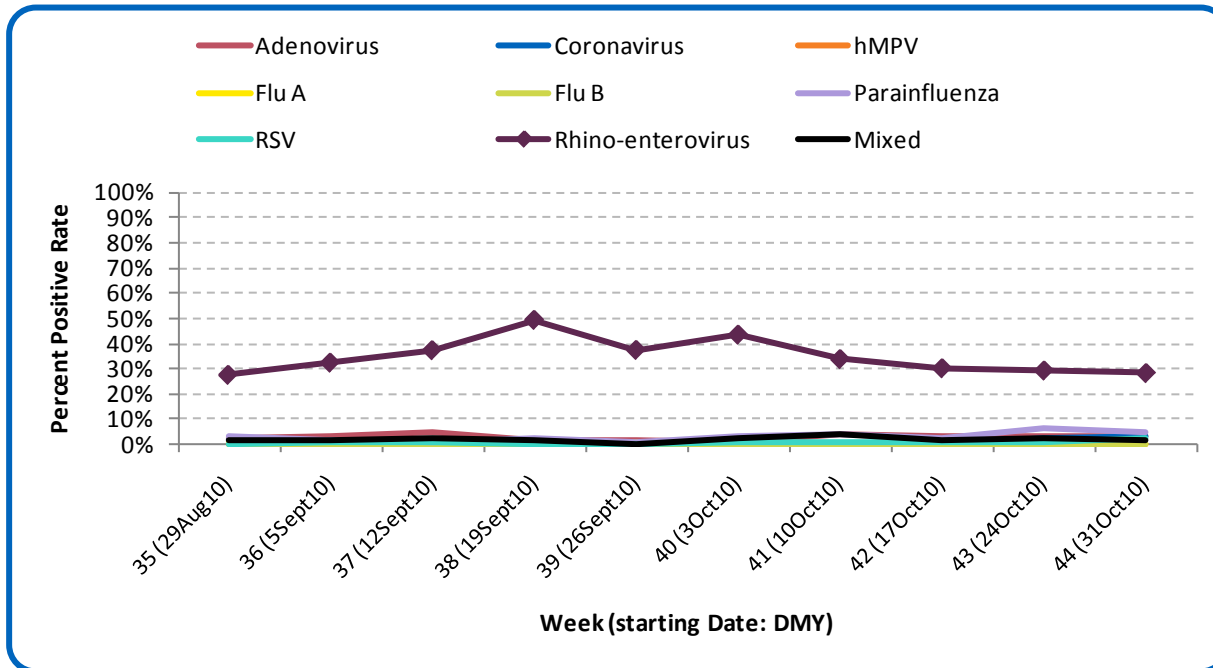
**SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT**

**Public Health Surveillance**

Report Date: November 9, 2010

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

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

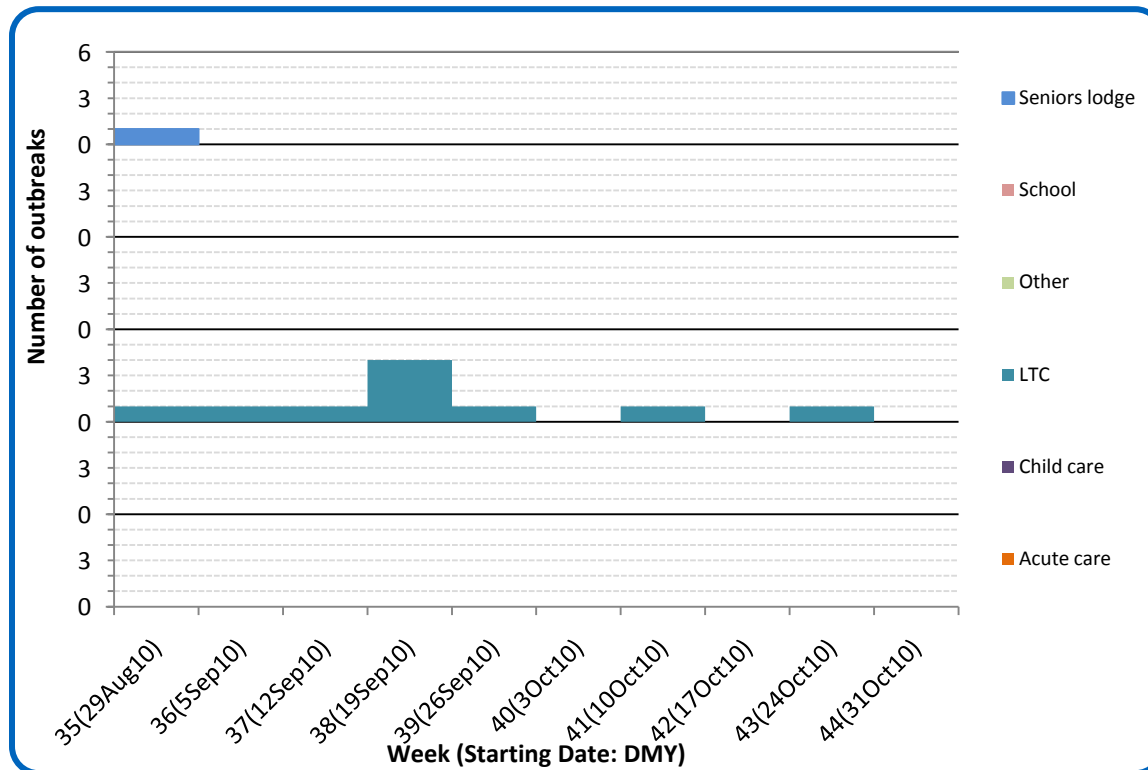


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 6, 2010)  
 For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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There were no reports of laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks in Alberta in Week 44 (Oct 31 – Nov 6), however one outbreak in the Edmonton Zone with an onset date of Nov 4 is currently pending confirmation.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on November 6, 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

The respiratory outbreak pending investigation in the Edmonton Zone has a preliminary attack rate of 9.5%.

### 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 increased in both Calgary and Edmonton Zones in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) compared to Week 43 (Oct 24–30); the number of visits for which patients who left without being seen was slightly higher in Week 44 than in Week 43 in Calgary, but slightly lower in Edmonton.

### Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties was 9% higher in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) compared to the previous week, which is the highest level so far this season.

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

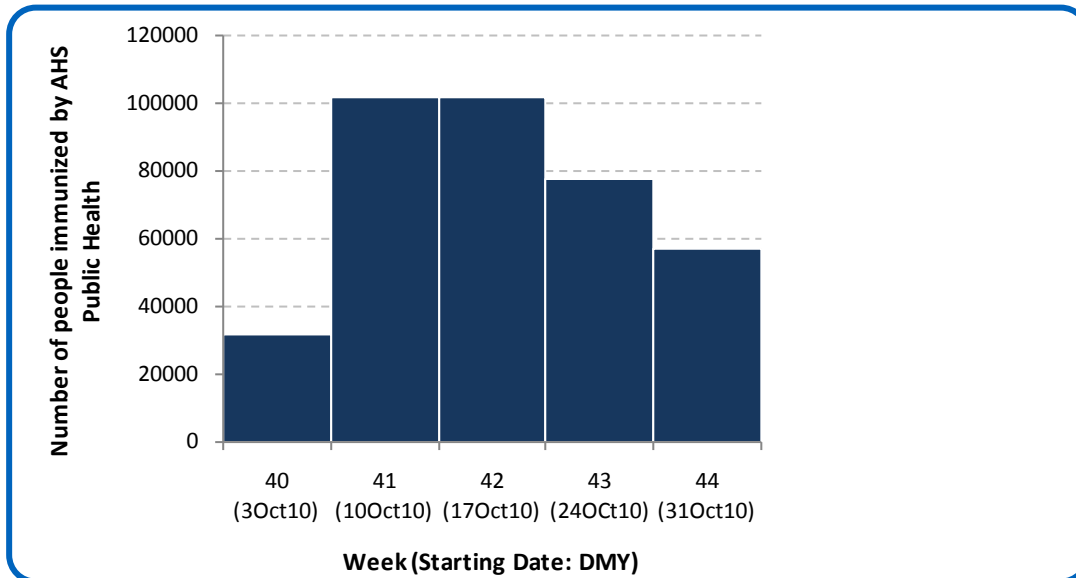
In Week 43 (Oct 23–30), the province-wide percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices was higher than in Weeks 40 to 42 (Oct 3–30), but was similar to that in Week 39 (Sept 26–Oct 2) and remained well below the 1% mark.

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

The province-wide percentage of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices in Week 43 (Oct 24–30) was double of that in Week 42 (Oct 17–23), but was still below the Week 41 (Oct 10–16) level and under 1%.

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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

For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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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 44 – Oct 31–Nov 6, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	128	2,216
Health care workers	1,642	15,238
Pregnant women	613	2,667
Residents of long term care	167	4,554
65 years of age and over	12,430	126,511
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	2,218	10,341
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	3,129	14,523
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	650	3,598
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	7,012	40,045
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	2,319	11,544
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	26,674	139,363
<b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>	<b>56,982</b>	<b>370,600</b>

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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## SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

### Public Health Surveillance

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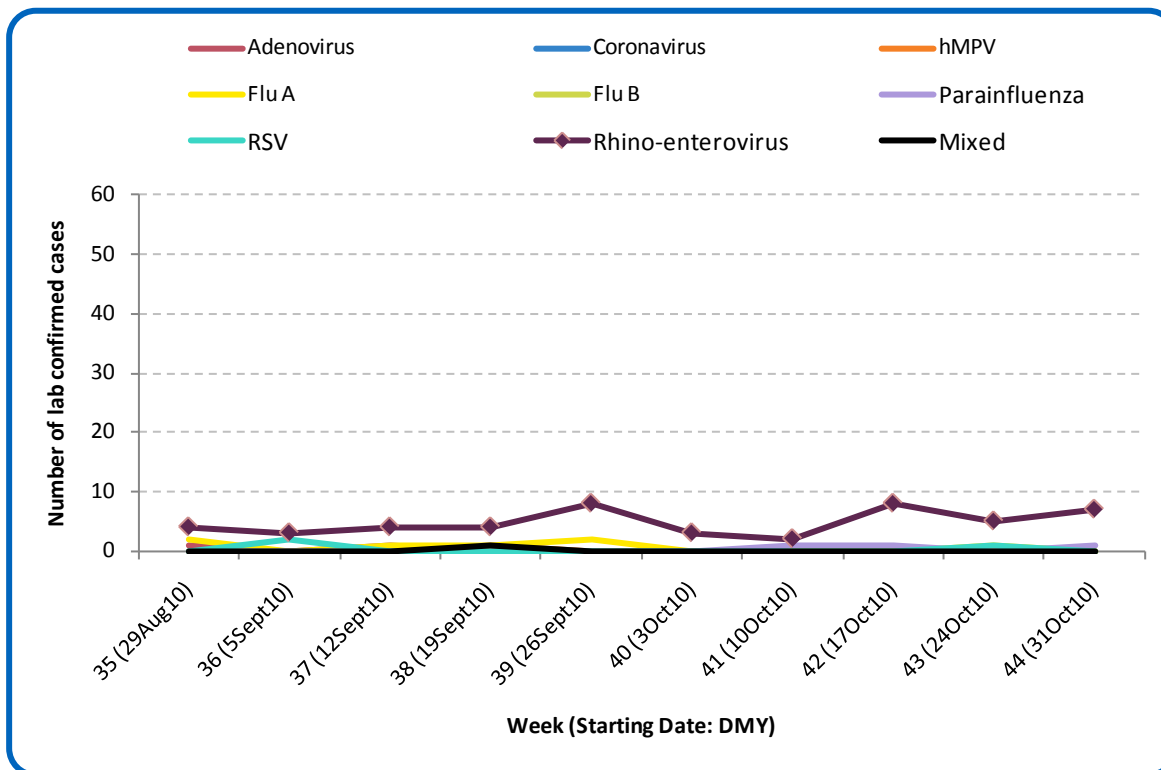
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SECTION 2: ZONE 1 - SOUTH

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No new influenza cases have been reported in the South Zone in the past 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. The predominant respiratory virus circulating in the South Zone is rhino-enterovirus.

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 Nov 6, 2010)  
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SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

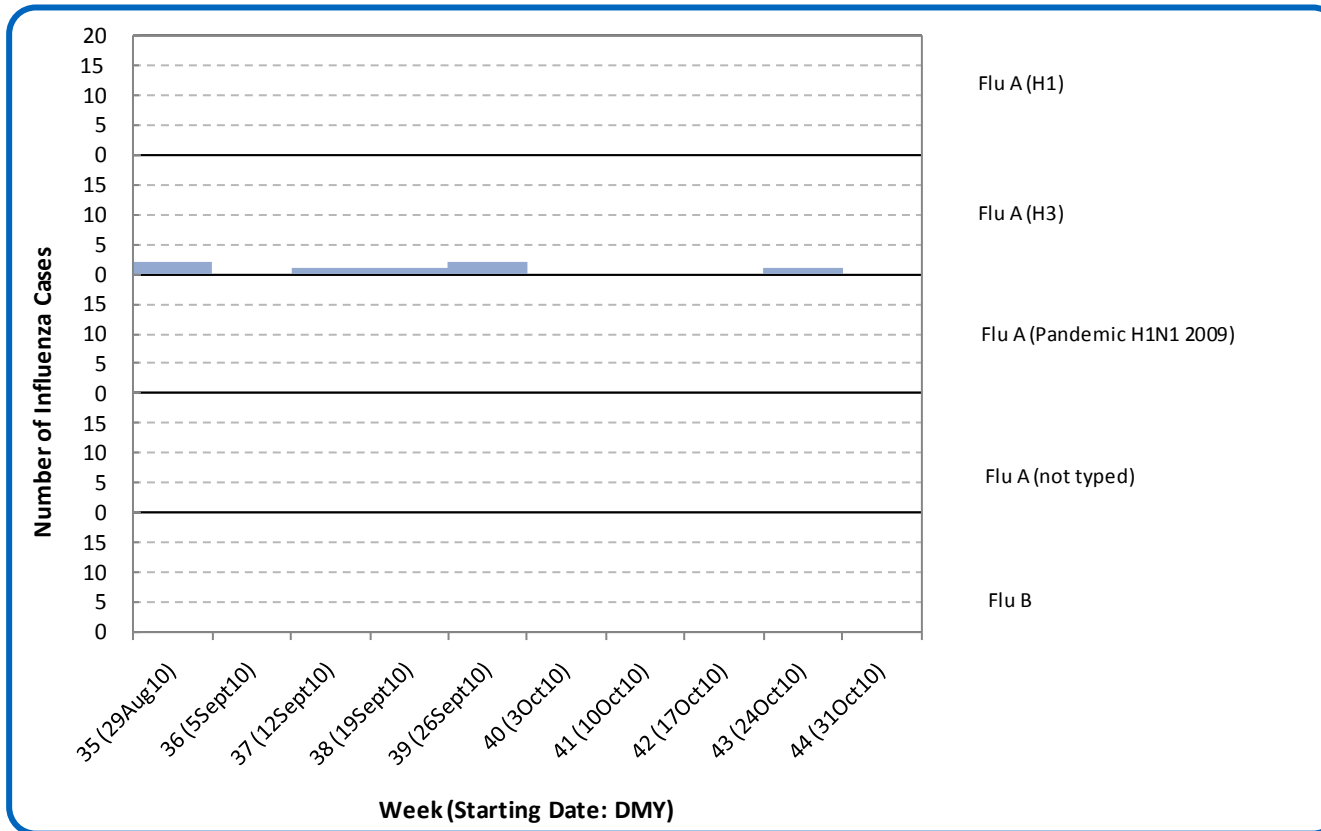
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Figure 2B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week South Zone (2010)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Nov 6, 2010)  
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Table 2A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Aug 29–Nov 6, 2010)

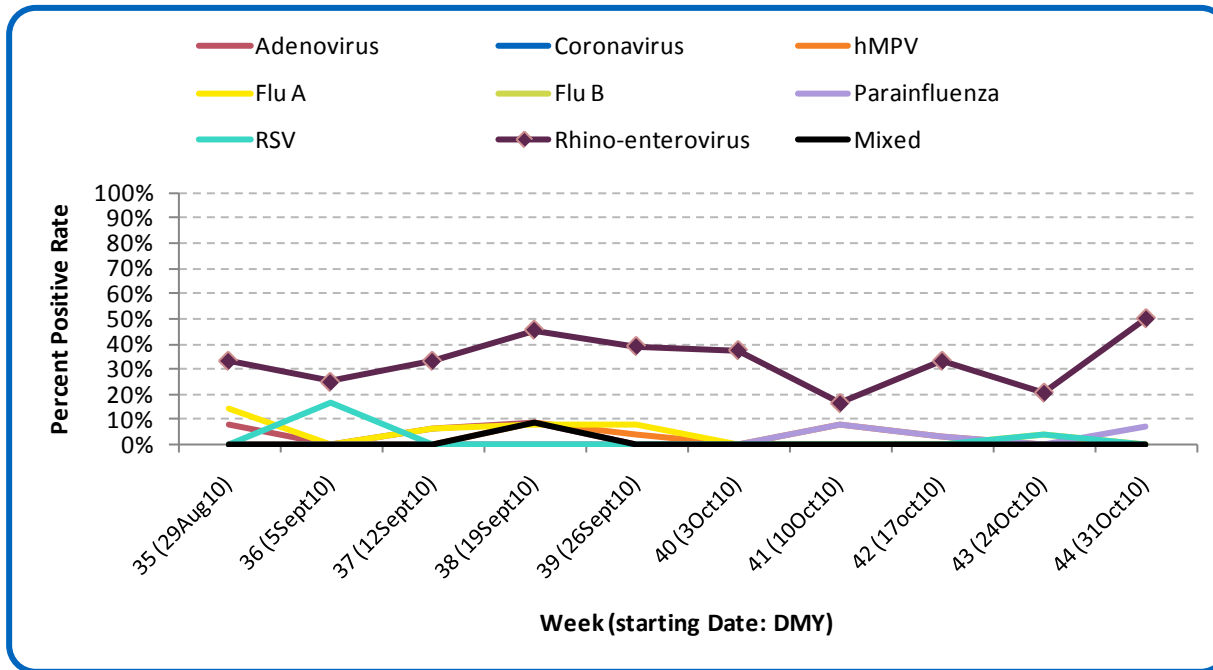
	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (not subtyped)		Flu B		Total	
	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)	#	Rate (per 10,000)
0 to <2 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	2	1.7	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Source for tables 2A and 2B: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Nov 6, 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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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 Nov 6, 2010)  
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**SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT**

**Public Health Surveillance**

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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 in the South Zone was 70% higher in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) than in Week 43 (Oct 24–30), but did not exceed the level in Week 39 (Sept 26–Oct 2) or Week 41 (Oct 10–16).

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

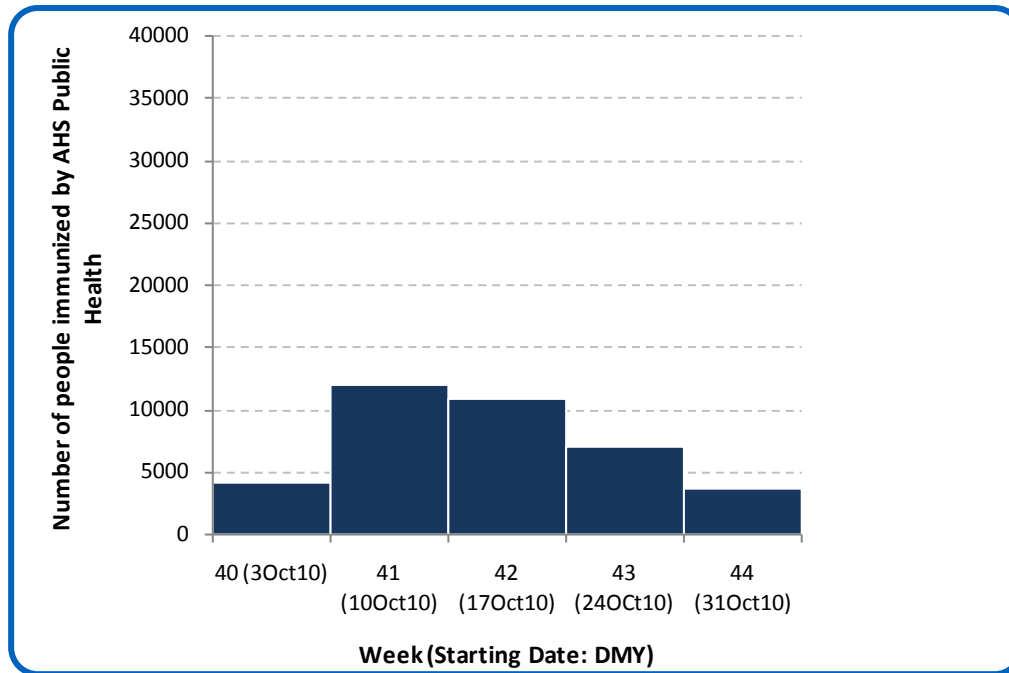
The percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents in the South Zone was less than 1% in Week 43 (Oct 24-30), which was higher than in Week 42 (Oct 17–23) but similar to that in Week 41 (Oct 10-16).

### **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 in the South Zone in Week 43 (Oct 24-30).

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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

For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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 44 – Oct 31-Nov 6, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	12	579
Health care workers	78	1,444
Pregnant women	38	228
Residents of long term care	8	717
65 years of age and over	873	14,742
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	170	821
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	233	1,519
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	56	395
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	365	3,668
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	163	1,184
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	1,685	12,605
<b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>	<b>3,681</b>	<b>37,902</b>

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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## SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

### Public Health Surveillance

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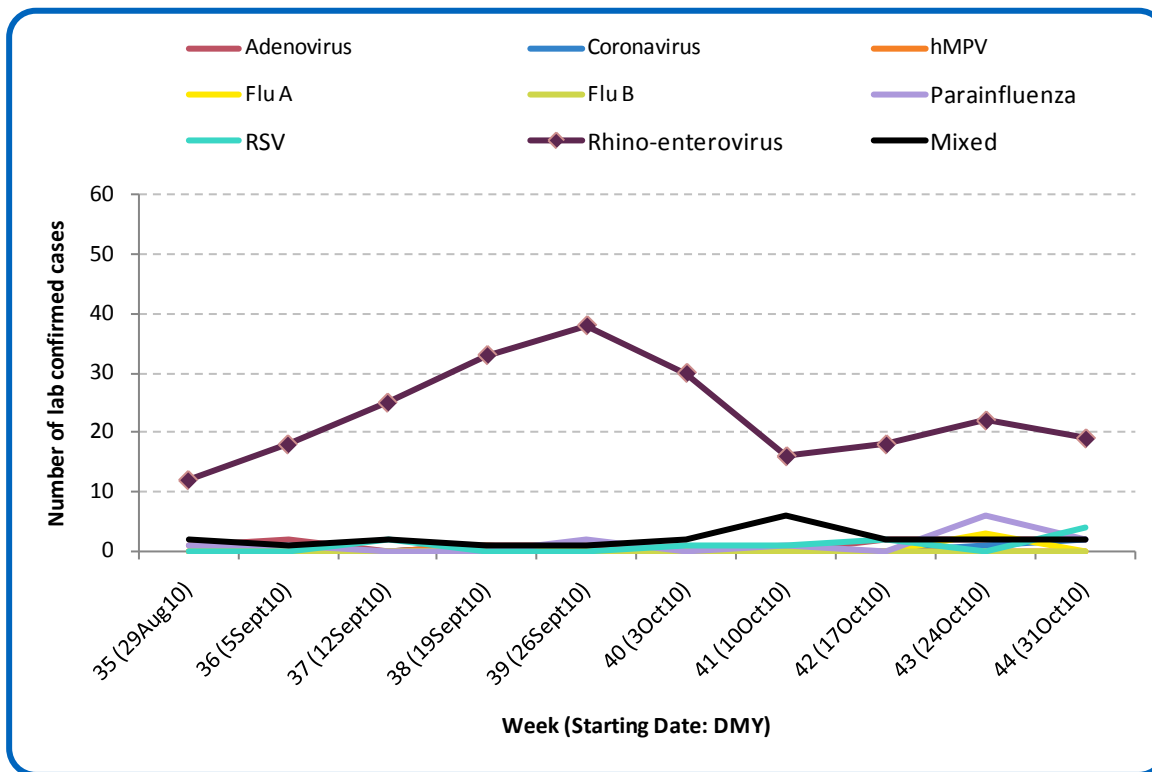
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SECTION 3: ZONE 2 - CALGARY

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The predominant respiratory virus in the Calgary Zone is still rhino-enterovirus. No new cases of influenza have been confirmed in the Calgary Zone in the past week. Since late August, a total of three cases influenza have been confirmed in the Calgary Zone. 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 were 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 Nov 6, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

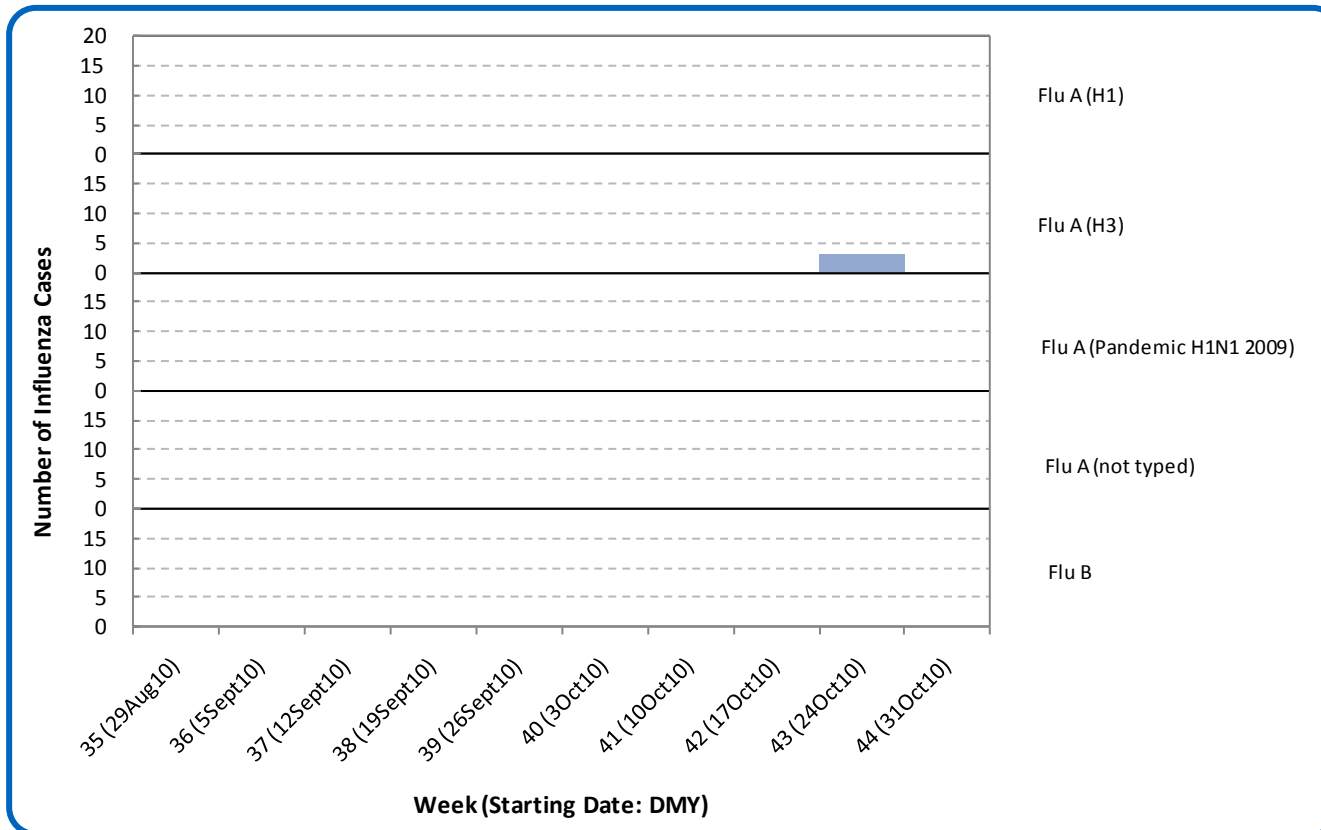
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Figure 3B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Nov 6, 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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Table 3A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Aug 29 – Nov 6, 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>

Source for tables 3A and 3B: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before *Nov 6, 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.

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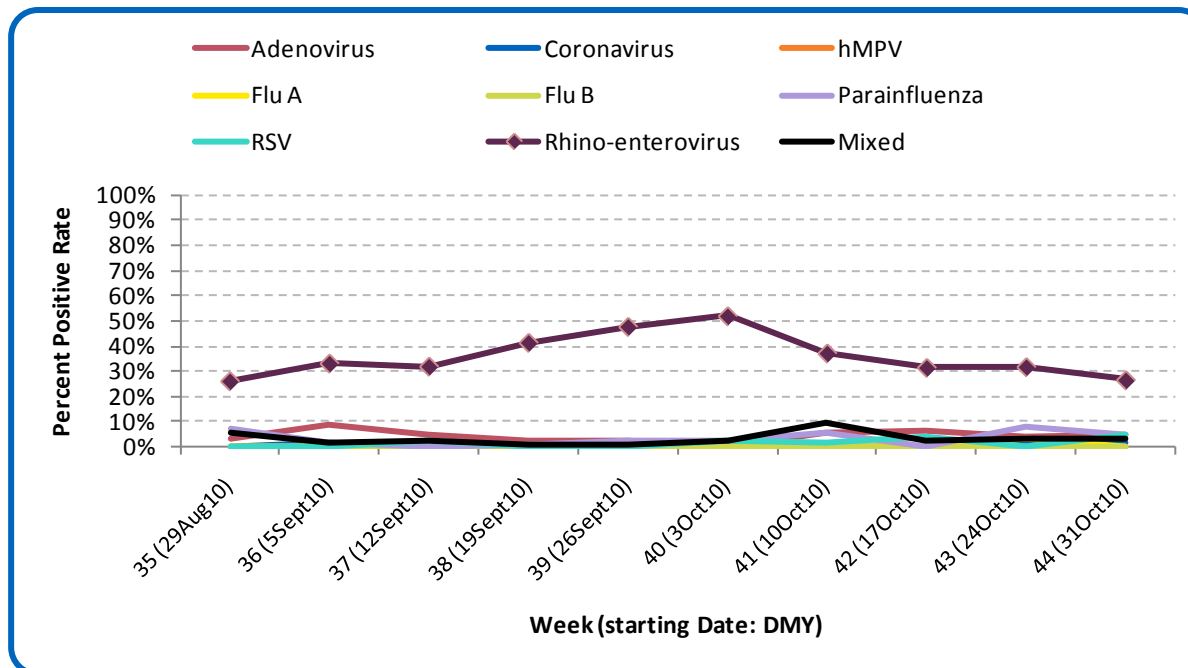
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Figure 3C: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 6, 2010)  
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SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

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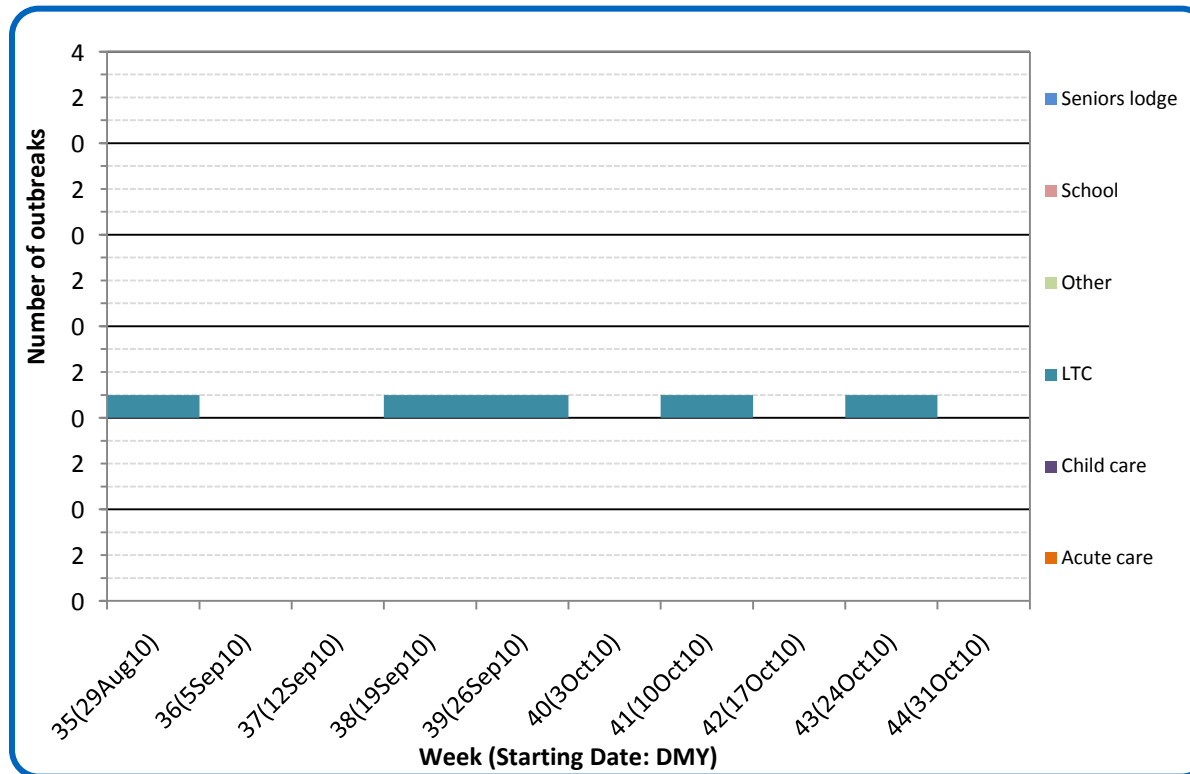
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There were no reports from the Calgary Zone of laboratory-confirmed or pending investigations of respiratory outbreaks in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6).

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on November 6, 2010.  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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**SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT**

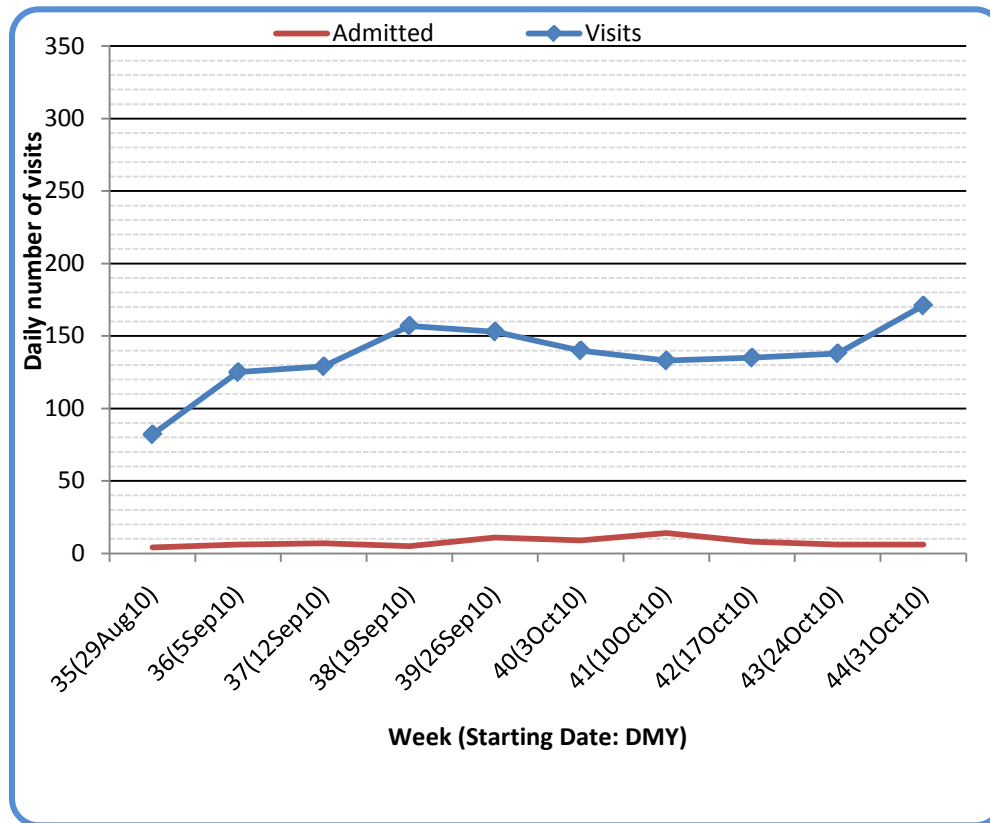
**Public Health Surveillance**

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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>

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers with cough symptoms in the City of Calgary increased in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) compared to that in Week 43 (Oct 24–30), however no increase in hospital admissions of patients with cough symptoms accompanied the increase in visits.

**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 November 6, 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 9, 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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### Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

There were no new respiratory outbreaks reported in the Calgary Zone last week.

### 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 seems to be developing an increasing trend since Week 41 (Oct 10–16), but the number in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) remains comparable to that in Week 37 (Sept 12–18). The number of hospital admissions of patients with ILI matched the pattern for visits. The number of patients with ILI who left EDs “without being seen” more than doubled in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) compared to Week 43, but remained comparable to that in Week 40 (Oct 10–16).

### Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties by residents in the Calgary Zone was 13% higher last week compared to the previous week. A slight increasing trend has been developing for the past few weeks, which matches the pattern for ED visits in the City of Calgary for patients with cough symptoms.

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

The percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents in the Calgary Zone remained low in Week 43 (Oct 24–30), less than 1%, and did not change significantly from that in the previous week.

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

The percentage of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents in the Calgary Zone in Week 43 (Oct 24–30) was similar to that in the previous two weeks at less than 1%.

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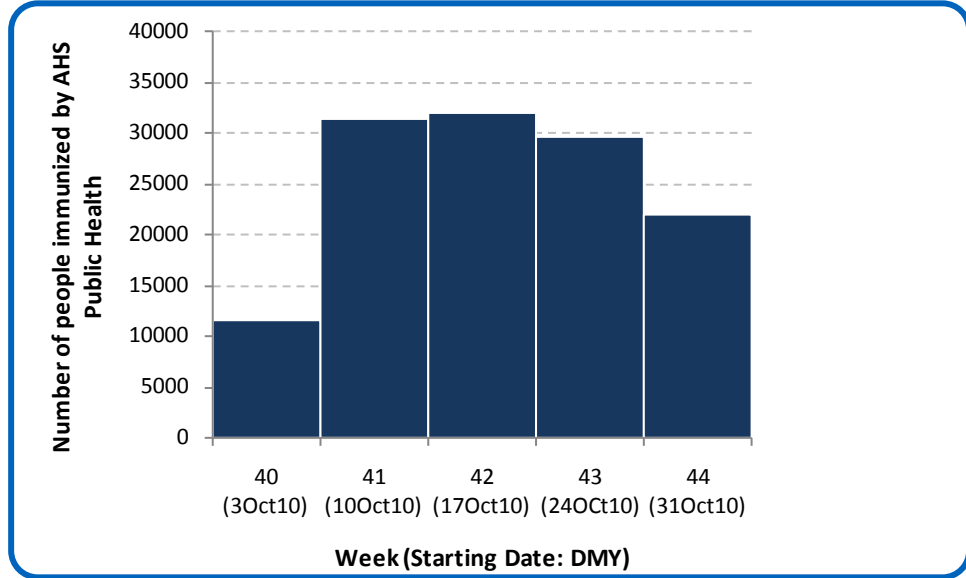
## SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

### 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 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

For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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

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Priority Group	Number Immunized (Week 44 – Oct 31-Nov 6, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	32	382
Health care workers	460	4,214
Pregnant women	224	1,032
Residents of long term care	16	649
65 year of age and over	4,039	38,676
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	968	4,574
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	1,422	5,863
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	252	1,372
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	2,866	13,793
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	893	4,041
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	10,738	52,008
<b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>	<b>21,910</b>	<b>126,604</b>

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

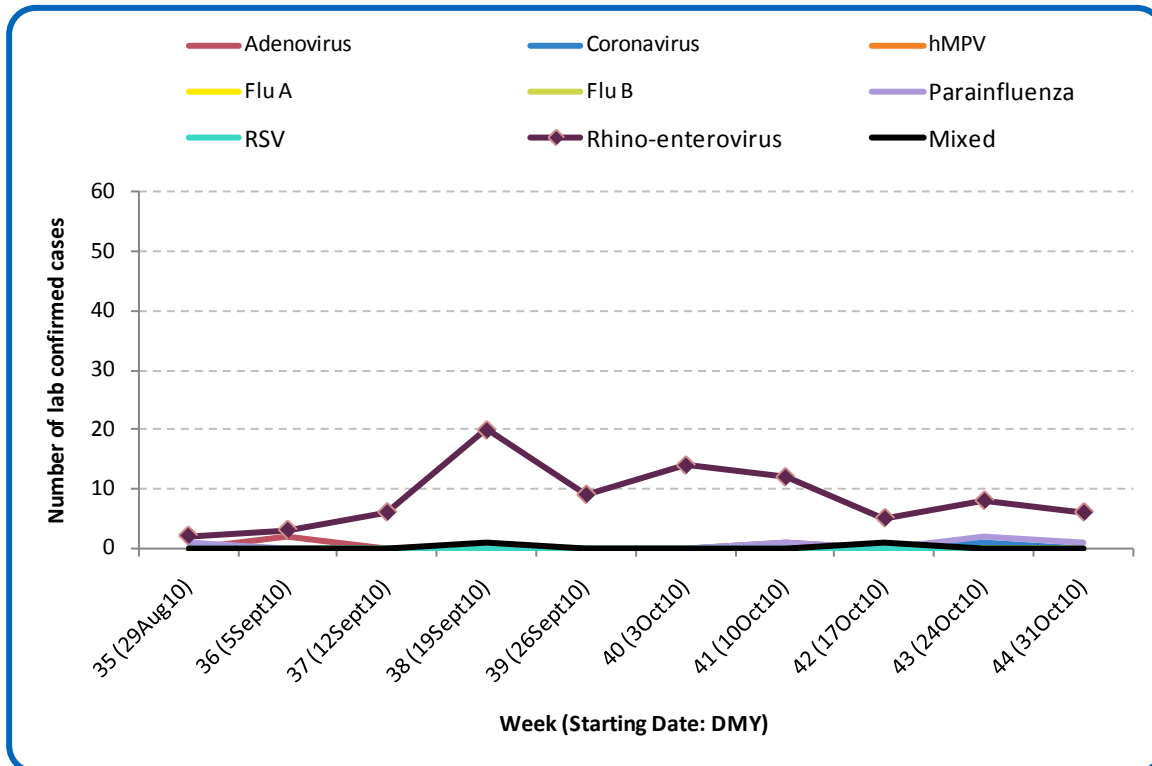
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

**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 continues to be 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 Nov 6, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

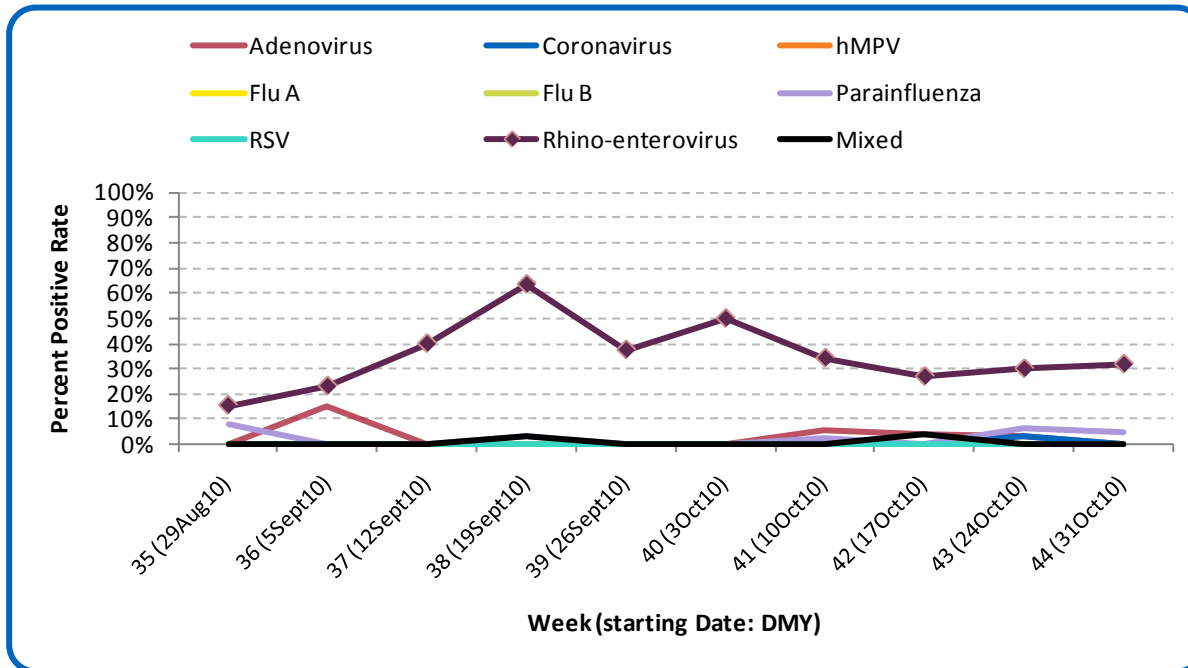
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

Figure 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 Nov 6, 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 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 last week was comparable to that of the previous five weeks; no increasing trend has developed.

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

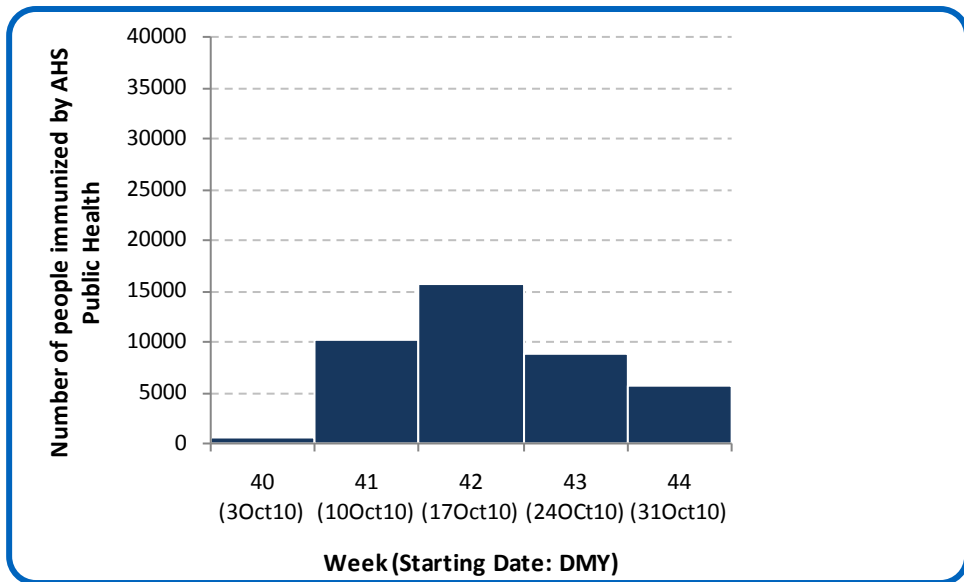
There were no reports of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Central Zone in Week 43 (Oct 24-30).

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

There were reports of LTRI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents in the Central Zone in Week 43 (Oct 24-30), but the percentage remained well below 1%.

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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  
 For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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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 44 – Oct 31-Nov 6, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	14	303
Health care workers	175	1,919
Pregnant women	53	222
Residents of long term care	16	956
65 years of age and over	1,706	17,028
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	199	913
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	249	1,169
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	65	346
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	671	4,492
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	229	1,129
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	2,336	12,759
<b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>	<b>5,713</b>	<b>41,236</b>

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

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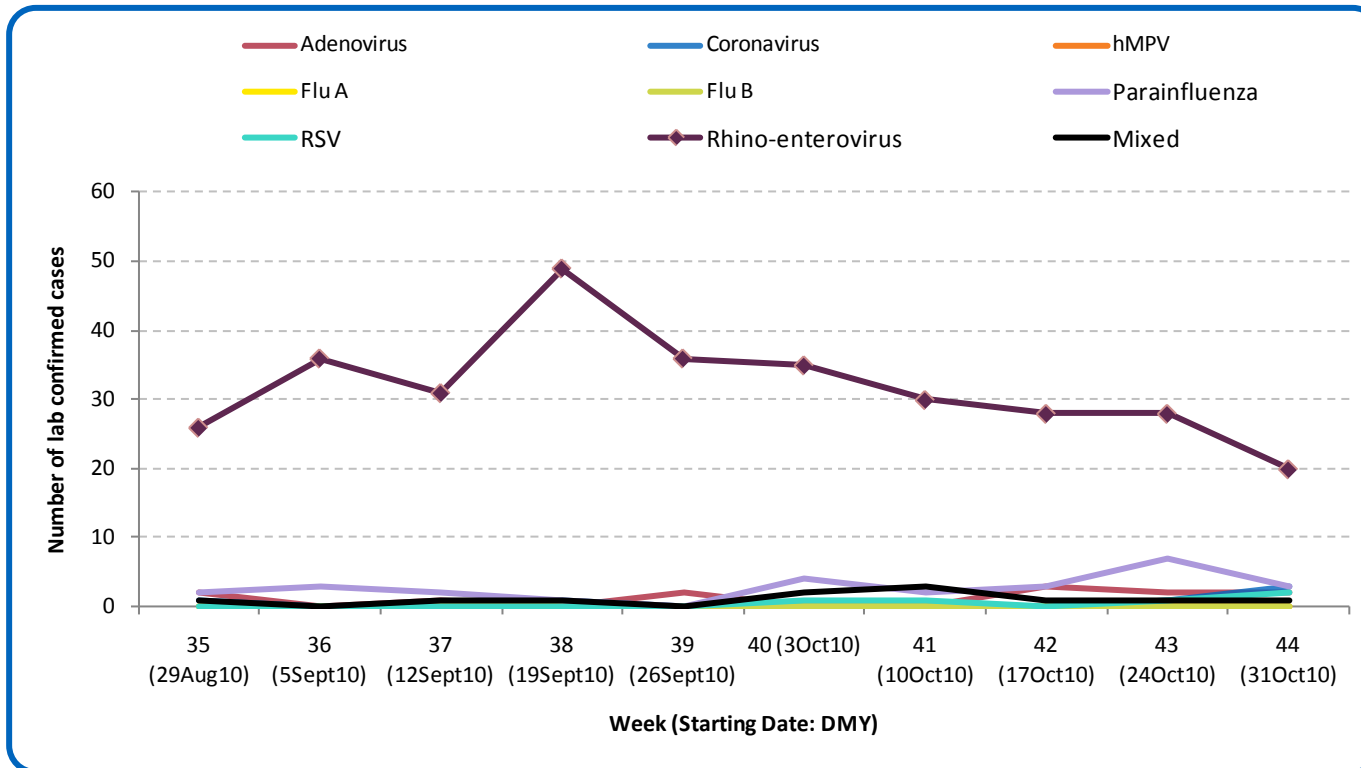
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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 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 Nov 6, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

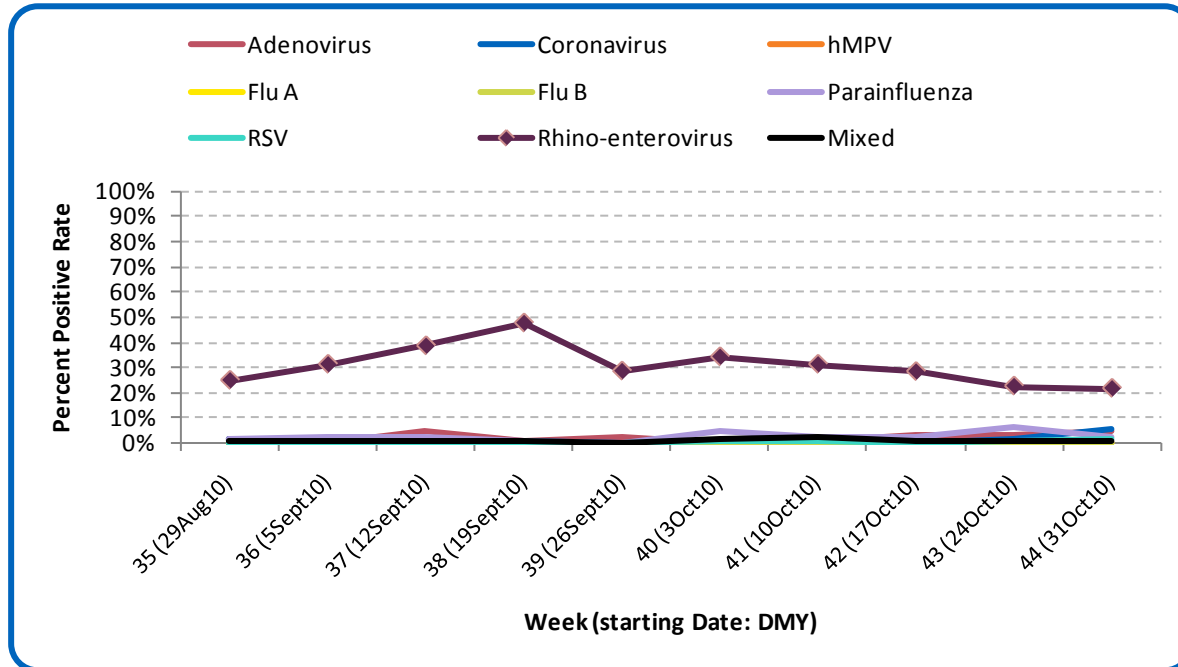
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Figure 5B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010)

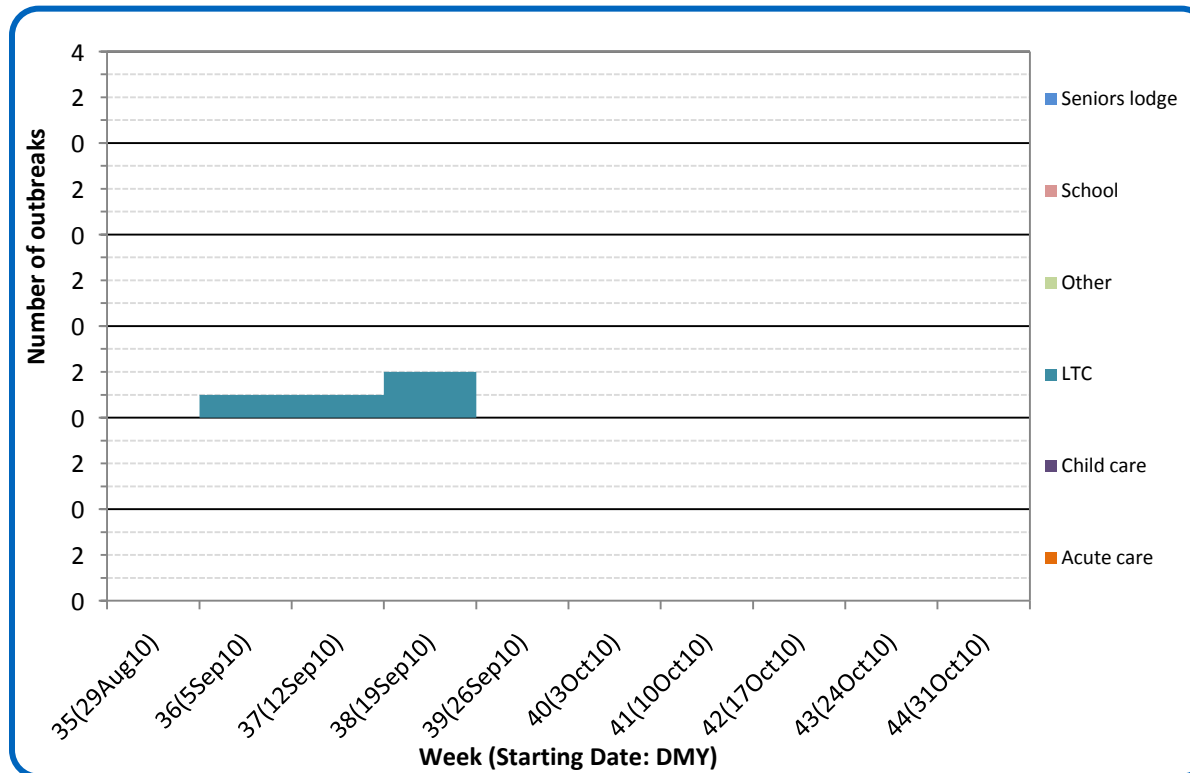


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 6, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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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. One recently reported respiratory outbreak with an onset date of Nov 4 remains to be confirmed.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on November 6, 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**

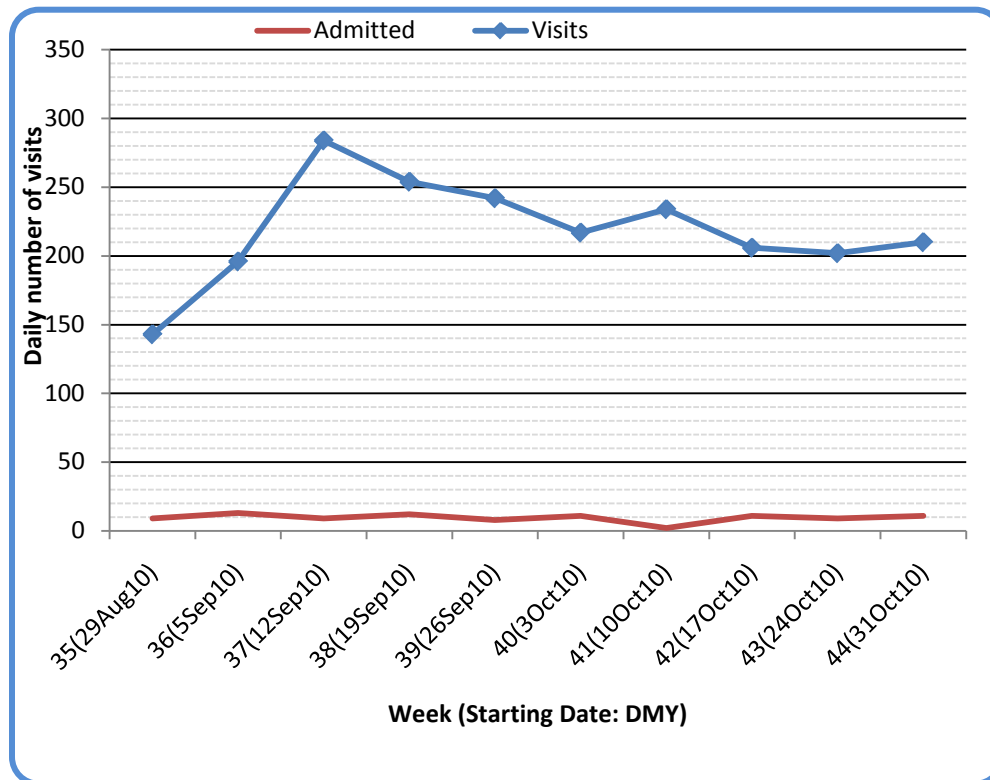
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The number of visits to nine emergency departments/urgent care centers in the Edmonton Zone for cough/congestion last week was relatively similar to the number in the previous week. The number of admissions to hospitals of patients with cough/congestion symptoms was also similar last week compared to the previous week.

**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 November 6, 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 reports of laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks from the Edmonton Zone since the week of Sept 26. The one outbreak pending investigation has a preliminary attack rate of 9.5%.

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

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for ILI symptoms was 20% higher last week than in the previous week. An increasing trend has been occurring in recent weeks. Both the weekly admissions to hospitals and visits of people with ILI who left emergency departments without being seen were lower last week than in the previous week; all were 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 in the Edmonton Zone for cough or breathing difficulties last week was only marginally increased from the previous four weeks.

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

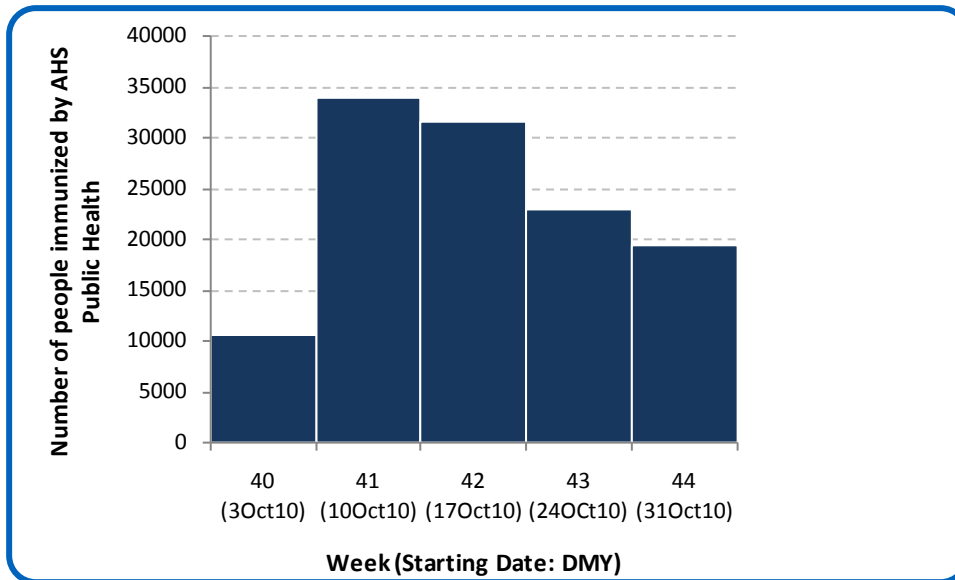
There were reports of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents in the Edmonton Zone in Week 43 (Oct 24 - 30), but the percentage remained below 1%.

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

The percentage of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices was higher in Week 43 (Oct 24 - 30) than in Week 42, but remained less than the level in Weeks 39 - 41.

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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 44 – Oct 31-Nov 6, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	36	284
Health care workers	642	3,782
Pregnant women	236	841
Residents of long term care	78	1,015
65 years of age and over	4,456	42,779
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	665	2,881
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	965	4,298
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	201	814
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	2,277	12,384
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	788	3,491
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	9,155	45,947
<b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>	<b>19,499</b>	<b>118,516</b>

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

For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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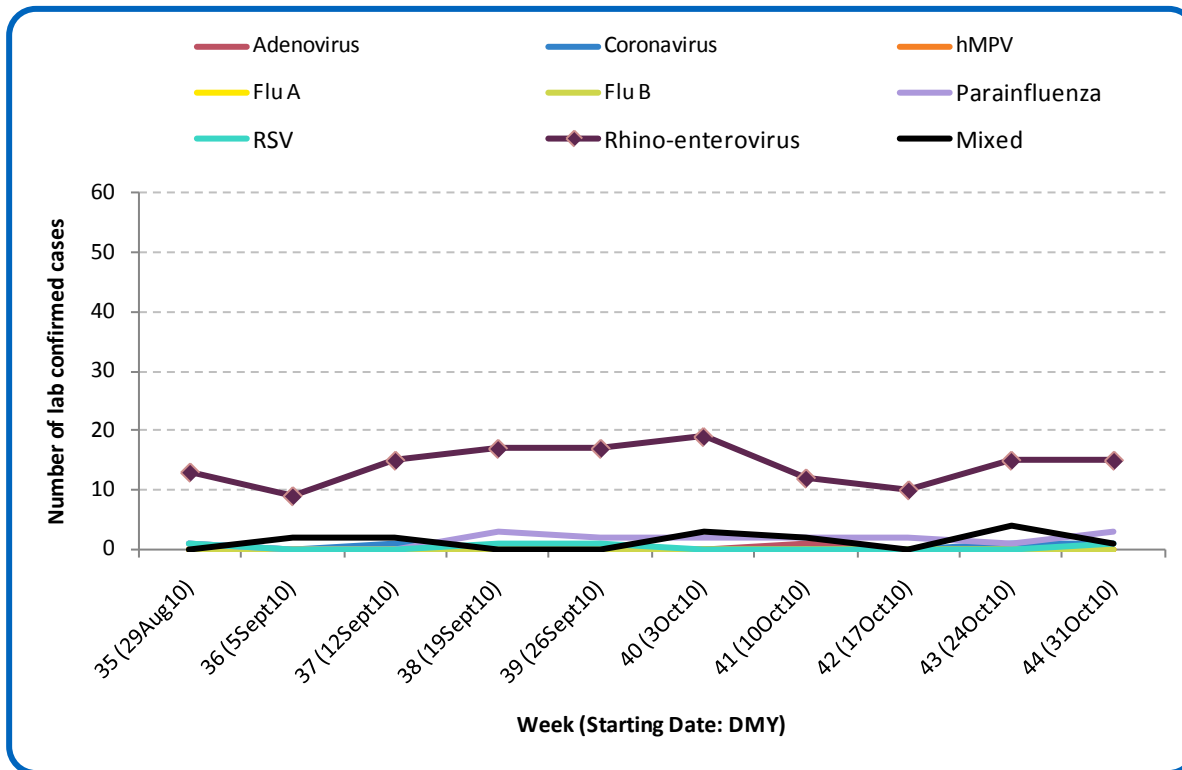
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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 Nov 6, 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

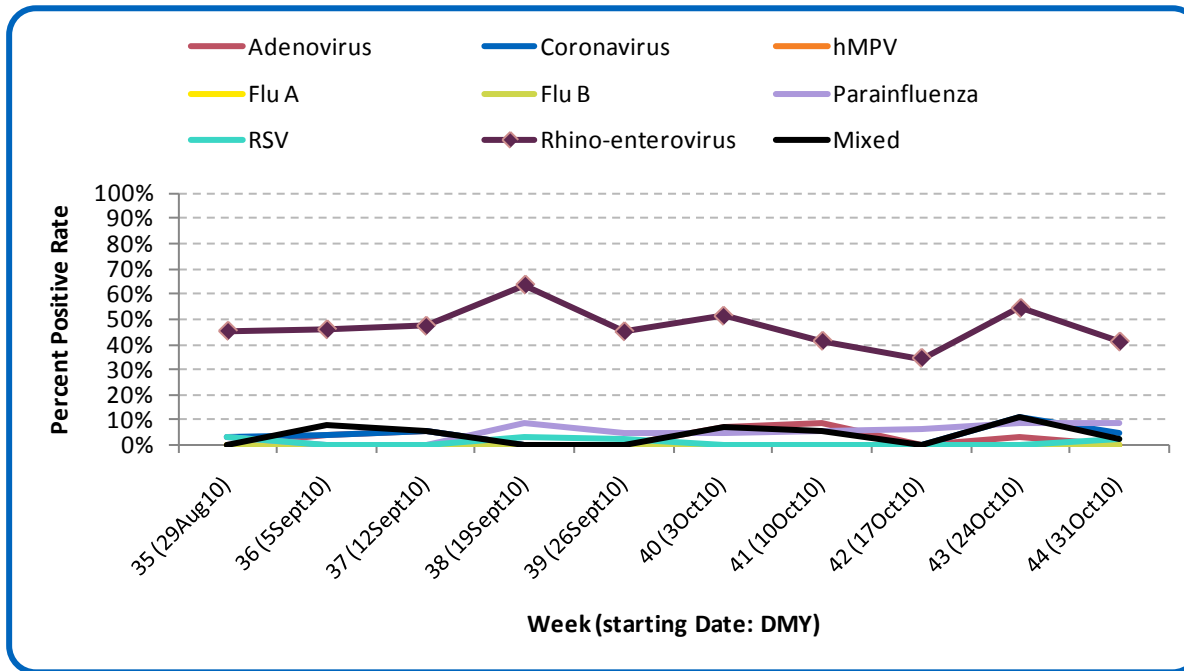
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Figure 6B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, North Zone (2010)

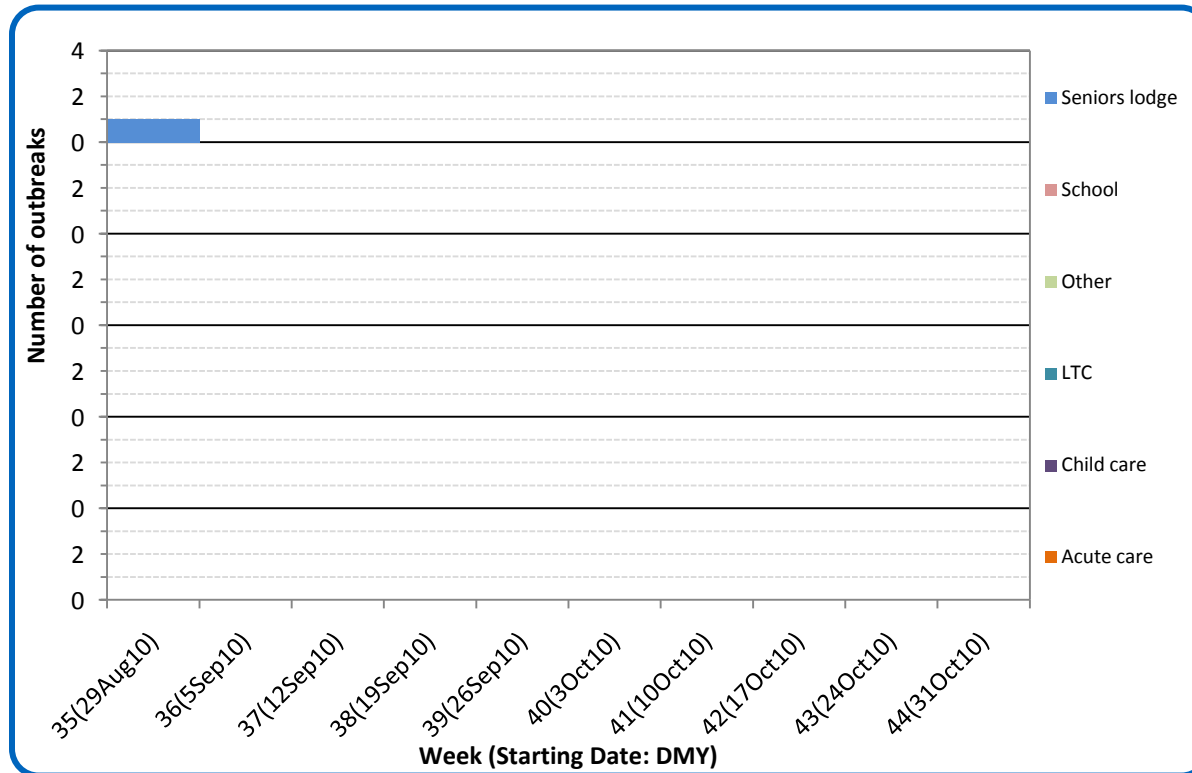


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 6, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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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 November 6, 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 in the North Zone for cough and breathing difficulties last week was similar to the level reported during the previous week.

### Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with Influenza-like illness

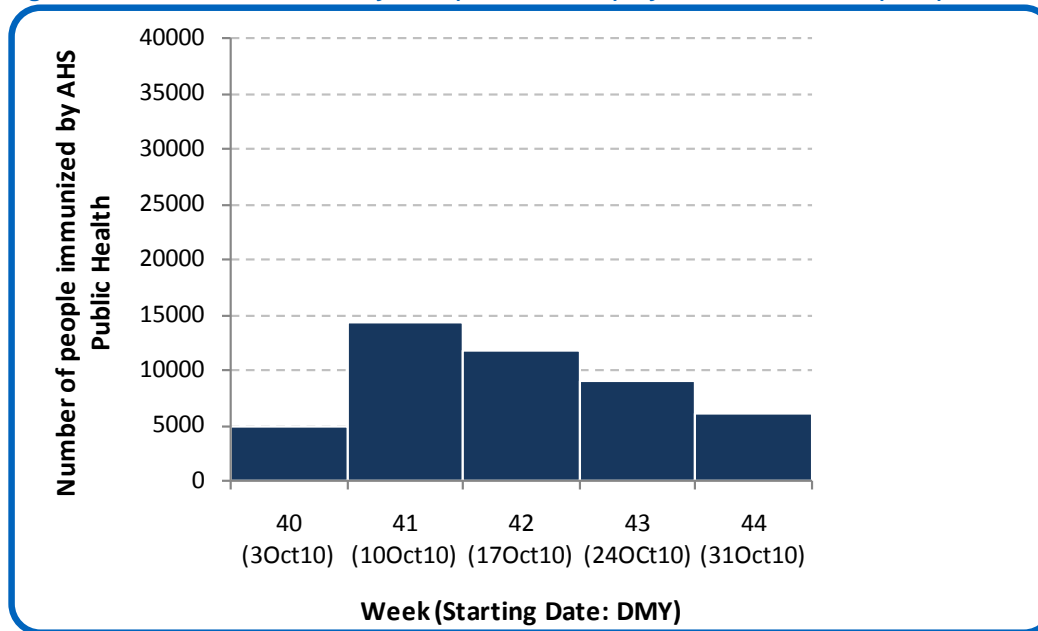
There were reports of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents in the North Zone in Week 43 (Oct 24-30); the percentage of ILI-related visits was close to 5%, the highest level reported so far this season.

### Percentage of visits to sentinel offices with lower respiratory tract infection

There were reports of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents in the North Zone in Week 43 (Oct 24-30); the percentage of LRTI-related visits was close to 3%, also the highest level reported so far this season.

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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  
 For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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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 44 – Oct 31-Nov 6, 2010)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff	34	668
Health care workers	287	3,879
Pregnant women	62	344
Residents of long term care	49	1,217
65 years of age and over	1,356	13,286
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	216	1,152
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	260	1,674
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	76	671
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years	833	5,708
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	246	1,699
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years	2,760	16,044
<b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>	<b>6,179</b>	<b>46,342</b>

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

For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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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 or an outbreak with only one infected (confirmed or probable) case during a 7 day period. This follows the same approach of PHAC FluWatch for defining ILI/influenza outbreak. The naming convention of outbreak facilities by FluWatch - "Hospital and 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 (AHCIP) 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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