

## Weekly Report

November 16, 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 in most countries around the world, however in many countries, influenza B viruses and H1N1 (2009) strains are co-circulating. Recently, H1N1 (2009) has predominated in a limited number of countries, including India.
- Influenza activity in most of the temperate zone of the Southern hemisphere, including Australia and New Zealand, is currently near or below baseline levels. The exception to this is a recent post-season rise in activity in parts of Southern Africa where localized outbreaks of H1N1 (2009) have been reported. Respiratory activity is variable in the tropical parts of Asia, with the most active transmission occurring in Thailand. Since late July of this year, the predominant influenza virus in that area has been H1N1 (2009), however seasonal influenza A (H3N2), B and H1N1 (2009) have been co-circulating at similar levels recently. Influenza activity is currently low in the tropical areas of the Americas and in most areas of Europe.
- Influenza activity in the US and Canada continues to be low with small numbers of seasonal influenza A (H3N2) and B viruses circulating. The proportions of positive laboratory tests for influenza have recently increased slightly in parts of BC, SK, ON and QC.
- In Alberta, no new cases of influenza have been confirmed in the past two weeks. 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 respiratory outbreaks in the province last week.
- Rhino-enterovirus continues to be the predominant respiratory virus circulating in Alberta although the overall number of cases appears to be decreasing. Preliminary analyses of laboratory data indicate that there may be an increasing trend in parainfluenza and RSV activity in recent weeks. The majority of the RSV cases are in infants 0-2 years of age.

### 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

### Quick Links

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### Current Global Information

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## 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       | 14      | 3        | 13     | 3       | 35   |
|                            |   | Coronavirus  | 0       | 6       | 1        | 8      | 6       | 21   |
|                            |   | 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      | 9        | 35     | 16      | 76   |
|                            |   | Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)                            | 3       | 14      | 0        | 11     | 4       | 32   |
|                            |   | Rhino enterovirus  | 55      | 244     | 93       | 341    | 157     | 890  |
|                            |   | Mixed  | 1       | 22      | 2        | 13     | 14      | 52   |
|                            |   | Total  | 72      | 317     | 108      | 421    | 200     | 1118 |
| Outbreaks                  | # respiratory outbreaks reported <sup>2</sup>   | 0  | 5       | 0       | 5        | 1      | 11      |      |
| Influenza Immunizations    | Total number immunized by AHS Public Health <sup>3</sup> (cumulative since Oct 3, 2010) | 38,157   | 141,314 | 45,783  | 130,346  | 49,663 | 405,263 |      |

-- Information not available

<sup>1</sup> Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 13, 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 16, 2010

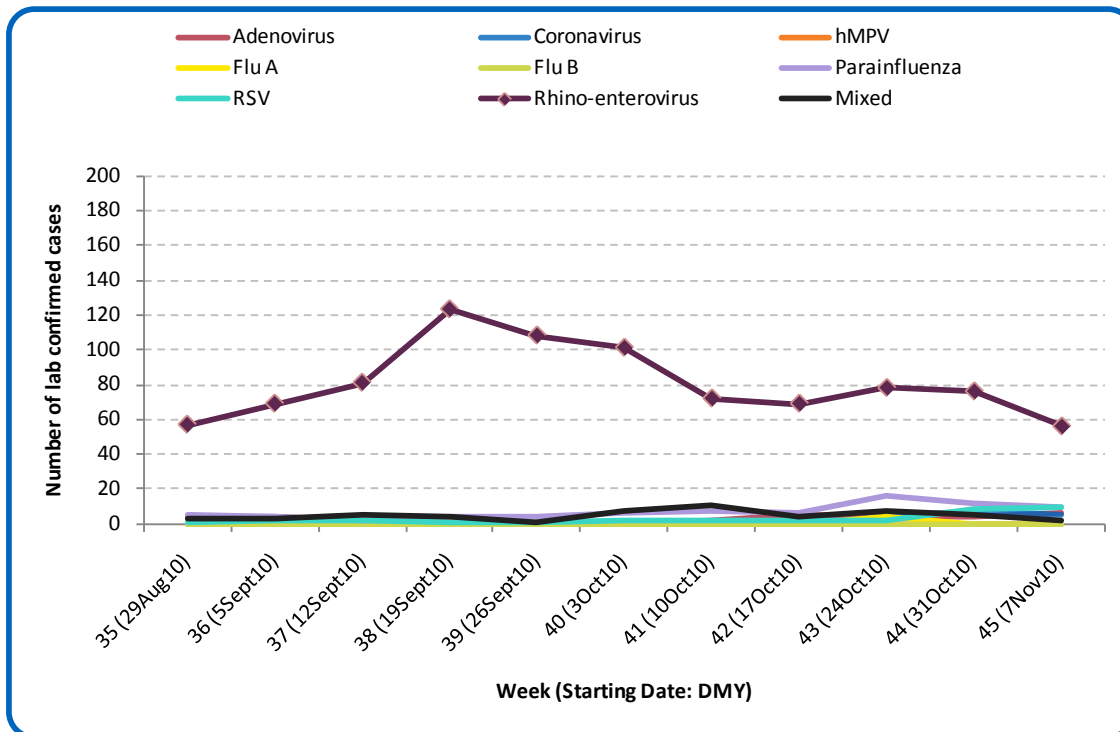
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 1: ALBERTA

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The predominant respiratory virus in Alberta is still rhino-enterovirus. The number of laboratory confirmed cases of parainfluenza and RSV have increased slightly in recent weeks. No new cases of influenza have been reported in the province in the past two weeks. 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 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

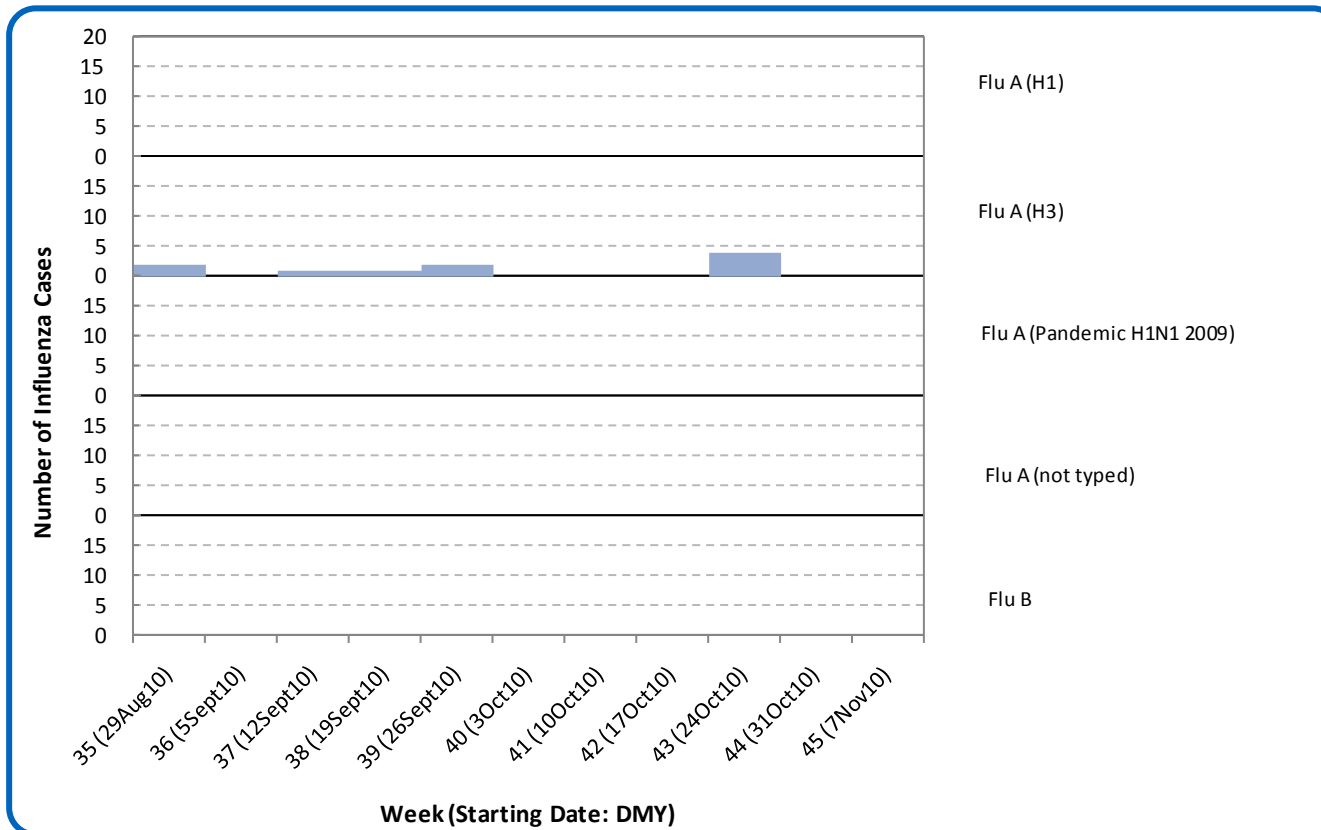
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Figure 1B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week, Alberta (2010)

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Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Nov 13, 2010)  
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Table 1A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Aug 29 – Nov 13, 2010)

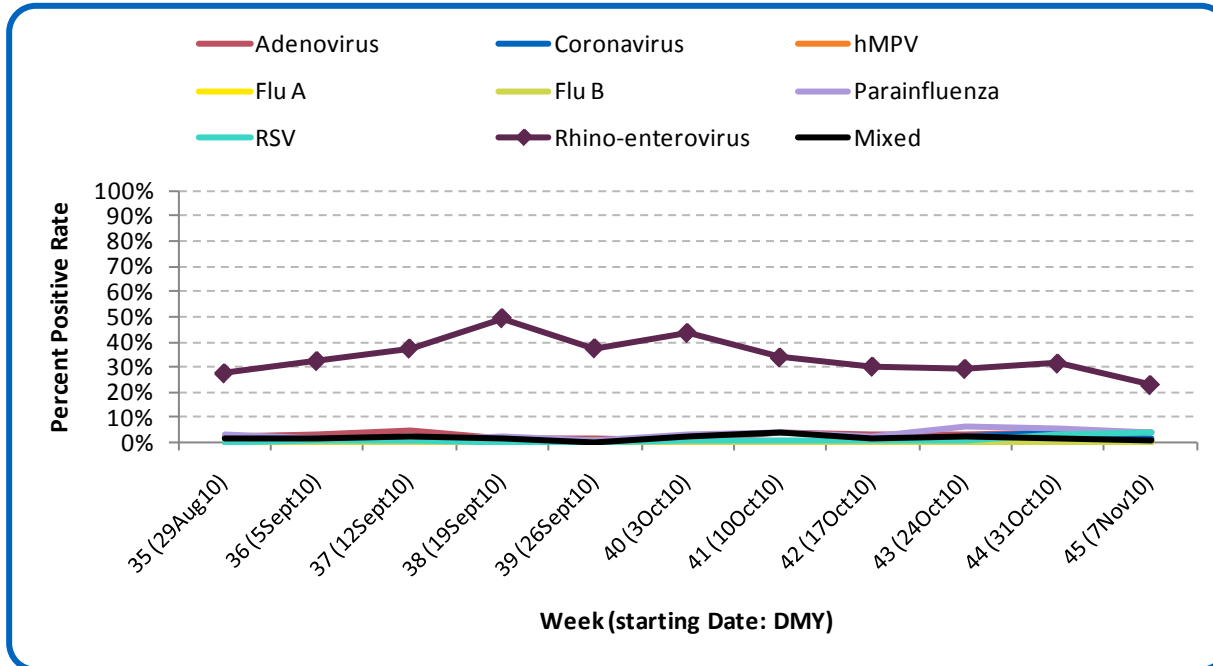
|                 | Flu A (Seasonal-H1) |                   | Flu A (Seasonal-H3) |                   | Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009) |                   | Flu A (not subtyped) |                   | Flu B    |                   | Total     |                   |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
|                 | #                   | 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 13, 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 1C: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Alberta (2010)

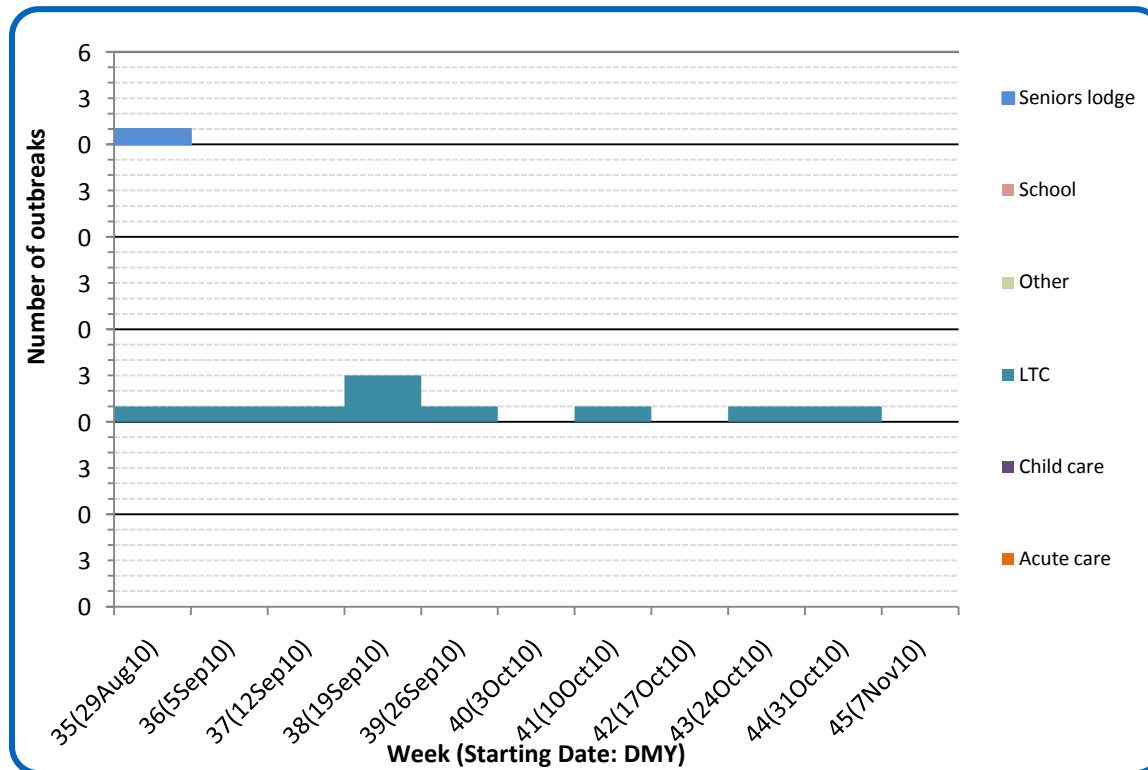


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 13, 2010)  
 For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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There were no new reports of respiratory outbreaks in Alberta in Week 45 (Nov 7-13). The outbreak in the Edmonton Zone, which was pending investigation in the last report with an onset date of Nov 4, has now been confirmed as a rhino-enterovirus outbreak.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on November 13, 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 attack rate of the rhino-enterovirus outbreak with an onset date of Nov 4 in the Edmonton Zone remained at 9.5%, pending a final report of this outbreak.

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

From week 44 (Oct 31-Nov 6) to week 45 (Nov 7-13), the number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for influenza-like illness (ILI) or cough symptoms decreased in the City of Calgary but increased in the Edmonton Zone. During that same time period, the number of visits for which patients who “left without being seen” decreased.

### Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties was 11.9% higher in week 45 (Nov 7-13) compared to the previous week. In fact, for week 45, this indicator was at its highest level since late August.

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

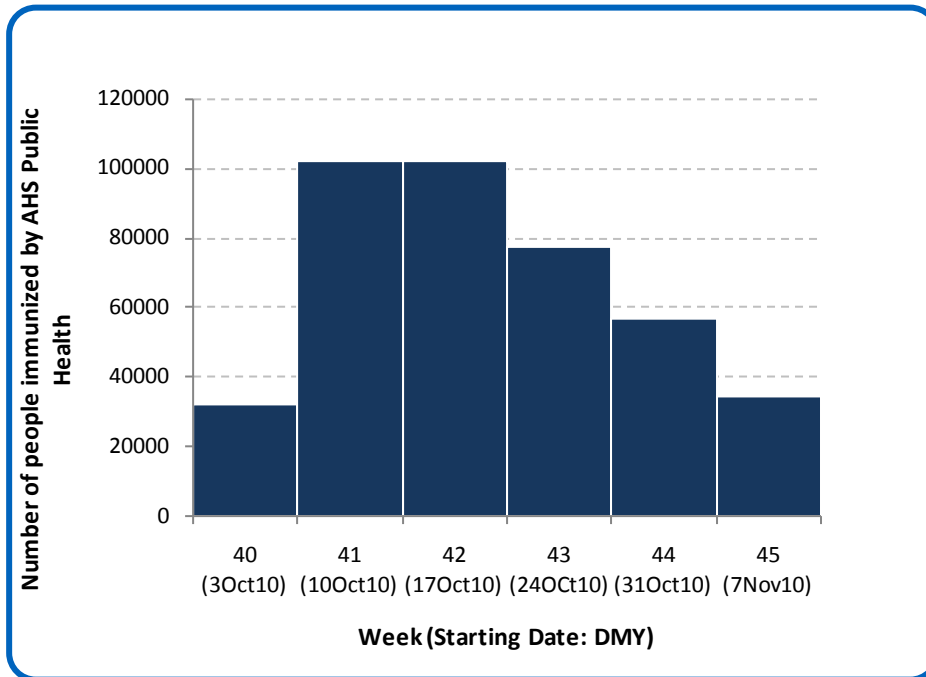
In week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6), the province-wide percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices was 34% lower than in week 43 (Oct 24-30), remaining well below 1%.

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

The province-wide percentage of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices was 6% lower in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) than in the previous week.

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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<br>(Week 45 –<br>Nov 7-13, 2010) | Cumulative Number Immunized<br>(since Oct 3, 2010) |
|---|---|--|
| Long term care staff                                  | 78  | 2,294  |
| Health care workers                                   | 763   | 16,001   |
| Pregnant women  | 387   | 3,054  |
| Residents of long term care                           | 64  | 4,618  |
| 65 years of age and over                              | 5,912   | 132,423  |
| All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*  | 1,686   | 12,027   |
| All children 24 months up to and including 59 months* | 2,087   | 16,610   |
| High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*       | 492   | 4,090  |
| High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years       | 4,077   | 44,122   |
| Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*         | 1,605   | 13,149   |
| Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years         | 17,512  | 156,875  |
| <b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>           | <b>34,663</b>                                     | <b>405,263</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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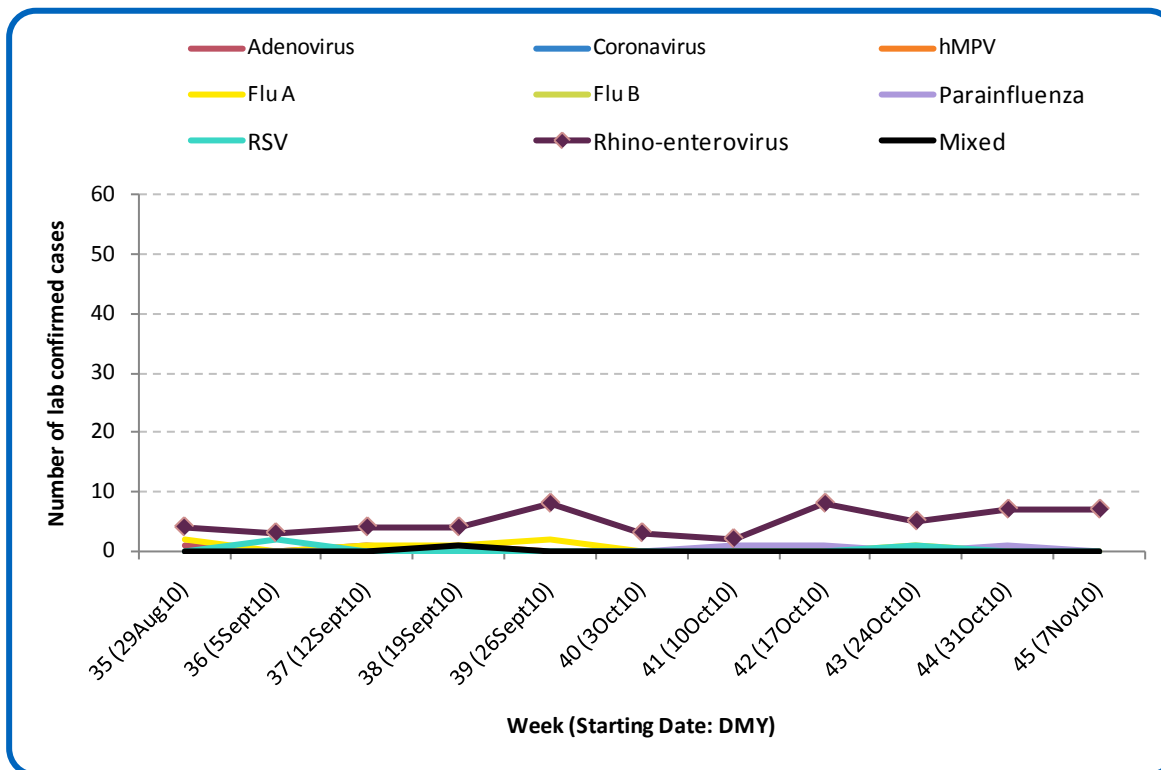
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SECTION 2: ZONE 1 - SOUTH

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No new influenza cases have been reported in the South Zone in the past two weeks. 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 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

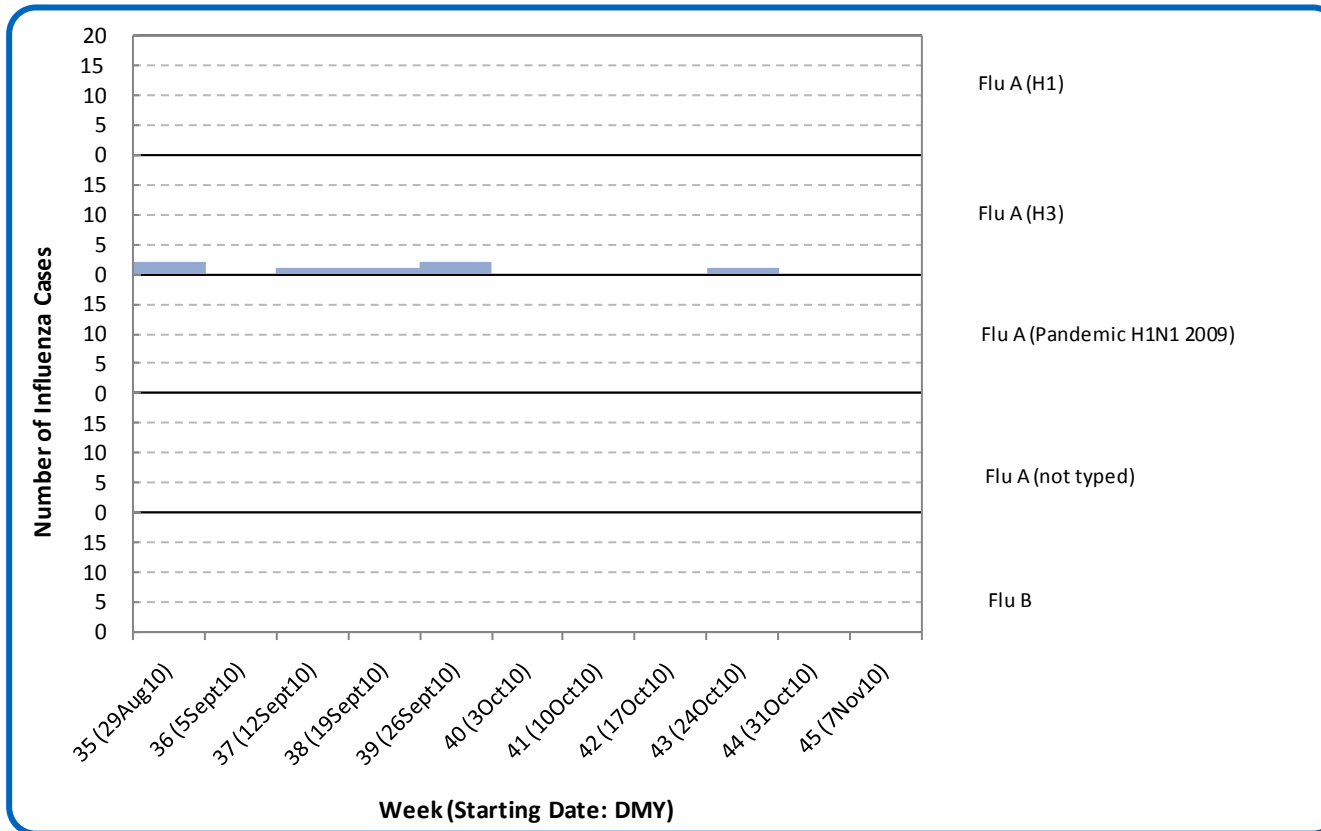
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Figure 2B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week South Zone (2010)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Nov 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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Table 2A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Aug 29–Nov 13, 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 13, 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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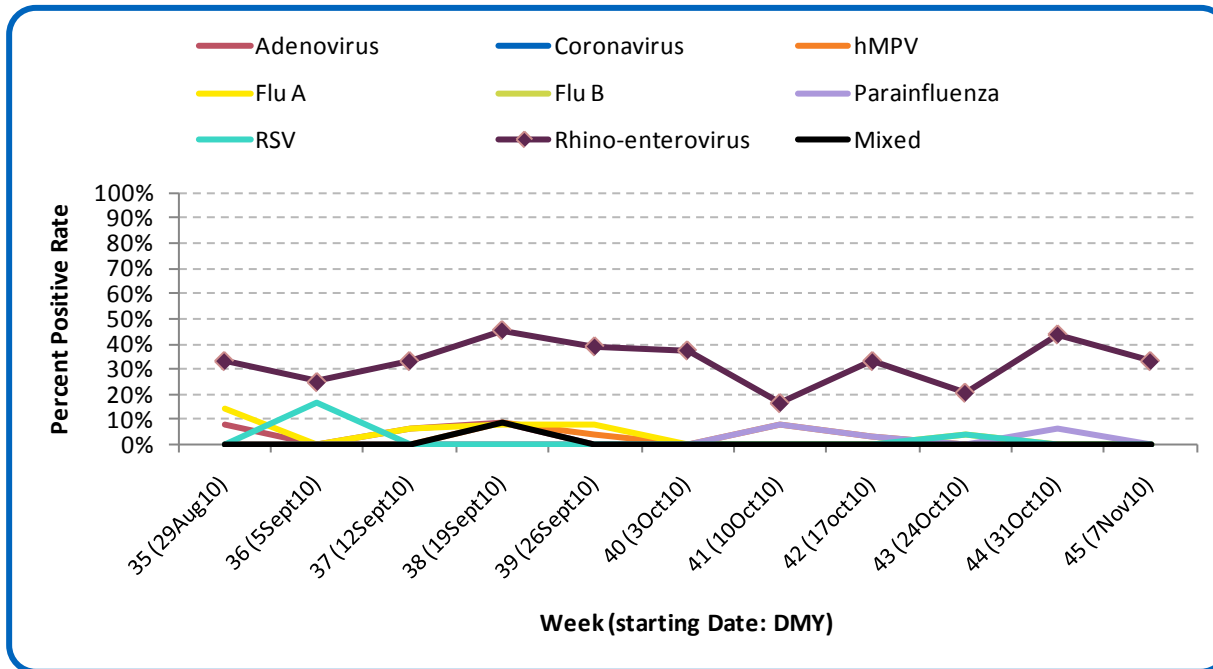
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Figure 2C: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 13, 2010)  
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### **Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks**

Since late August, there have been no respiratory outbreaks reported 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 was 11% lower in week 45 (Nov 7-13) than in the previous week.

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

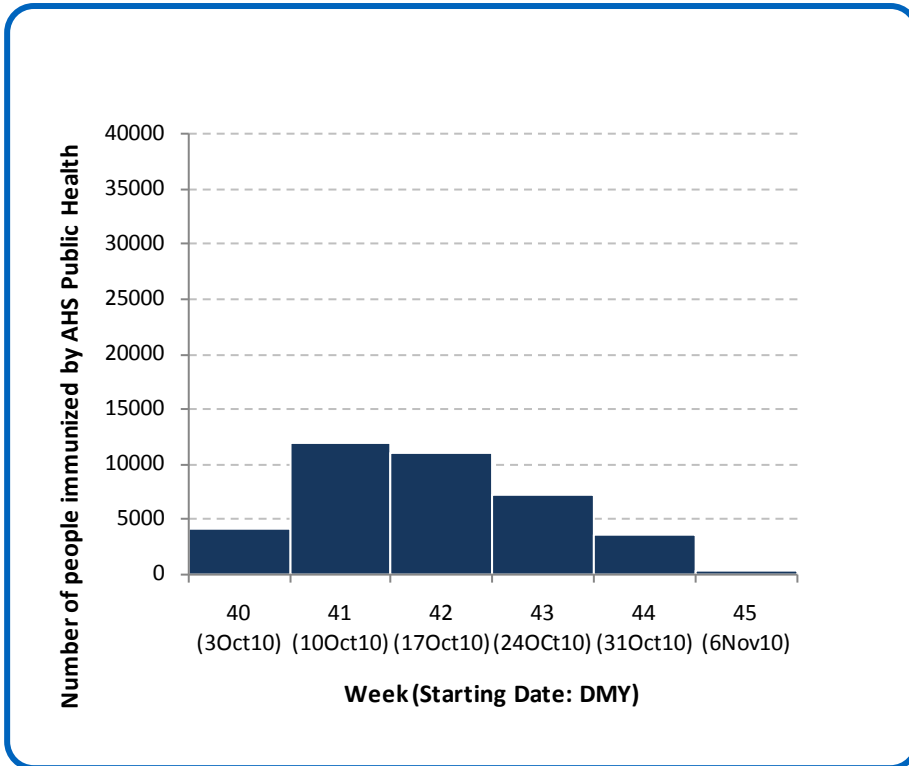
The percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the South Zone in week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) was similar to that in the previous week.

### **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 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6).

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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  
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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<br>(Week 45 –<br>Nov 7-13, 2010) | Cumulative Number Immunized<br>(since Oct 3, 2010) |
|---|---|--|
| Long term care staff                                  | 0   | 579  |
| Health care workers                                   | 14  | 1,458  |
| Pregnant women  | 1   | 229  |
| Residents of long term care                           | 0   | 717  |
| 65 years of age and over                              | 25  | 14,767   |
| All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*  | 73  | 894  |
| All children 24 months up to and including 59 months* | 16  | 1,535  |
| High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*       | 2   | 397  |
| High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years       | 30  | 3,698  |
| Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*         | 14  | 1,198  |
| Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years         | 80  | 12,685   |
| <b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>           | <b>255</b>  | <b>38,157</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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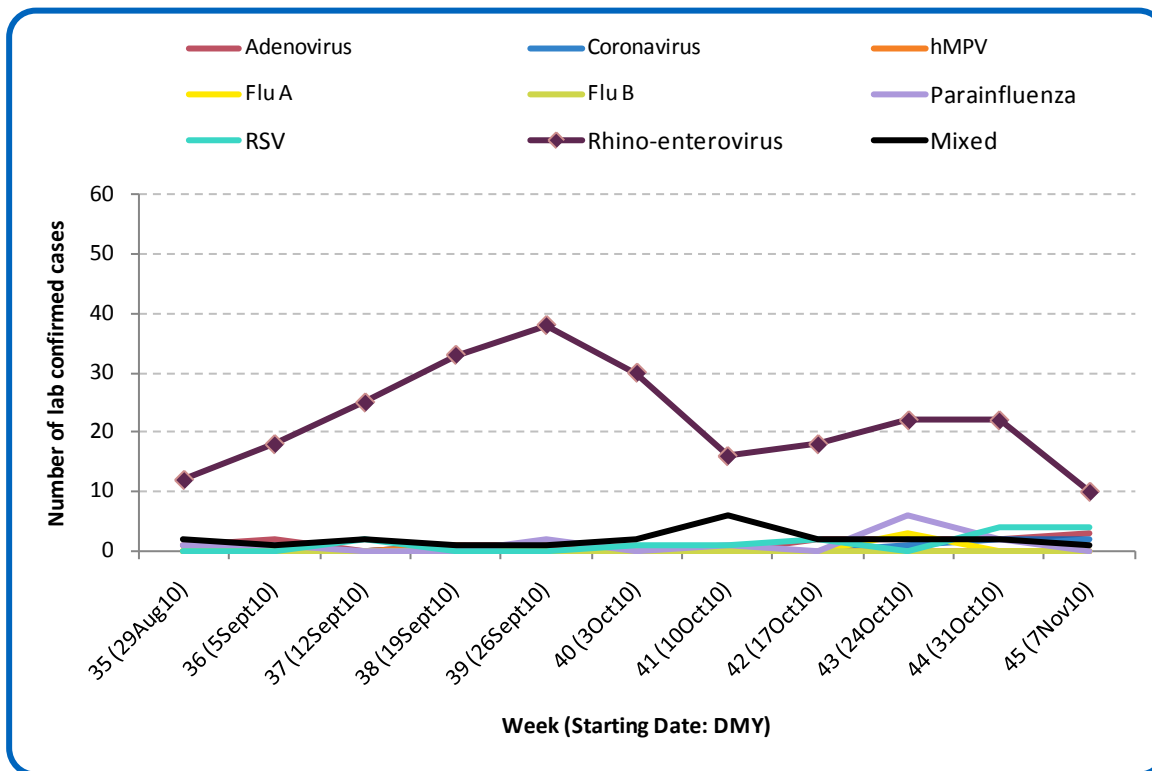
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**SECTION 3: ZONE 2 - CALGARY**

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The predominant respiratory virus in the Calgary Zone is still rhino-enterovirus, although the number of cases confirmed last week decreased substantially from the previous week. No new cases of influenza have been confirmed in the Calgary Zone in the past two weeks. 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 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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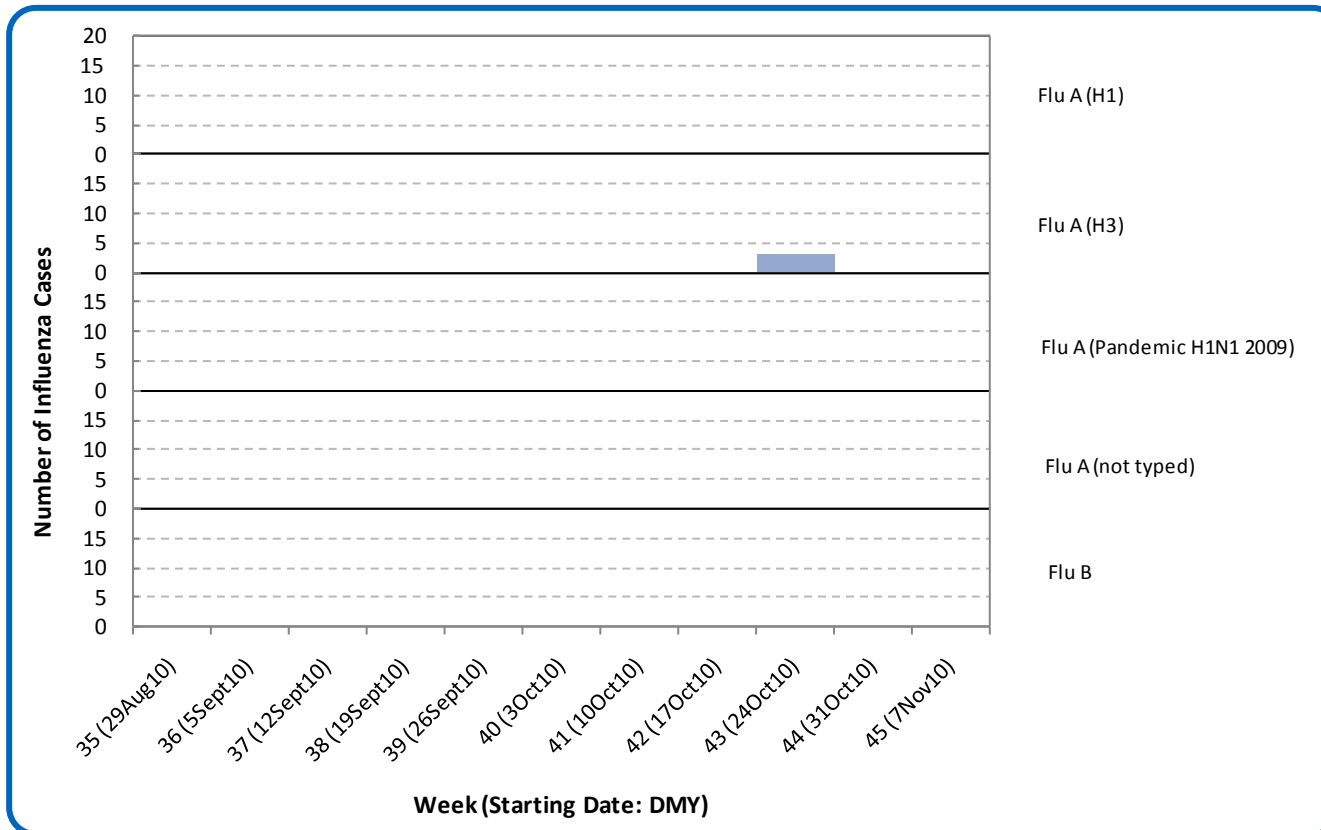
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Figure 3B: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week, Calgary Zone (2010)



Source: Influenza Outbreak Response Toolkit – Provincial Laboratory (based on specimens classified on or before Nov 13, 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 3A: Cumulative Influenza cases, by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Aug 29 – Nov 13, 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 13, 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**

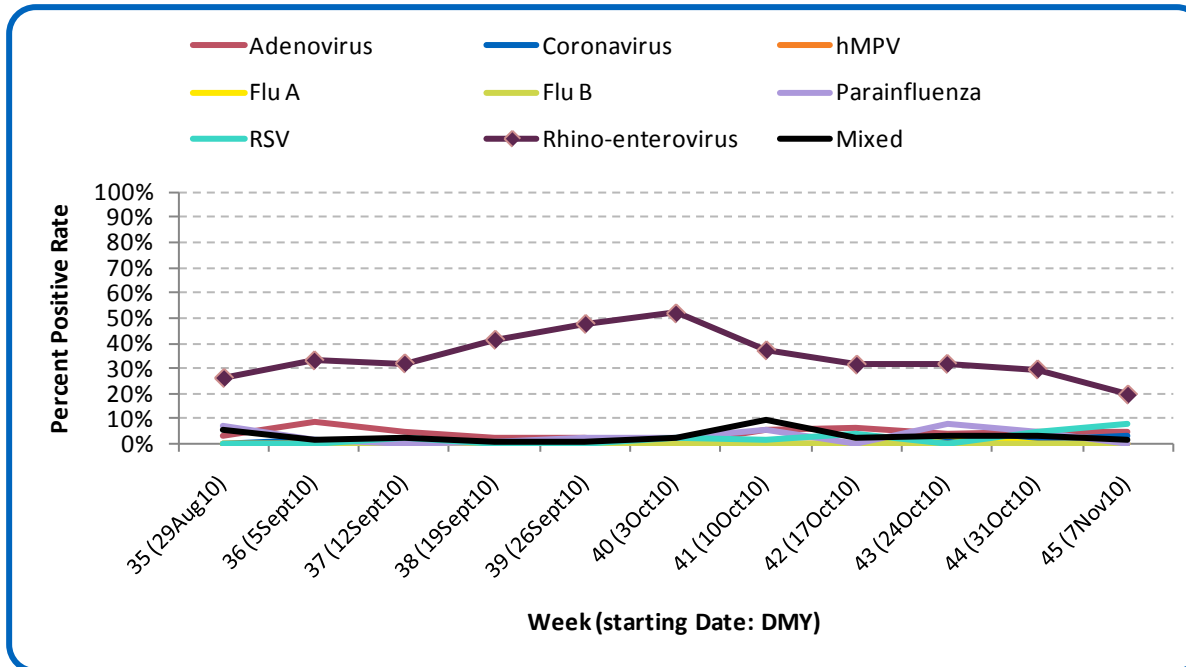
**Public Health Surveillance**

Report Date: November 16, 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)

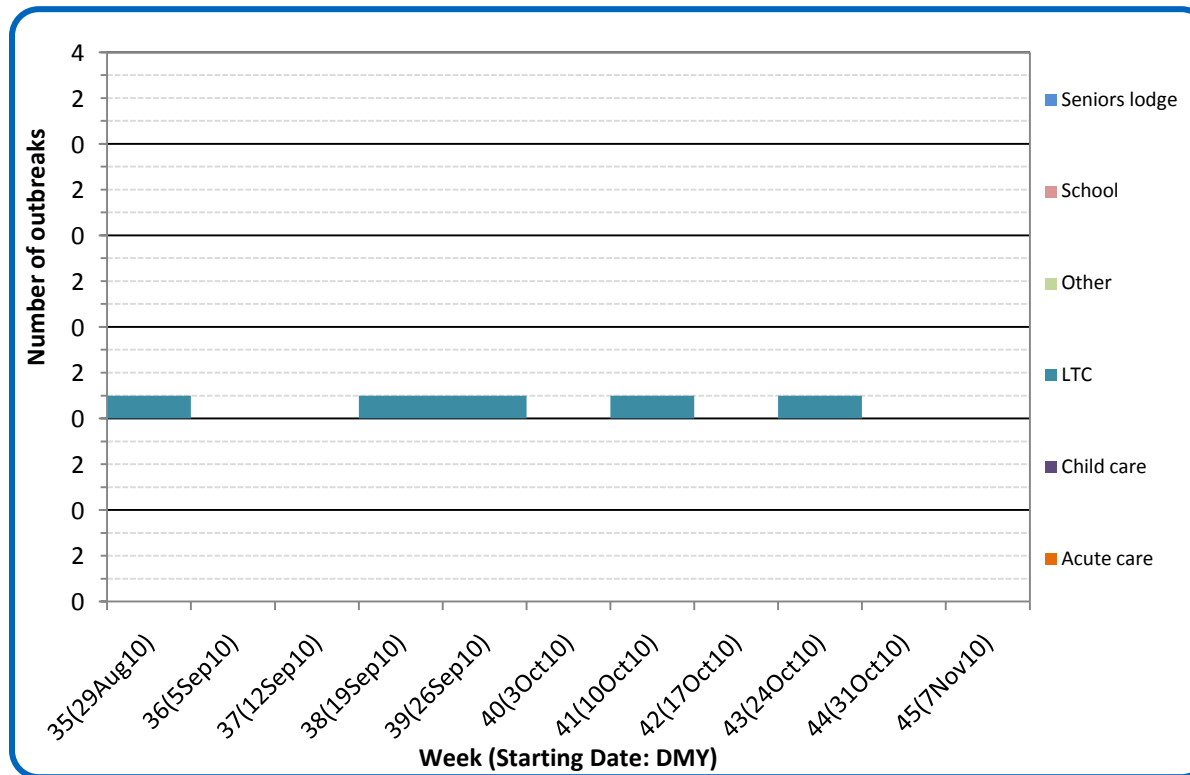


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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There were no reports of new respiratory outbreaks from the Calgary zone last week.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on November 13, 2010.  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

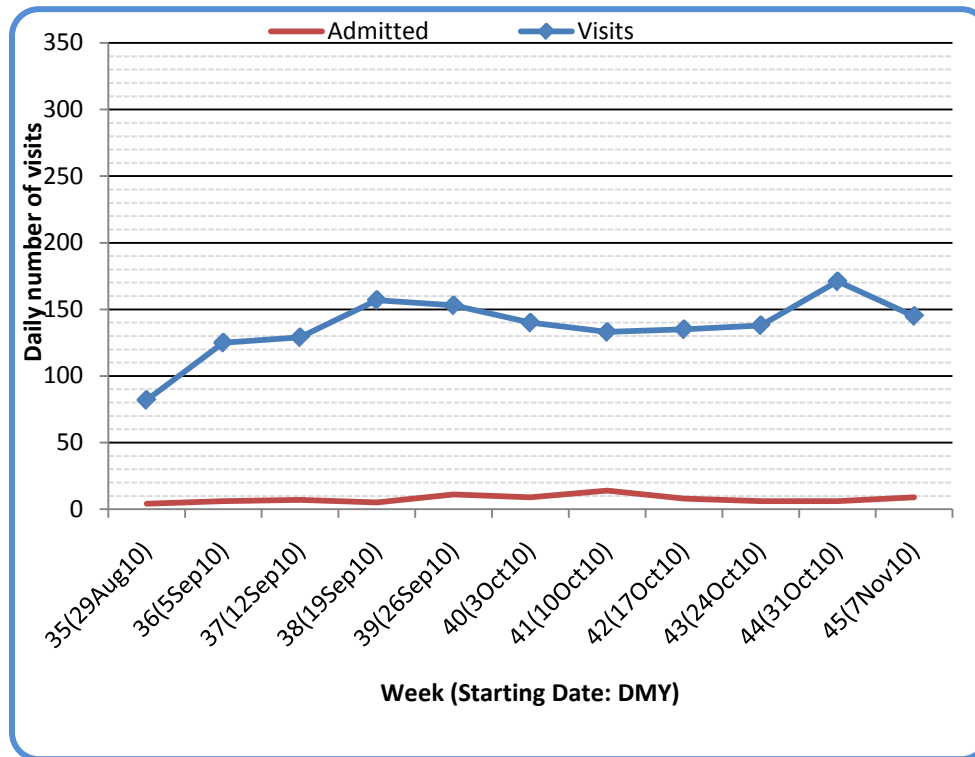
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for patients with cough symptoms in the City of Calgary decreased last week, returning to the level seen in the previous four weeks. Hospital admissions of patients with cough symptoms increased by 50% last week from week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6). Visits of patients who had cough symptoms and left EDs “without being seen” decreased by 67% over the same time period.

**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 13, 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 were no reports of new respiratory outbreaks from the Calgary Zone in Week 45 (Nov 7–13).

### **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 declined last week from the previous week. The number of hospital admissions and visits of patients with ILI who left EDs without being seen also decreased.

### **Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta**

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties by residents of the Calgary Zone has been increasing steadily since the week of Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. This trend has not been observed in number of ED visits for patients with cough symptoms.

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

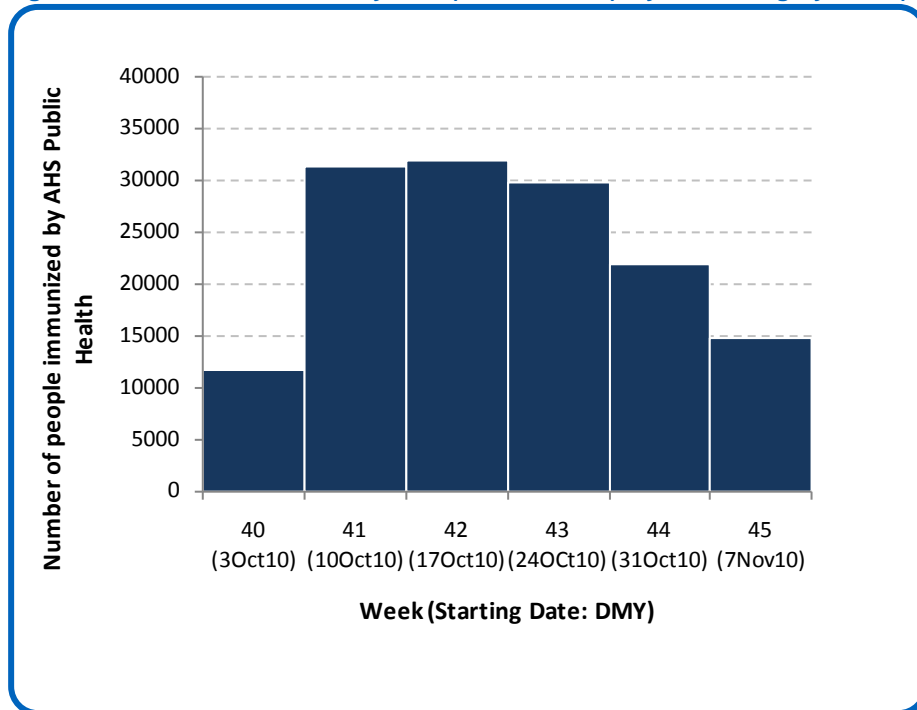
The percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Calgary Zone remained low in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) at less than 1% and even lower in the previous week. This differed from the pattern of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties.

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

The percentage of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Calgary Zone was lower in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) than in the previous week 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

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

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**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>

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<br>(Week 45 –<br>Nov 7-13, 2010) | Cumulative Number Immunized<br>(since Oct 3, 2010) |
|---|---|--|
| Long term care staff                                  | 25  | 407  |
| Health care workers                                   | 284   | 4,498  |
| Pregnant women  | 161   | 1,193  |
| Residents of long term care                           | 33  | 682  |
| 65 year of age and over                               | 1,915   | 40,591   |
| All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*  | 821   | 5,395  |
| All children 24 months up to and including 59 months* | 923   | 6,786  |
| High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*       | 222   | 1,594  |
| High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years       | 1,648   | 15,441   |
| Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*         | 754   | 4,795  |
| Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years         | 7,924   | 59,932   |
| <b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>           | <b>14,710</b>                                     | <b>141,314</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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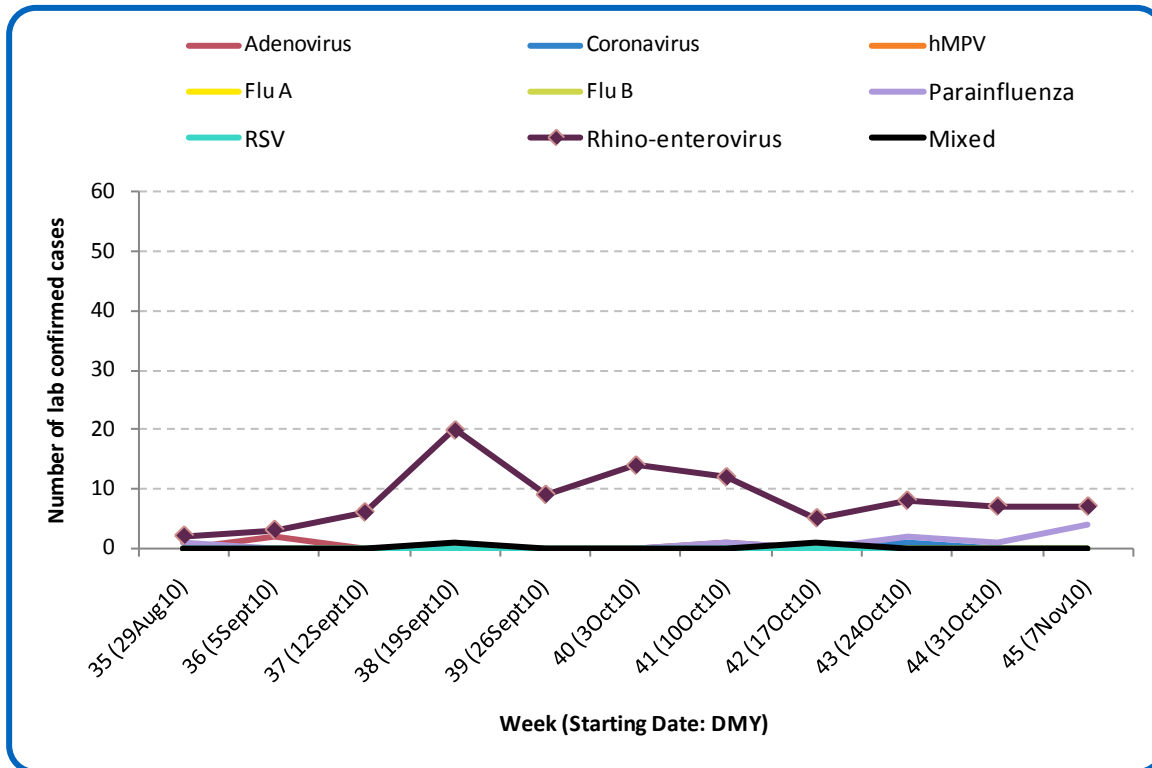
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 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. The number of confirmed cases of parainfluenza last week increased slightly from the previous week.

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 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

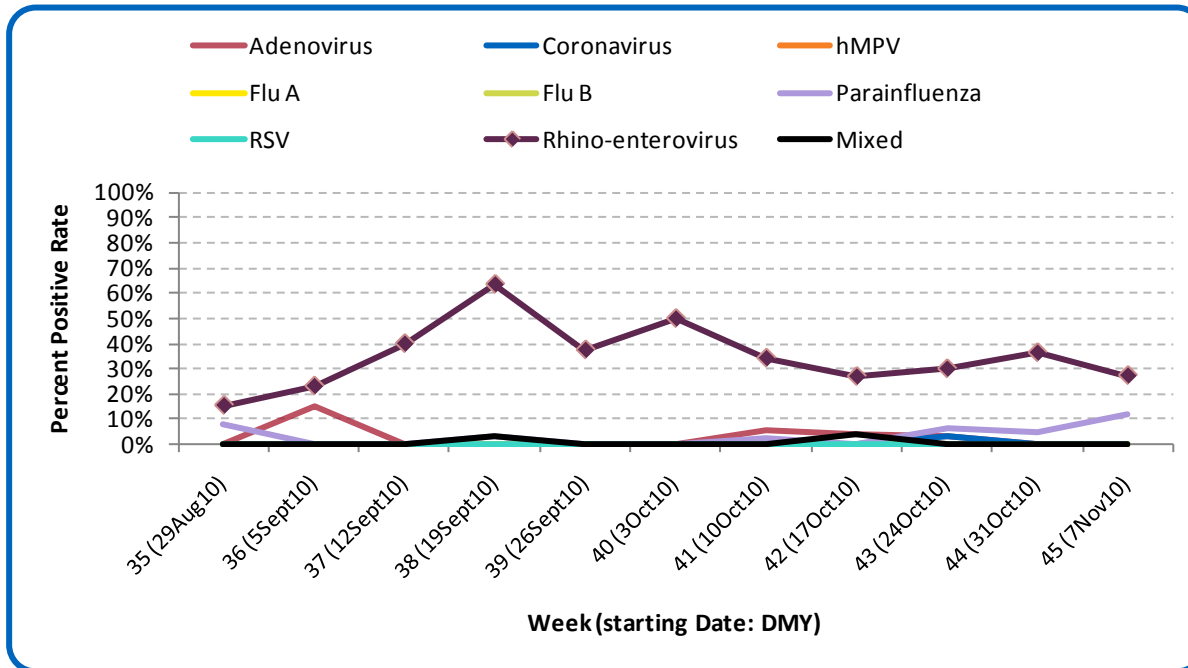
SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

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

Figure 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 13, 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 was 27% higher in week 45 (Nov 7-13) than in the previous week. The level in week 45 (Nov 7-13) was the highest since late August.

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

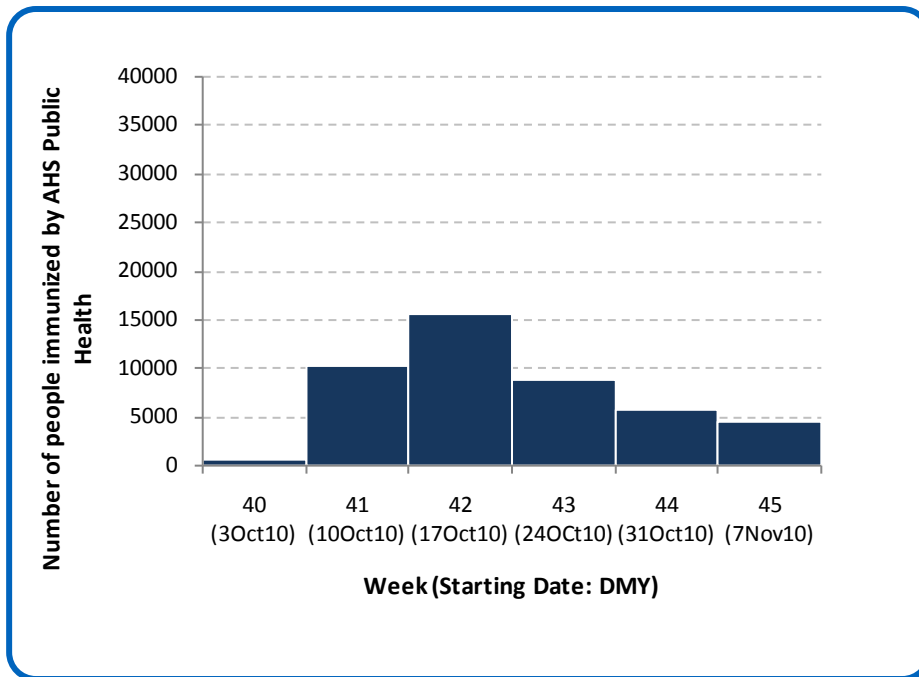
There were no reports of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Central Zone in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6).

### **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 of the Central Zone in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6). The percentage was higher than it was in the previous week and close to 1%. This coincides with the pattern for calls to Health Link Alberta as described above.

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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<br>(Week 45 –<br>Nov 7-13, 2010) | Cumulative Number Immunized<br>(since Oct 3, 2010) |
|---|---|--|
| Long term care staff                                  | 22  | 325  |
| Health care workers                                   | 125   | 2,044  |
| Pregnant women  | 45  | 267  |
| Residents of long term care                           | 24  | 980  |
| 65 years of age and over                              | 1,396   | 18,424   |
| All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*  | 176   | 1,089  |
| All children 24 months up to and including 59 months* | 217   | 1,386  |
| High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*       | 68  | 414  |
| High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years       | 562   | 5,054  |
| Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*         | 144   | 1,273  |
| Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years         | 1,768   | 14,527   |
| <b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>           | <b>4,547</b>                                      | <b>45,783</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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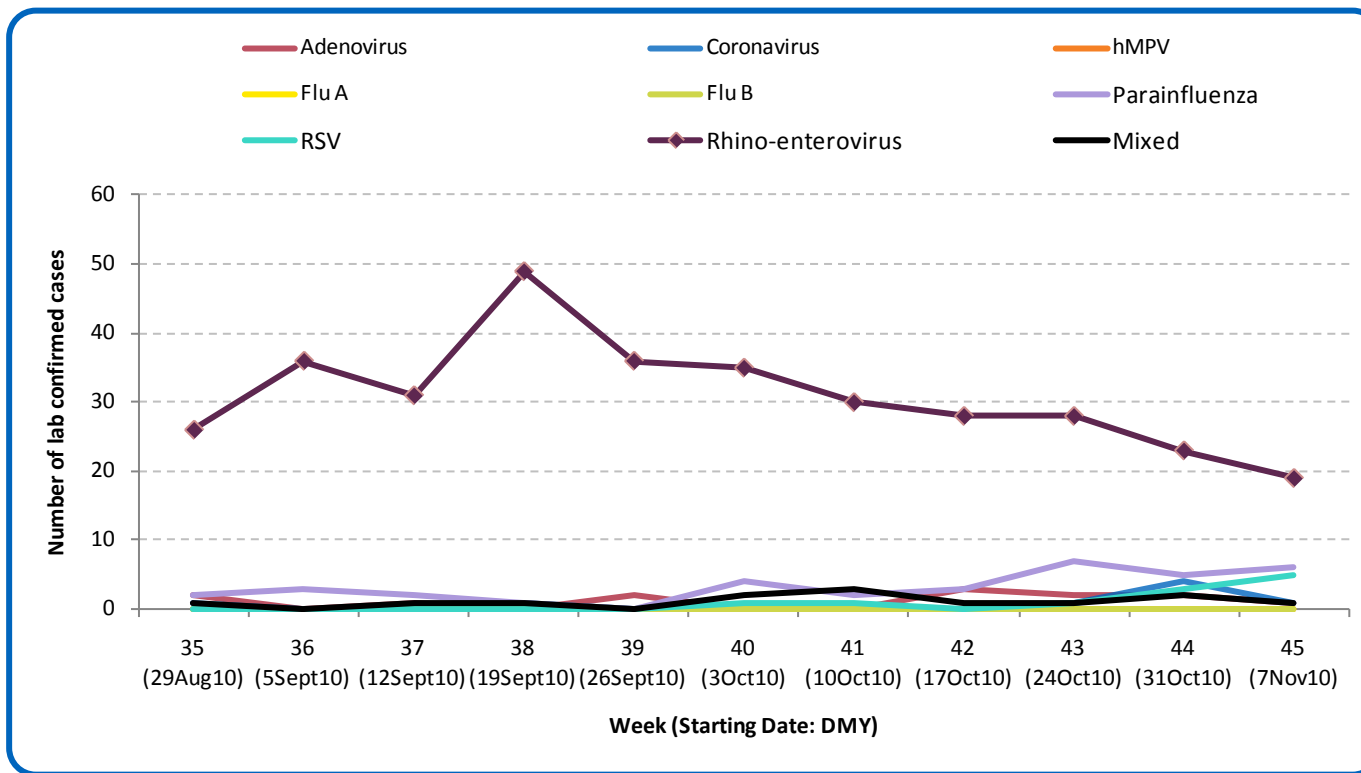
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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. The number of confirmed cases of parainfluenza has shown a slight increasing trend in recent weeks. Also of note, the number of confirmed cases of RSV has increased slightly in recent weeks; all cases have been in infants under the age of two years. 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 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

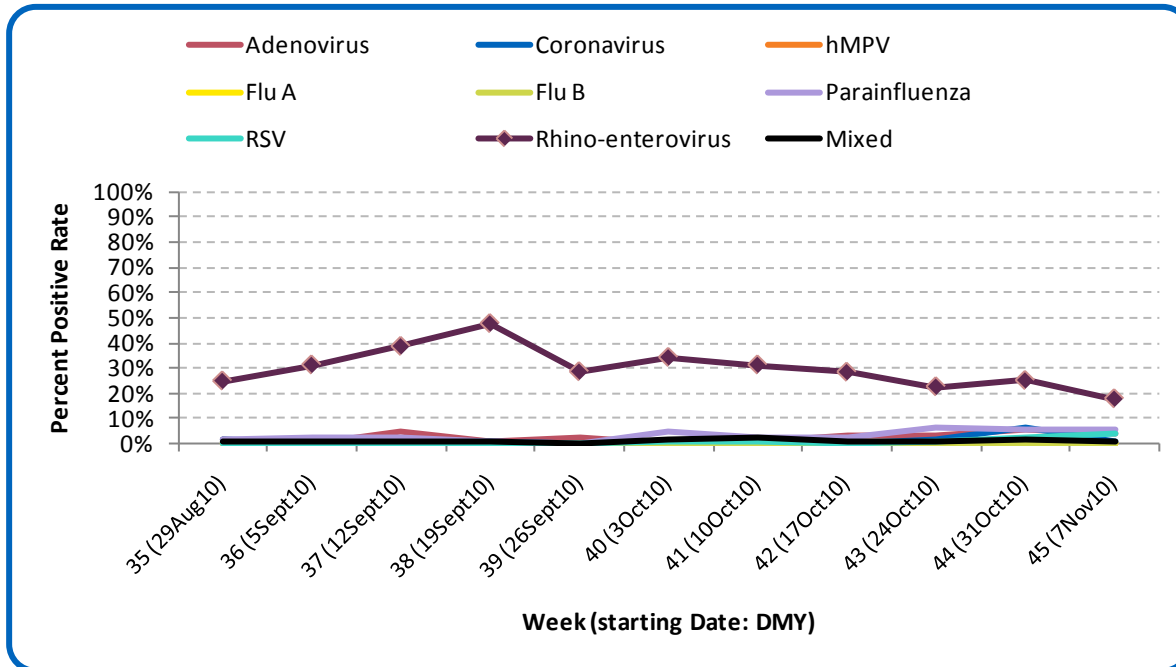
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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

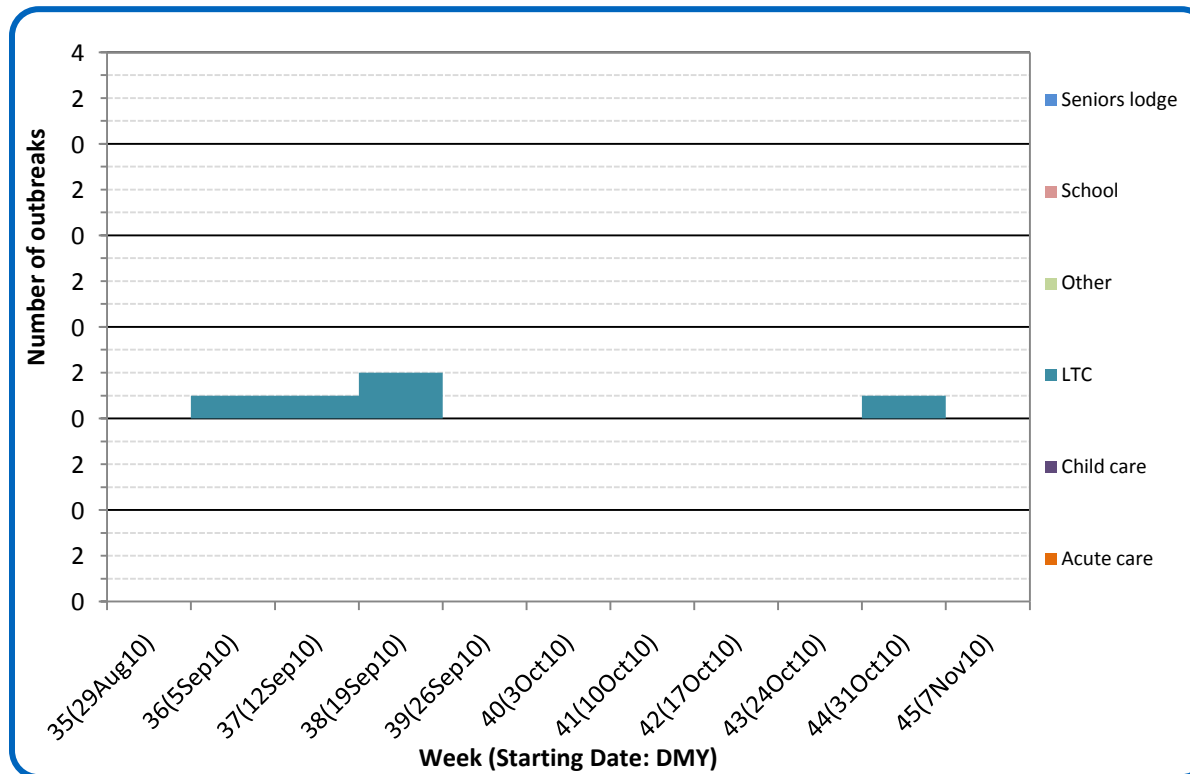


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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The respiratory outbreak with an onset date of Nov 4 described in the last report has now been confirmed as a rhino-enterovirus outbreak.

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



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on November 13, 2010.  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

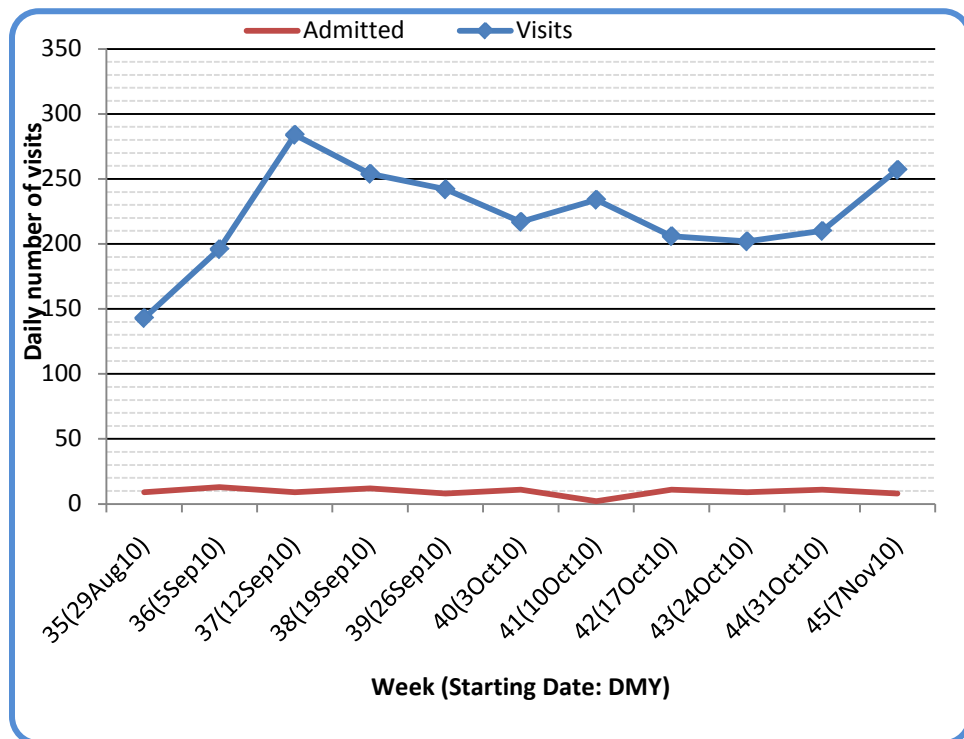
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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The number of visits to nine emergency departments/urgent care centers in the Edmonton Zone for cough/congestion in week 45 (Nov 7–13) increased from the number observed in the previous 3 weeks, but remained less than that of week 37 (Sept 12–18). However, the number of admissions to hospitals and the number of visits of patients with cough/congestion symptoms and who left the EDs without being seen both decreased last week from week 44 (Oct 31–Nov6).

**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 13, 2010. For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

**SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT**

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

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### Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

The attack rate of the confirmed rhino-enterovirus outbreak with an onset date of Nov 4 described in last week's report remained at 9.5%, pending a final report.

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

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for ILI symptoms has remained unchanged over recent weeks. Both the numbers for admissions to hospitals and visits of patients with ILI who left EDs without being seen were higher in week 45 (Nov 7-13) than in the previous week, although these numbers were either similar to (for admissions) or lower than (for patients who left EDs without being seen) the levels at the beginning of October.

### Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of the Edmonton Zone for cough or breathing difficulties has marginally increased in the last 2 weeks.

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

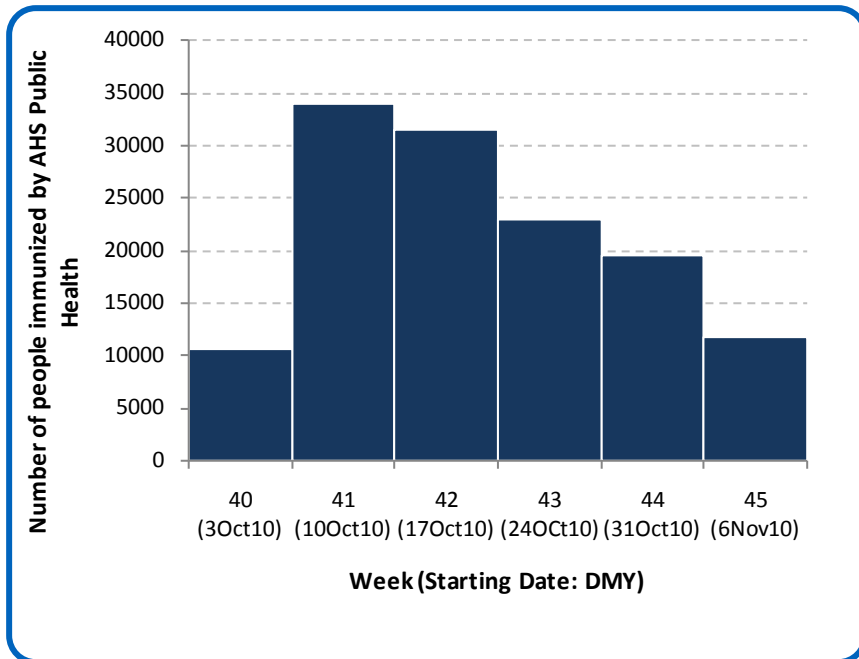
The percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the Edmonton Zone was lower in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) than in Week 43 (Oct 24-30), and remained well below 1%.

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

The percentage of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices was slightly lower in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) than in the previous week (1.6% vs. 1.3 %).

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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

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

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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<br>(Week 45 –<br>Nov 7-13, 2010) | Cumulative Number Immunized<br>(since Oct 3, 2010) |
|---|---|--|
| Long term care staff                                  | 13  | 297  |
| Health care workers                                   | 243   | 4,025  |
| Pregnant women  | 149   | 990  |
| Residents of long term care                           | 5   | 1,020  |
| 65 years of age and over                              | 1,882   | 44,661   |
| All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*  | 494   | 3,375  |
| All children 24 months up to and including 59 months* | 764   | 5,062  |
| High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*       | 134   | 948  |
| High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years       | 1,420   | 13,804   |
| Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*         | 553   | 4,044  |
| Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years         | 6,173   | 52,120   |
| <b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>           | <b>11,830</b>                                     | <b>130,346</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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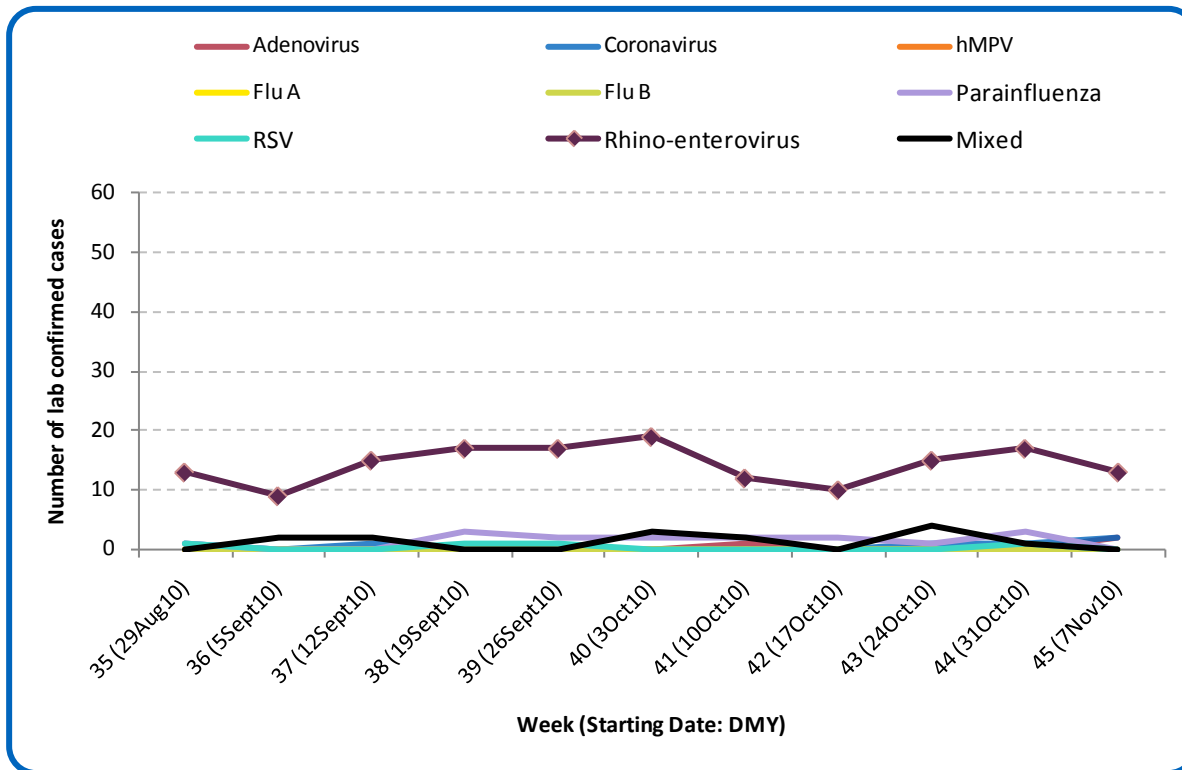
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 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 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

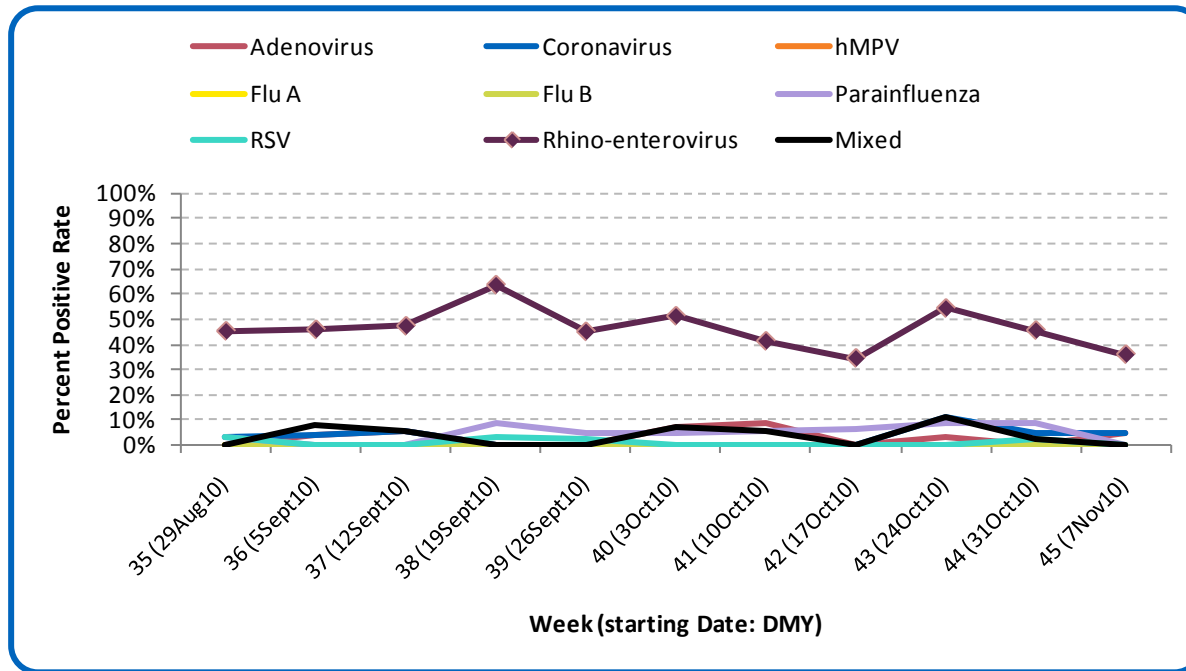
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Figure 6B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, North Zone (2010)

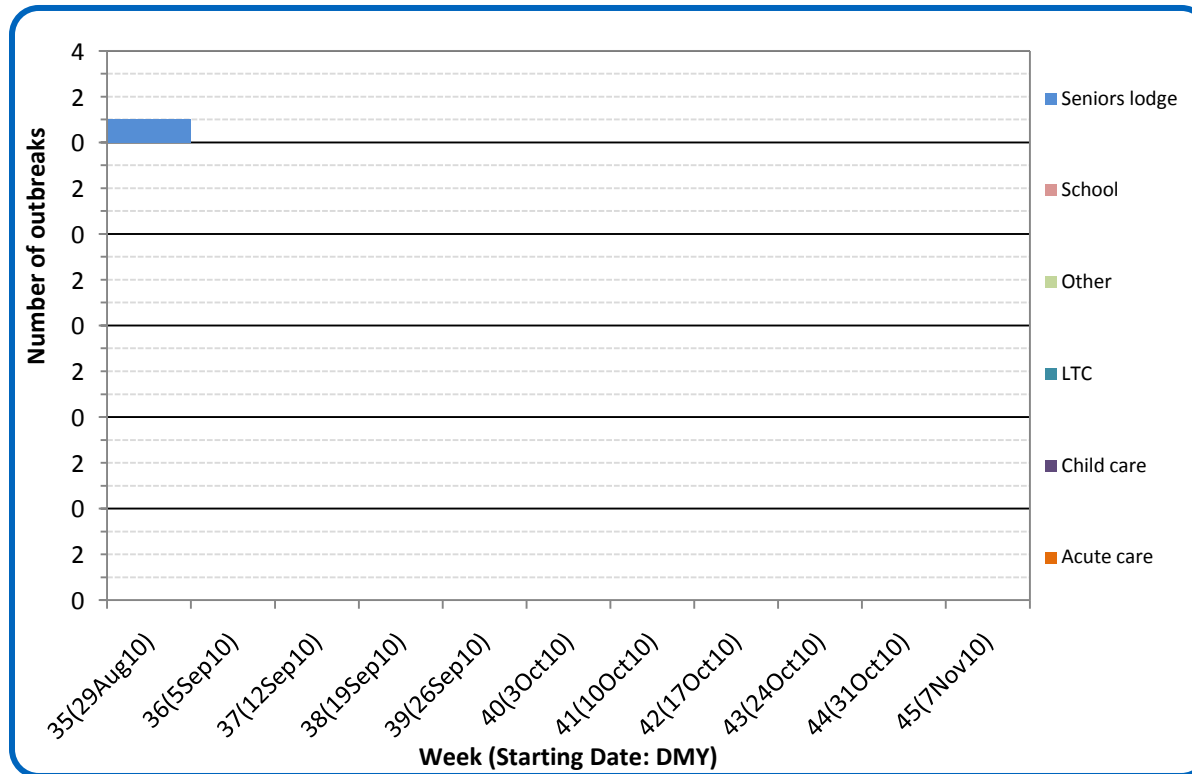


Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Nov 13, 2010)  
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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Since September 5th, no new respiratory outbreaks have been reported 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 13, 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 respiratory outbreaks in the North Zone since the beginning of September.

### 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 in Week 45 (Nov 7–13) was 18% higher than in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6). This is the highest level seen this season.

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

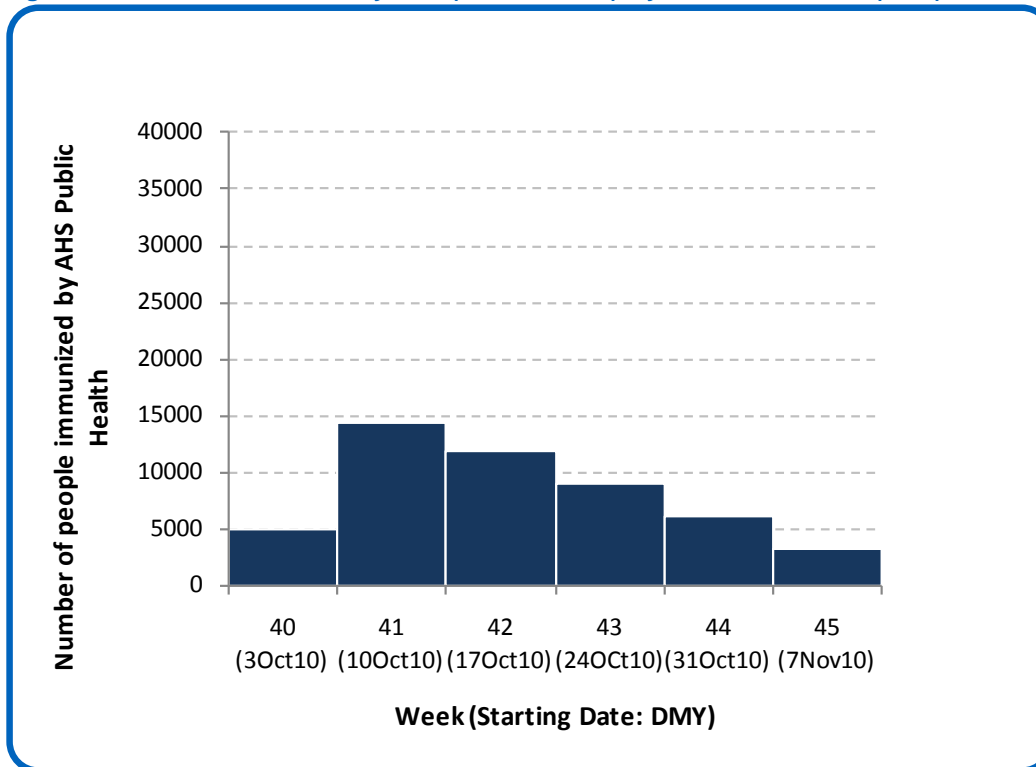
The percentage of ILI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the North Zone was significantly less in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) than in the previous week (0.9% vs. 4.8%).

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

The percentage of LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of the North Zone was also significantly less in Week 44 (Oct 31–Nov 6) than in the previous week (0.9% vs. 2.9%).

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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<br>(Week 45 –<br>Nov 7-13, 2010) | Cumulative Number Immunized<br>(since Oct 3, 2010) |
|---|---|--|
| Long term care staff                                  | 18  | 686  |
| Health care workers                                   | 97  | 3,976  |
| Pregnant women  | 31  | 375  |
| Residents of long term care                           | 2   | 1,219  |
| 65 years of age and over                              | 694   | 13,980   |
| All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*  | 122   | 1,274  |
| All children 24 months up to and including 59 months* | 167   | 1,841  |
| High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*       | 66  | 737  |
| High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years       | 417   | 6,125  |
| Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*         | 140   | 1,839  |
| Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years         | 1,567   | 17,611   |
| <b>Total (that received 1 vaccine dose)</b>           | <b>3,321</b>                                      | <b>49,663</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.

## SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

### Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: November 16, 2010

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

## 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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