

Weekly Report

February 1, 2011

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.

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What's New?

- Most European countries outside of the UK are experiencing increasing levels of influenza activity, particularly in the west. Increasing numbers of severe and fatal cases are also being reported in Europe. The severe cases have been associated with all three influenza viruses circulating (H1N1 2009, A H3N2 and type B), although H1N1 (2009) appears to be overrepresented among severe cases when compared to the distribution of viruses circulating. Severe cases and deaths continue to be in the 15-64 year age group with underlying health conditions.
- Influenza activity in the UK (primarily due to influenza A H1N1 2009) is now decreasing.
- Similarly, influenza transmission in Northern Africa and Northern Asia has peaked and is declining. Most tropical areas of the world are reporting very little influenza activity, with the exception of several countries in the Southern part of Asia where activity has been increasing, mainly due to H1N1 2009.
- While influenza activity in North America is leveling off or decreasing, not all regions have peaked. In Canada, most areas of the country have recently reported decreasing rates of influenza-like-illness (ILI) and hospital admissions due to influenza. Across Canada, influenza A accounts for 98% of the influenza viruses detected. Of those that have been characterized, 91% are H3N2.
- In Alberta, the number of laboratory confirmed cases of RSV continues to increase. RSV remains to be the predominant virus in the province. As of the end of week 4 (Jan 29, 2011), the total number of confirmed cases of influenza in the province this season is 332 (71.7% influenza A (H3), 16.9% influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 9.6% influenza type B, and 1.8% influenza A with unresolved sub-typing). Of note, almost 75% of the influenza B cases confirmed in the province this season have occurred in the past 2 weeks. Also of note, two cases of influenza type B were confirmed in South Zone last week. These are the first cases of influenza type B to be confirmed in South Zone this season.
- Since last week's update, four respiratory outbreaks previously reported have now been confirmed in Alberta. One in Edmonton Zone was attributed to RSV, one in Central Zone was attributed to coronavirus. Two in Calgary Zone were attributed to RSV and parainfluenza.

If you have questions about the Alberta Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update, or any of the indicators, please contact:
AHSPublicHealthSurveillance@albertahealthservices.ca Or phone: 780-342-0210

Alberta Snapshot

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Indicators			Cumulative Counts Week 35 (starting Aug 29/10) to week 4 (starting Jan 23/11)					Alberta
			South	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	North	
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	Number of cases with a positive respiratory specimen ¹	Adenovirus	4	28	8	46	14	100
		Coronavirus	5	38	18	75	26	162
		Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	8	3	0	3	4	18
		Influenza A	18	104	36	110	32	300*
		Influenza B	2	16	2	9	3	32*
		Parainfluenza	22	56	34	118	70	300
		Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	45	256	64	371	117	853
		Rhino enterovirus	79	366	139	498	229	1311
		Mixed	18	83	22	86	55	264
		Total	201	950	323	1316	550	3340
Outbreaks	# laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks ²		0	11	4	19	1	35
Influenza Immunizations	Total number of clients who have received 1 dose administered by AHS Public Health ³ (cumulative since Oct 3, 2010)		42,685	186,551	60,751	159,487	61,599	511,073

-- Information not available

*Note: Nine specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s). These cases have been included in the influenza A or B counts, as well as the other respective specimen type(s). They have not been included in the 'Mixed' category. One specimen was positive for both influenza A & B.

¹ Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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

³Source: AHS Zones (number does not include doses provided by external providers); includes first doses only for those that require two doses

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

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: February 1, 2011

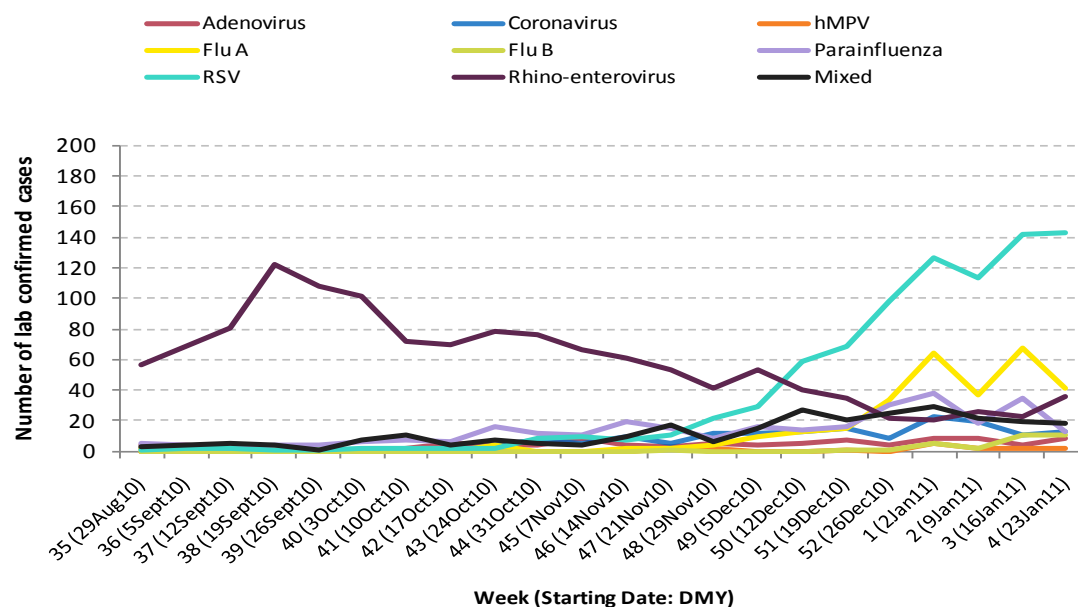
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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The number of laboratory confirmed cases RSV continues to increase in Alberta. RSV remains to be the predominant virus in the province. As of the end of last week (Jan 29, 2011), the total number of confirmed cases of influenza in the province this season is 332 (71.7% influenza A (H3), 16.9% influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 9.6% influenza type B, and 1.8% influenza A with unresolved sub-typing). Of note, almost 75% of the influenza B cases confirmed in the province this season have occurred in the past 2 weeks. At this point in the season, the age specific rate for confirmed influenza cases (all types) in infants 0 to <2 years of age is higher than the rate in other age groups, at 4.8 per 10,000.

Figure 1A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Alberta (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

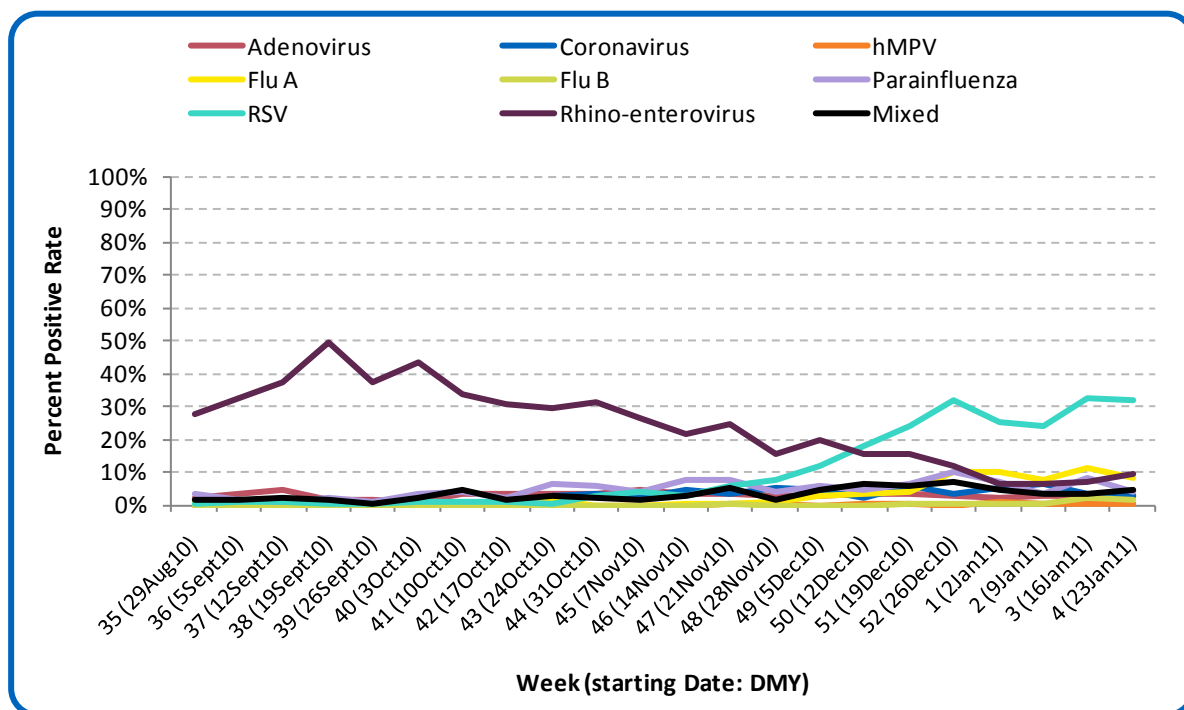
Public Health Surveillance

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Figure 1B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Alberta (2010-2011)

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Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011)
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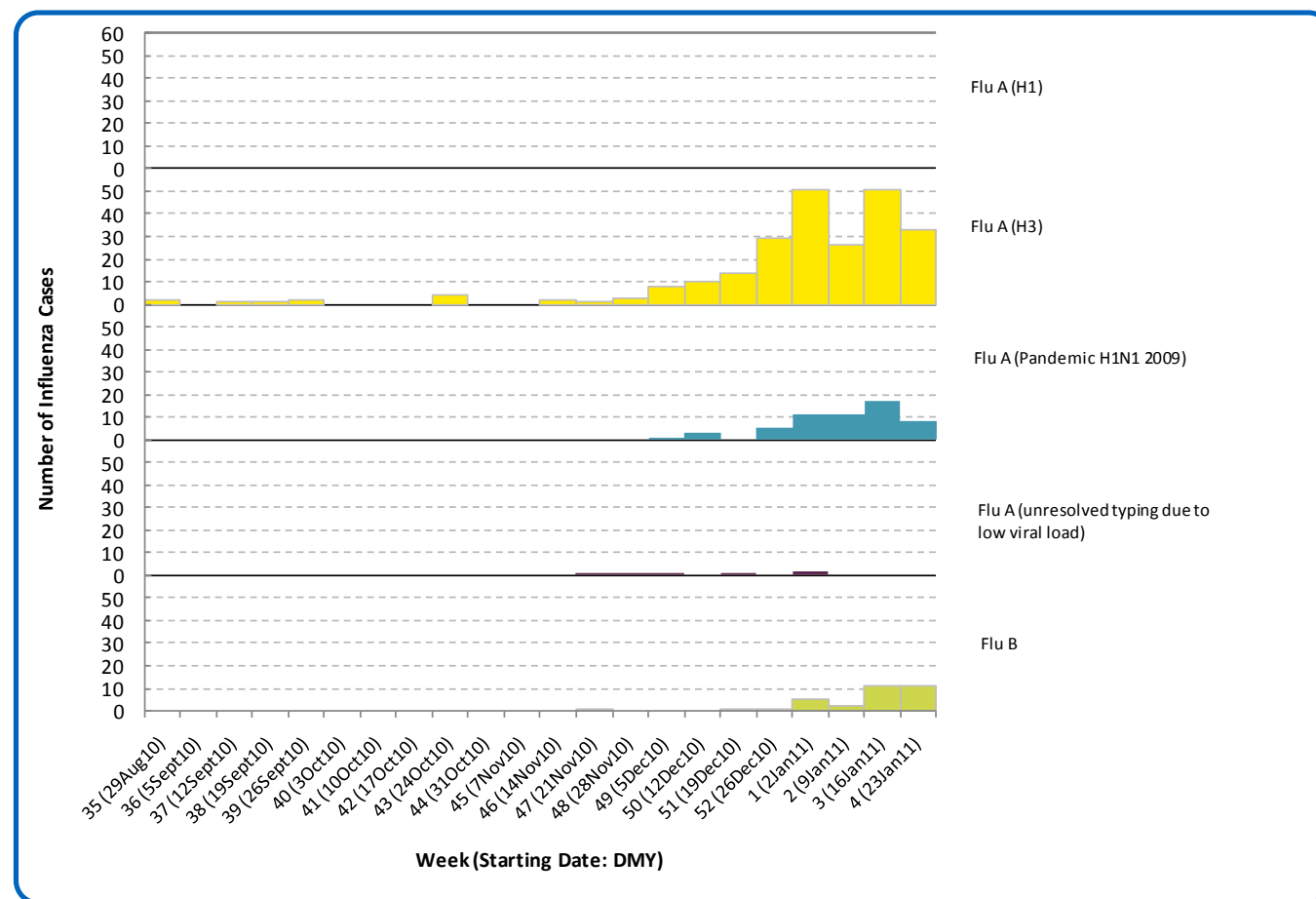
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Figure 1C: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week specimen received, Alberta (2010-2011)

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*Note: Nine specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s). These cases have been included in the influenza A or B counts, as well as the other respective specimen type(s). They have not been included in the 'Mixed' category. One specimen was positive for both influenza A & B. Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011). 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: New Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Week 4: Jan 23-29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	7	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2	9	0.9
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	2	0.1	1	0.1	0	0.0	3	0.2	6	0.4
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	3	0.1	2	<0.1	0	0.0	2	<0.1	7	0.2
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	15	0.1	4	<0.1	0	0.0	3	<0.1	22	0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
75+ years	0	0.0	4	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	5	0.3
Total	0	0.0	33	0.1	8	<0.1	0	0.0	11	<0.1	52	0.1

Table 1B: Cumulative Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Aug 29, 2010 – Jan 29, 2011)

Table 1B: Cumulative influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Aug 29, 2010 – Jan 29, 2011)												
	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	33	3.2	9	0.9	1	0.1	6	0.6	49	4.8
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	16	1.1	2	0.1	1	0.1	5	0.4	24	1.7
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	5	0.3	4	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.2	12	0.7
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	13	0.3	4	0.1	1	<0.1	7	0.2	25	0.6
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	100	0.4	37	0.2	2	<0.1	10	<0.1	149	0.6
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	12	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	0.6
75+ years	0	0.0	59	3.3	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1	61	3.4
Total	0	0.0	238	0.7	56	0.2	6	<0.1	32	0.1	332	0.9

Source for Table 1A & 1B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

Population data values used to calculate rates are for June 30, 2009 and are estimated using actual population values from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Registration File as of March 31, 2009.

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

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

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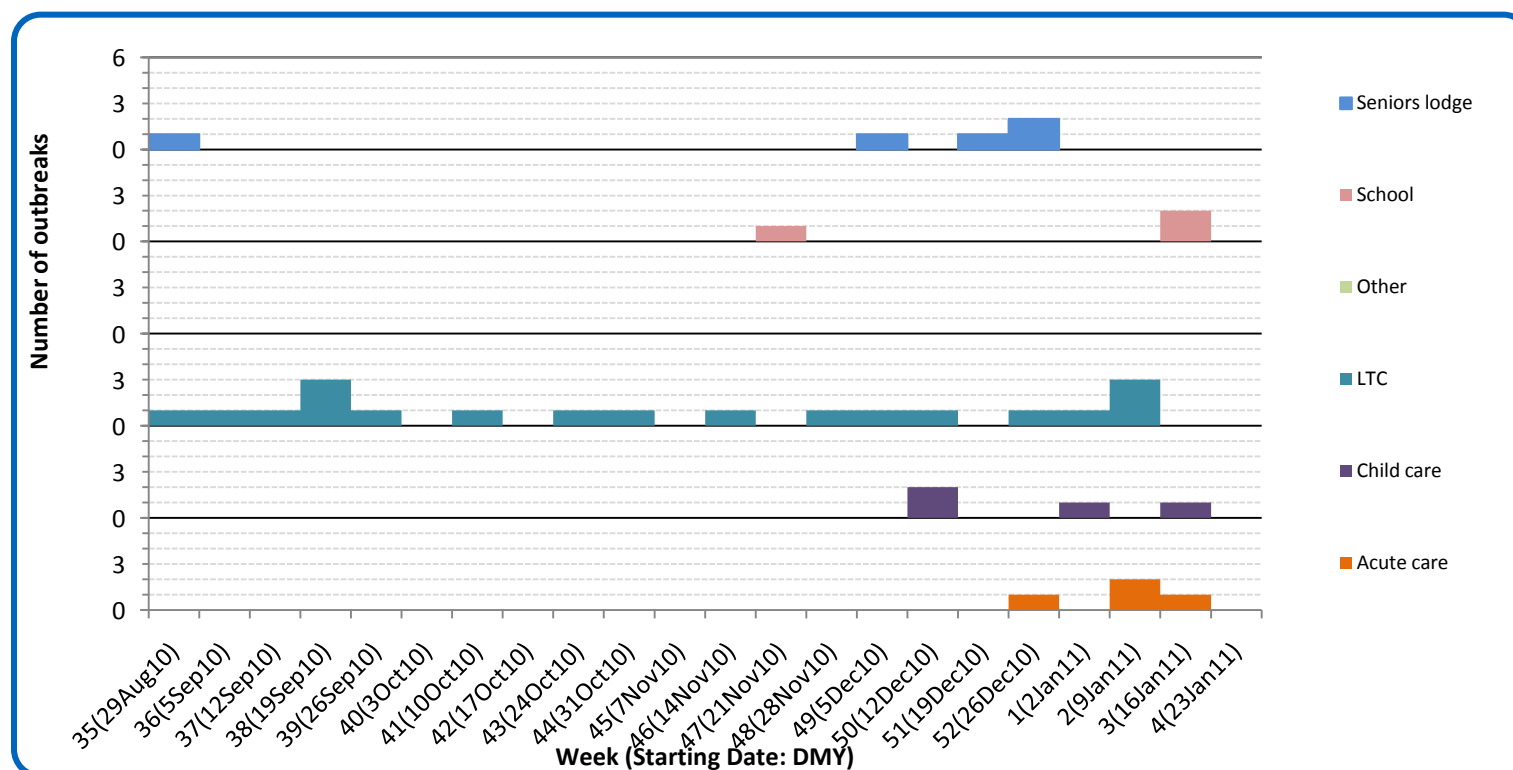
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No new respiratory outbreaks were reported for Week 4 (Jan 23 – 29, 2011) in Alberta, however four that were reported in previous weeks have now been confirmed. One outbreak that occurred in Week 1 (Jan 2 – 8, 2011) of January in a Central Zone long term care facility has been attributed to coronavirus. Another in Calgary Zone acute care facility that occurred in Week 3 (Jan 16 – 22, 2011) was attributed to RSV. The outbreak in a Calgary Zone long term care facility, mentioned in last week's update, has a corrected onset date of Jan 12, 2011, and has been attributed to parainfluenza. Lastly, an outbreak in an Edmonton Zone child care facility that also occurred in Week 3 was attributed to RSV.

Figure 1D: Respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by onset week, Alberta (2010-2011; school outbreaks may not have a laboratory confirmation)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on Jan 29, 2011. LTC stands for long term care facility. For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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Attack rates in respiratory outbreaks

Of the four newly confirmed outbreaks, the coronavirus outbreak in a Central Zone long term care facility had an attack rate of 52%; the RSV outbreak in a Calgary Zone acute care facility had a preliminary attack rate of 15%; the parainfluenza outbreak in a Calgary Zone long term care facility had an attack rate of 26%; and the RSV outbreak in an Edmonton Zone child care facility had a preliminary attack rate of 42%.

Influenza-like illness visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers

The combined number of visits to the emergency departments/urgent care centers (ED's) for influenza-like illness (ILI) in the City of Calgary and Edmonton Zone increased by 12% in Week 4 (Jan 23 – 29, 2011) from the previous week. A similar increase was seen in the number of admissions to hospitals.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls last week to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties by Albertans did not change substantially from the previous week. This contrasts with the increasing pattern seen for ED visits for cough symptoms during the same period.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices for influenza-like illness (ILI) or lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The combined percentage of ILI- and LRTI-related visits was 16% lower in Week 3 (Jan 16 – 22, 2011) than in Week 2, as both ILI- and LRTI-related visits decreased.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

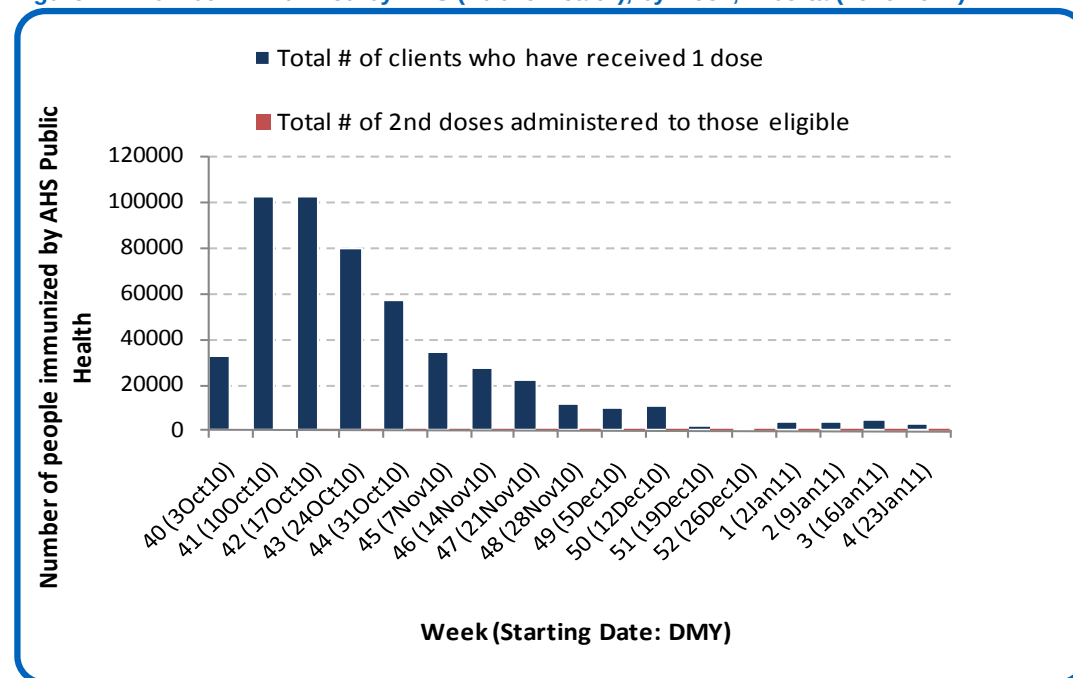
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Figure 1E: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Alberta (2010-2011)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers);

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 1C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Alberta (2010-2011)

Priority Group		# Immunized (Week 4 – Jan 23-29, 2011)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff		8	2,593
Health care workers		70	18,812
Pregnant women		52	4,558
Residents of long term care		3	4,827
65 years of age and over		197	146,383
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	Dose #1	707	23,116
	Dose #2	339	6,328
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	Dose #1	256	24,383
	Dose #2	65	1,229
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	47	5,639
	Dose #2	2	120
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years		185	55,376
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	163	18,241
	Dose #2	10	528
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years		1,243	207,145
Total number of clients who have received 1 dose		2,931	511,073
Total number of 2nd doses administered to those eligible*		416	8,205

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

*Children under 9 years of age who have not received at least one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine in past years require two doses, given at least four weeks apart.

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

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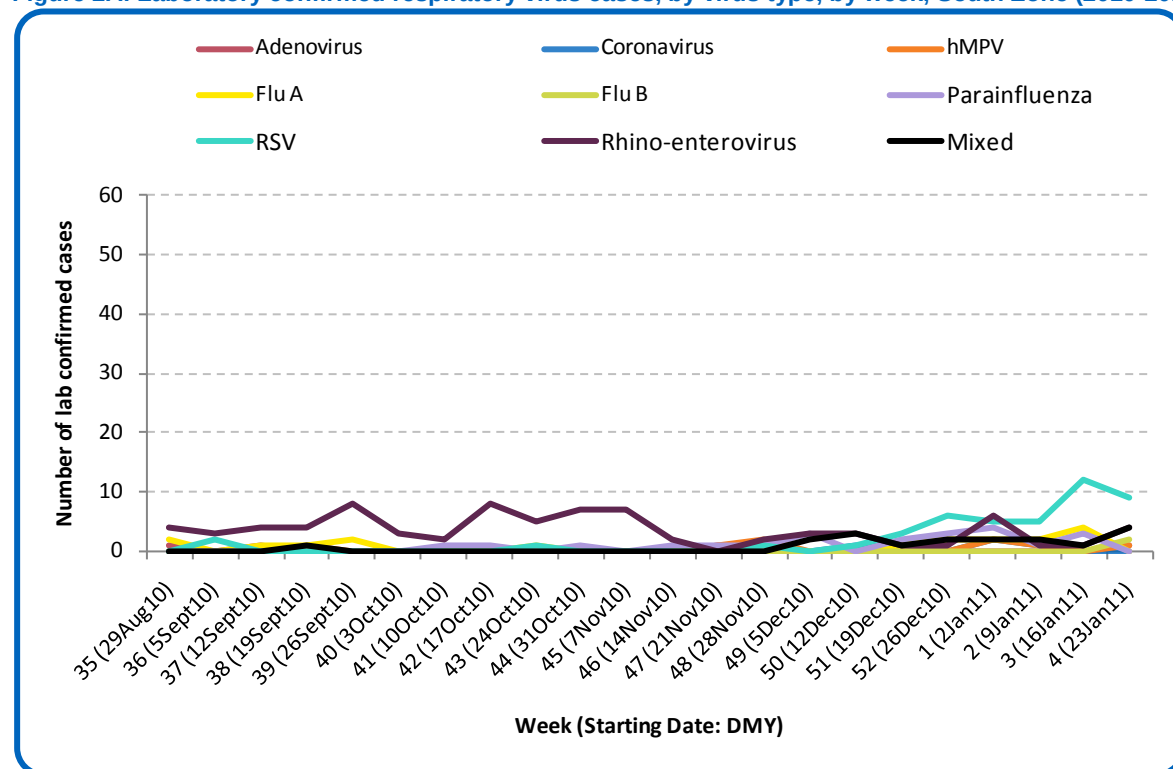
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SECTION 2: ZONE 1 - SOUTH

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RSV is currently the predominant virus in South Zone. So far this season, there have been a total of 20 confirmed cases of influenza in this part of the province. Five cases have been in children under the age of 5 years (including one infant), fourteen cases have been in adults aged 18 to less than 65 years, and one case has been in an adult aged 75 years and over. Of note, two cases of influenza type B were confirmed in South Zone last week. These are the first influenza B cases to be confirmed in this part of the province this season.

Figure 2A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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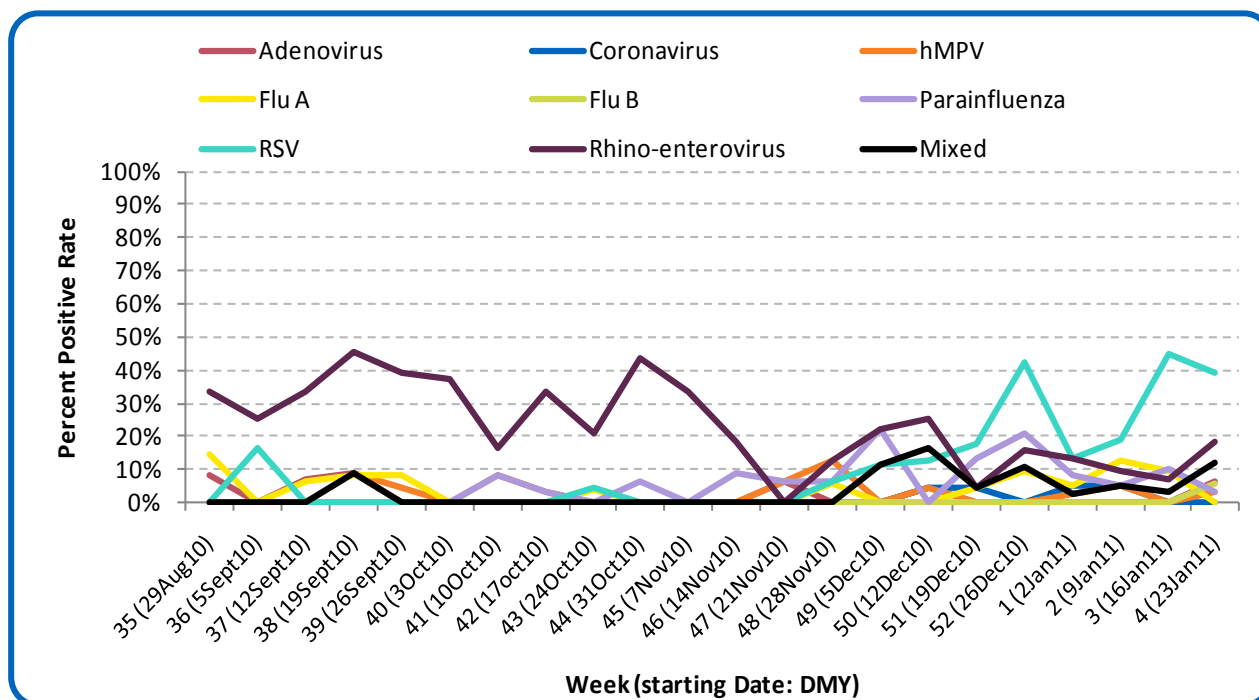
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Figure 2B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011)

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

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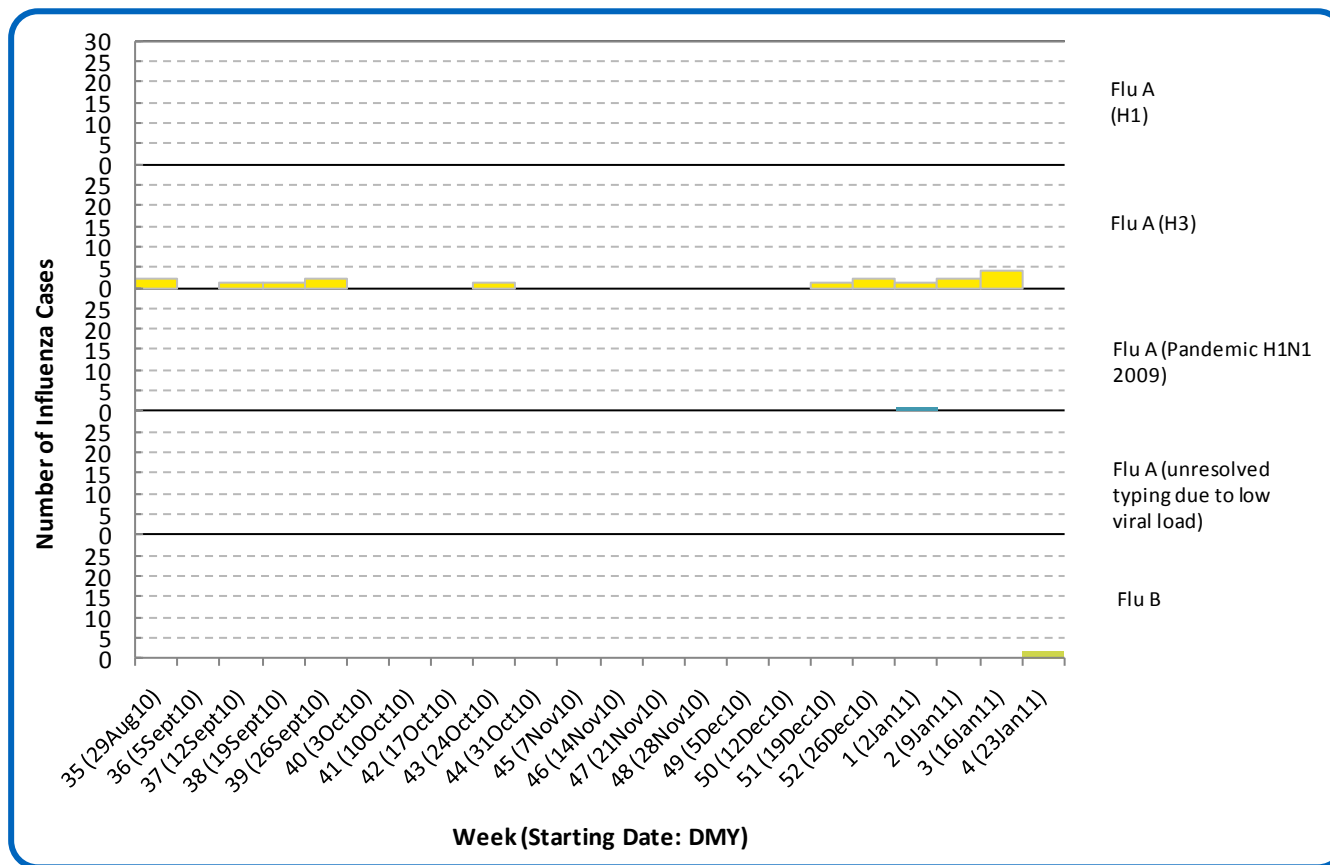
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Figure 2C: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week specimen received, South Zone (2010-2011)



Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).
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Table 2A: New Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Week 4: Jan 23-29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	2	0.1	2	0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.1

Table 2B: Cumulative Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Aug 29, 2010–Jan 29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	1	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.2
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	4	3.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	3.5
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	11	0.6	1	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1	14	0.8
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	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5
Total	0	0.0	17	0.6	1	<0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1	20	0.7

Source for Tables 2A & 2B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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

There have been no respiratory outbreaks reported in South Zone this season.

Influenza-like illness visits to emergency departments and urgent care centers

This information is not available for the South Zone.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

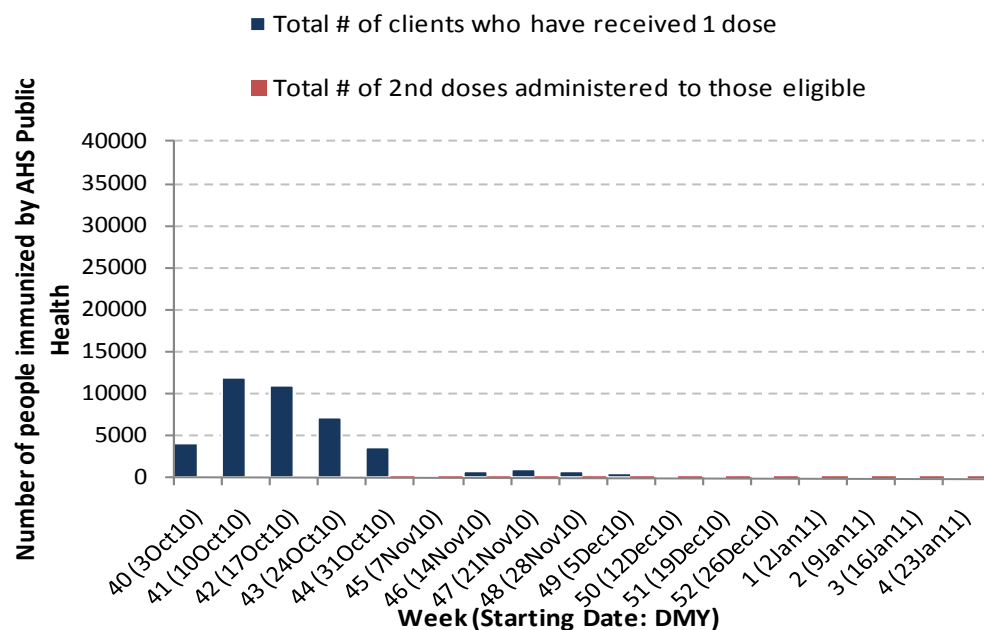
The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties by residents of South Zone was 18% lower in Week 4 (Jan 23 – 29, 2011) than in Week 3.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices for influenza-like illness (ILI) or lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The combined percentage of ILI- and LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of South Zone was 52% lower in Week 3 (Jan 16 – 22, 2011) than in the previous week as both ILI- and LRTI-related visits declined.

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Figure 2D: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, South Zone (2010-2011)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

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 2C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, South Zone (2010-2011)
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Priority Group		Number Immunized (Week 4 – Jan 23-29, 2011)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff		1	615
Health care workers		5	1,560
Pregnant women		0	296
Residents of long term care		0	730
65 years of age and over		3	15,571
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	Dose #1	48	1,404
	Dose #2	17	461
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	Dose #1	13	1,922
	Dose #2	1	115
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	4	497
	Dose #2	0	15
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years		1	4,083
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	10	1,465
	Dose #2	1	51
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years		34	14,542
Total number of clients who have received 1 dose		119	42,685
Total number of 2nd doses administered to those eligible*		19	642

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

*Children under 9 years of age who have not received at least one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine in past years require two doses, given at least four weeks apart.

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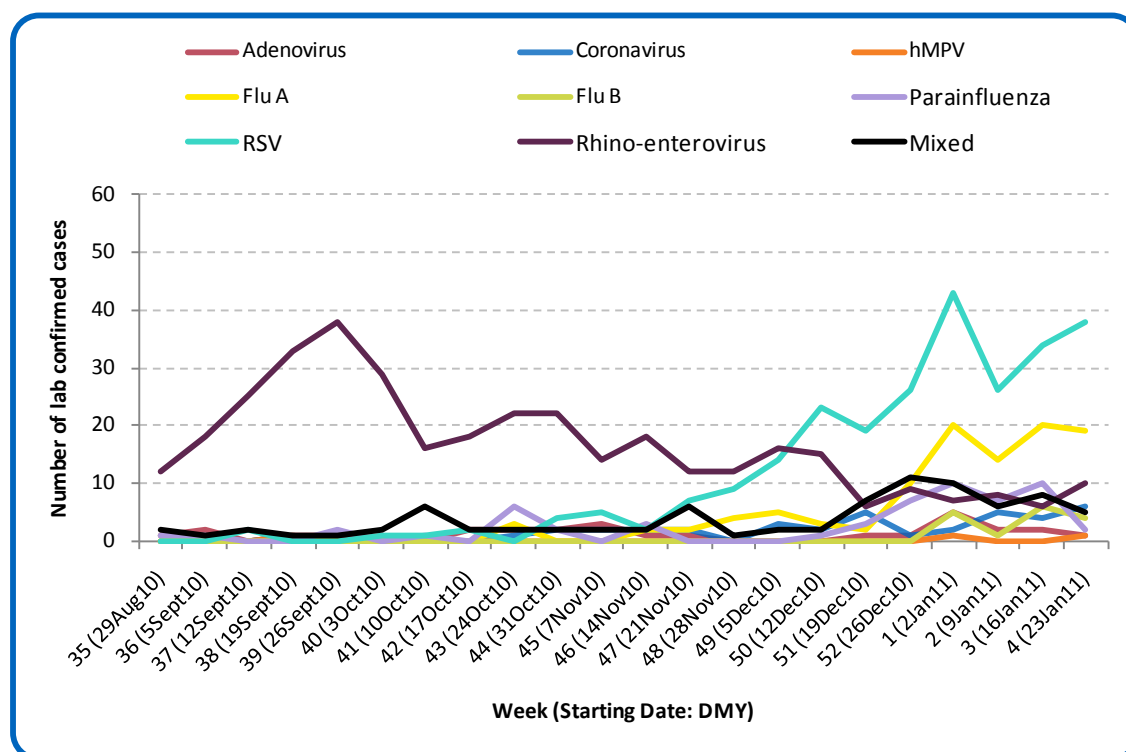
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 3: ZONE 2 - CALGARY

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RSV, and to a lesser extent, influenza continue to be the predominant viruses in Calgary Zone. Since the beginning of the season, a total of 120 cases of influenza have been confirmed in Calgary Zone (62.5% influenza A (H3); 21.7% influenza A (H1N1) 2009; 2.5% influenza A with unresolved sub-typing and 13.3% influenza B). At this point in the season, similar to other areas in the province, the age specific rate for confirmed influenza cases (all types) in infants 0 to <2 years of age is higher than the rate in other age groups in Calgary Zone, at 3.5 per 10,000.

Figure 3A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

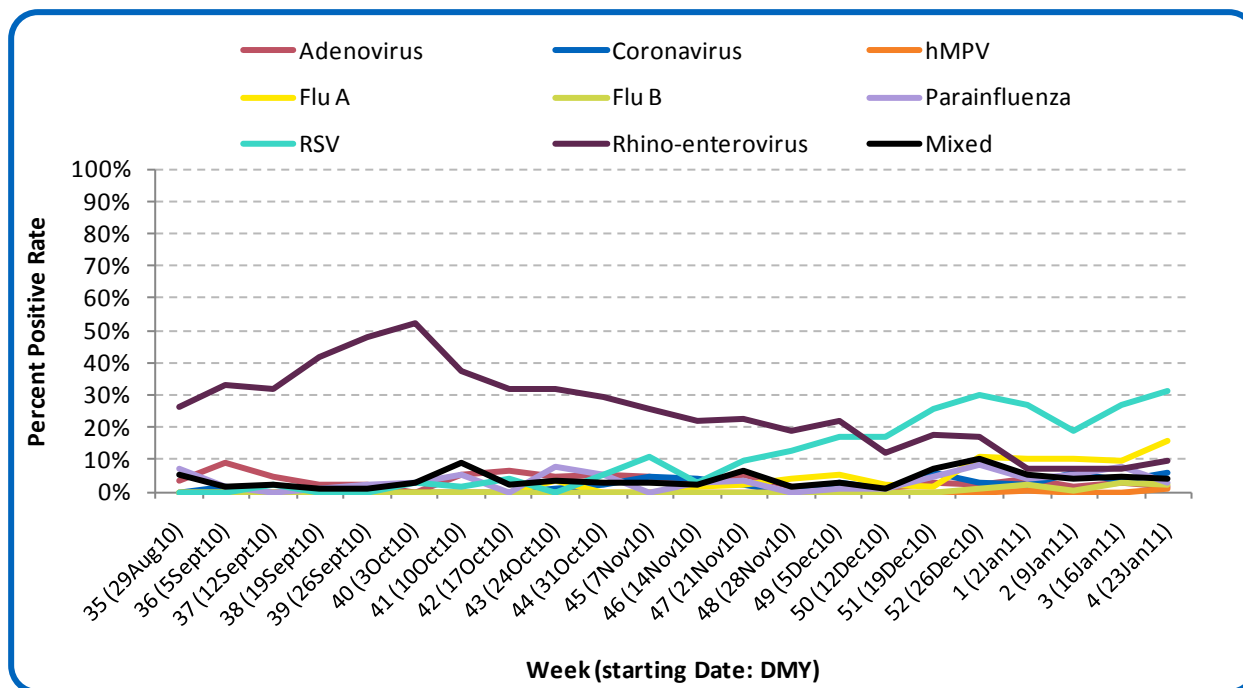
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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Figure 3B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

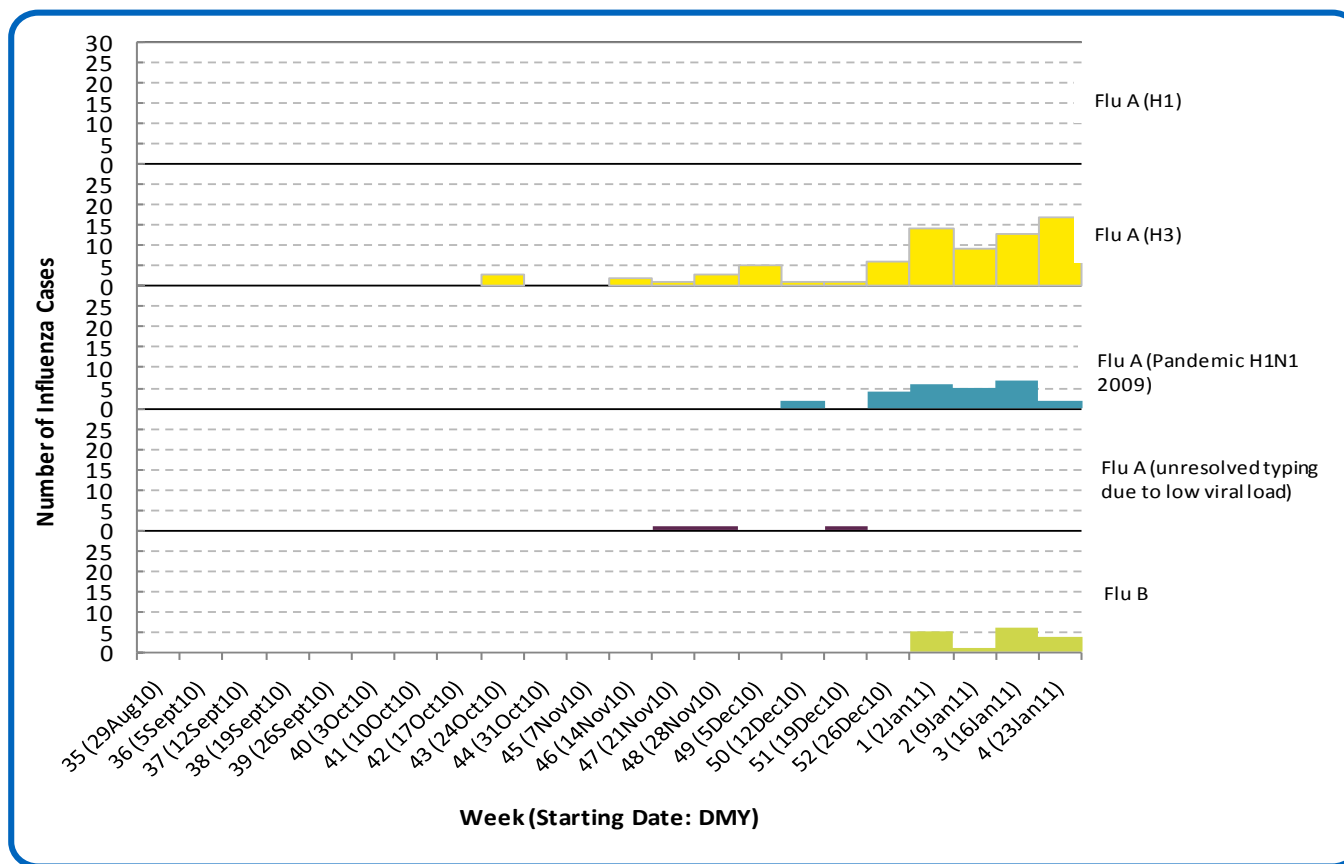
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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Figure 3C: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week specimen received, Calgary Zone (2010-2011)



Note: Two specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s). These cases have been included in the influenza A or B counts, as well as the other respective specimen type(s). They have not been included in the 'Mixed' category. One specimen was positive for both influenza A & B.
Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).
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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Table 3A: New Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Week 4: Jan 23-29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	4	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	5	1.3
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4	4	0.8
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
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	9	0.1	2	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.3
Total	0	0.0	17	0.1	2	<0.1	0	0.0	4	<0.1	23	0.2

Table 3B: Cumulative Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Aug 29, 2010 – Jan 29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	7	1.9	3	0.8	0	0.0	3	0.8	13	3.5
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	4	0.8	1	0.2	1	0.2	3	0.6	9	1.8
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	2	0.3	1	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.5	6	1.0
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	5	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1	7	0.5
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	39	0.4	21	0.2	1	<0.1	5	0.1	66	0.7
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	4	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.6
75+ years	0	0.0	14	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	15	2.5
Total	0	0.0	75	0.6	26	0.2	3	<0.1	16	0.1	120	0.9

Source for tables 3A & 3B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

Population data values used to calculate rates are for June 30, 2009 and are estimated using actual population values from the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Registration File as of March 31, 2009.

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

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

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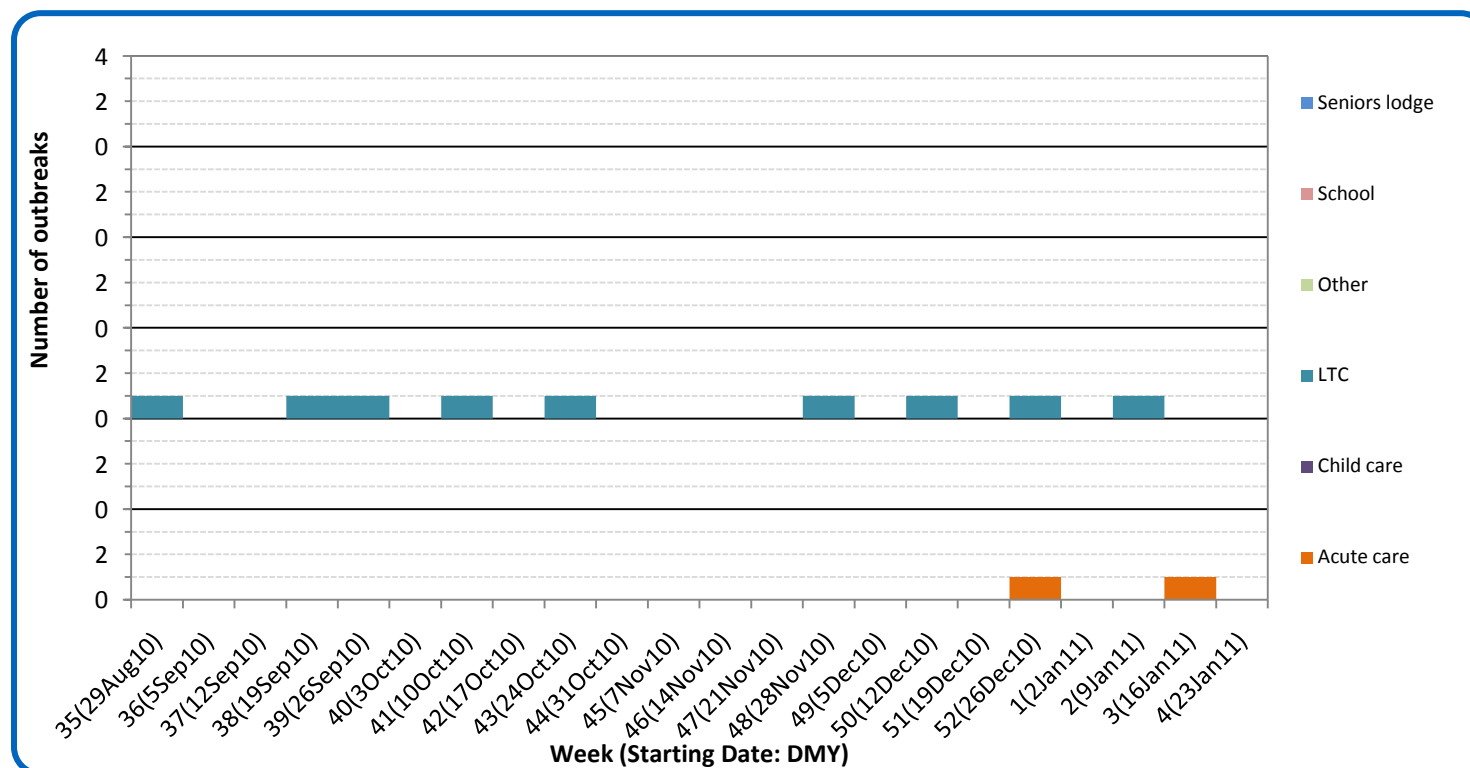
Report Date: February 1, 2011

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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Since last week's update, two respiratory outbreaks that occurred in Calgary Zone in previous weeks have been confirmed. One was in an acute care facility with an onset date of Jan 18, 2011 and was attributed to RSV. The other was in a long term care facility and was attributed to parainfluenza. Note that the latter has a corrected onset date of Jan 12, 2011.

Figure 3D: Respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by onset week, Calgary Zone (2010-2011; school outbreaks may not have a laboratory confirmation)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on Jan 29, 2011. LTC stands for long term care facility. For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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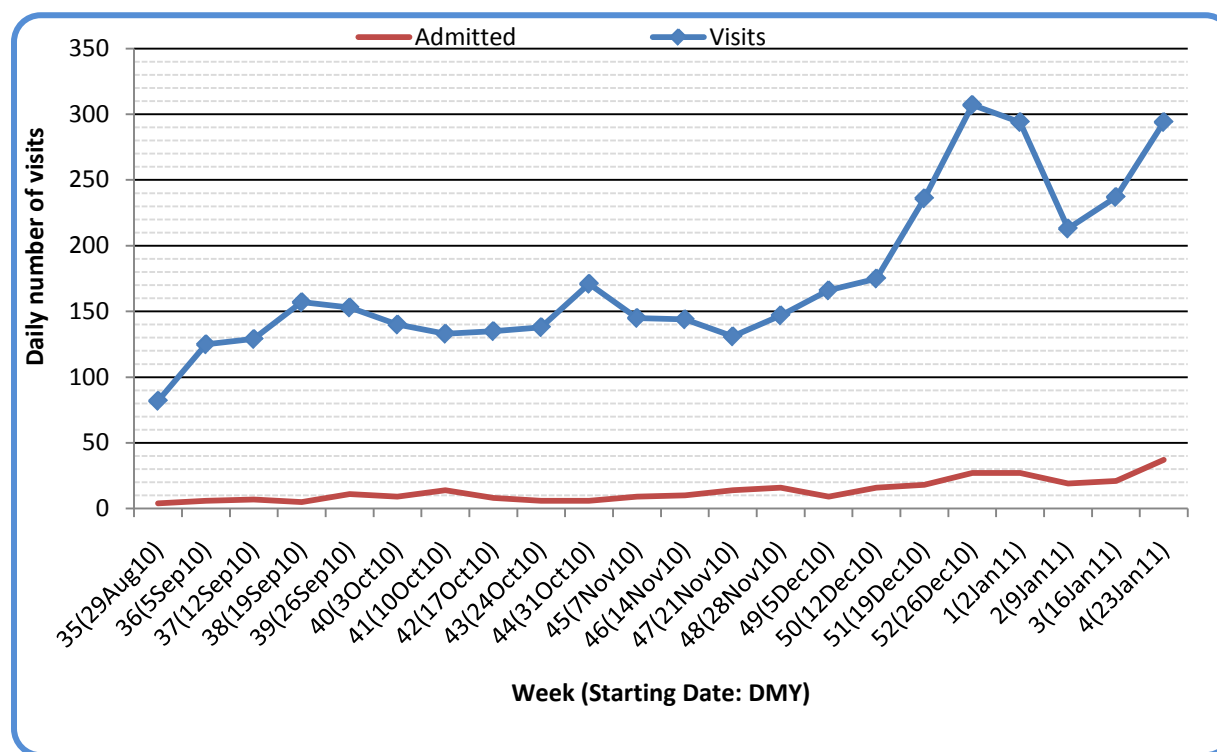
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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The number of visits and hospital admissions of patients with cough symptoms at the six urban emergency departments/urgent care centers in the City of Calgary increased by 24% and 76%, respectively, in Week 4 (Jan 23-29, 2011) from the previous week. This continues the reversal of decline seen in the first part of January.

Figure 3E: Visits to urban emergency departments/urgent care centers in the City of Calgary with cough symptoms and admissions to hospitals, by visit week (2010-2011)



Source: Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on Jan 29, 2011.
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>

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

The RSV outbreak in the Calgary Zone acute care facility had a preliminary attack rate of 15%. The parainfluenza outbreak in the long term care facility had an attack rate of 26%.

Influenza-like illness visits to emergency departments and urgent care centers

The number of visits and hospital admissions for influenza-like illness (ILI) at the six urban emergency departments/ urgent care centers (ED's) in the City of Calgary were 5% and 4% higher, respectively, last week compared to the previous week. The percentage of ILI positive visits is approximately 7% of all screened visits.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties by residents of Calgary Zone has been gradually increasing for the last 3 weeks.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices for influenza-like illness (ILI) or lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The combined percentage for ILI- and LRTI-related visits was 10% higher in Week 3 (Jan 16-22, 11) compared to week 2 because of increased LRTI-related visits.

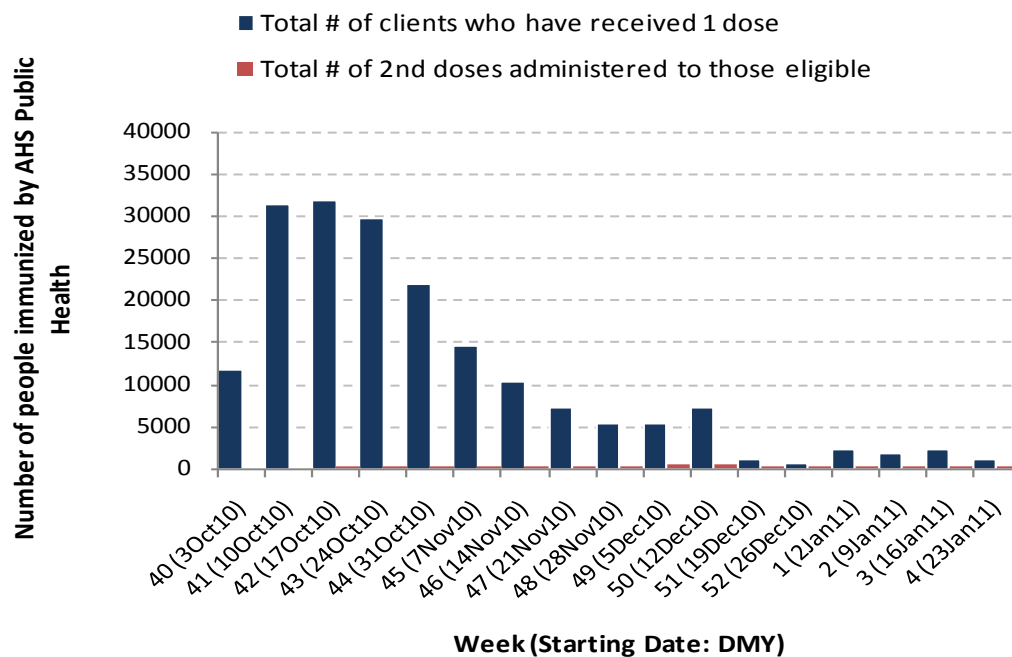
SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT**Public Health Surveillance**

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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>

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Figure 3F: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Calgary Zone (2010-2011)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

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>

Table 3C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Calgary Zone (2010-2011)
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Priority Group		Number Immunized (Week 4 – Jan 23-29, 2011)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff		2	446
Health care workers		14	5,280
Pregnant women		30	1,900
Residents of long term care		0	706
65 years of age and over		37	44,642
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	Dose #1	358	11,379
	Dose #2	160	2,705
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	Dose #1	129	10,761
	Dose #2	29	490
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	22	2,272
	Dose #2	1	37
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years		49	19,795
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	59	7,074
	Dose #2	4	198
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years		537	82,296
Total number of clients who have received 1 dose		1,237	186,551
Total number of 2nd doses administered to those eligible*		194	3,430

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

*Children under 9 years of age who have not received at least one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine in past years require two doses, given at least four weeks apart.

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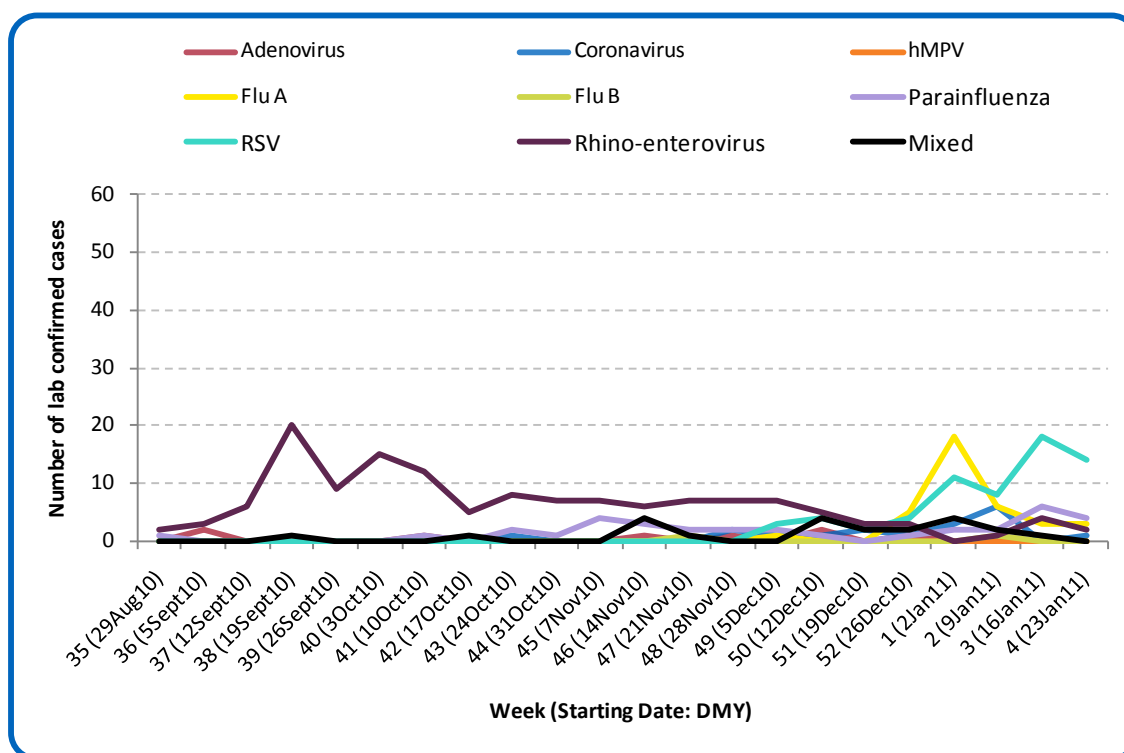
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 4: ZONE 3 - CENTRAL

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Similar to other areas of the province, RSV is currently the predominant virus circulating in Central Zone. The total number of influenza cases confirmed in Central zone this season is 38 (86.8% of which have been influenza A (H3)). At this point in the season, the age-specific rate for confirmed cases of influenza in those 75 years and over is currently 5.5 per 10,000, while the age-specific rate is 4.1 for infants aged 0 to less than 2 years of age. For all other age groups, it is less than 1 per 10,000.

Figure 4A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Central Zone (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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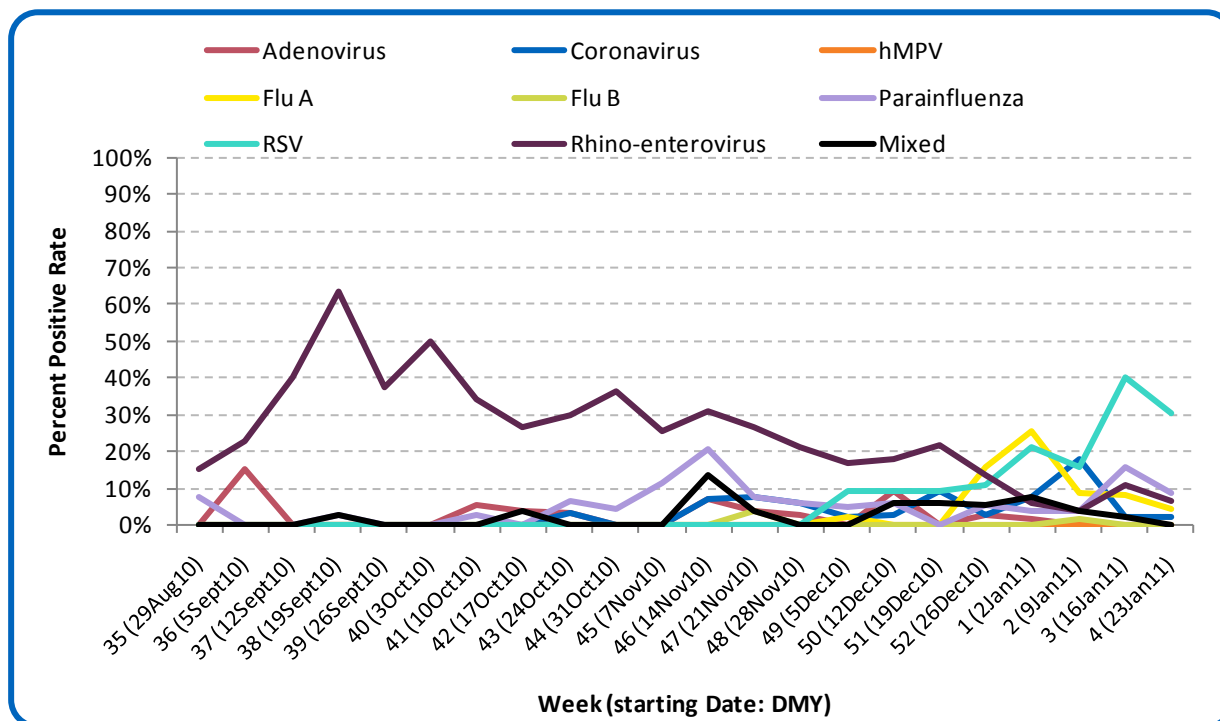
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

Figure 4B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Central Zone (2010-2011)

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Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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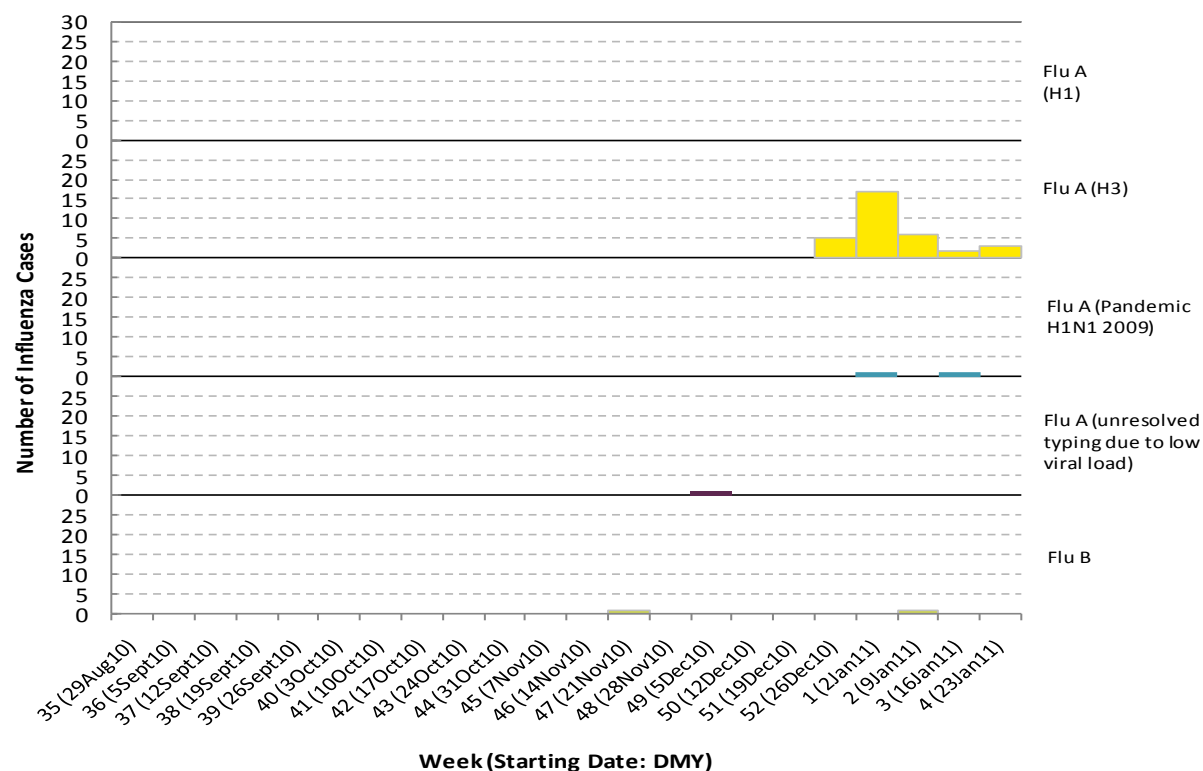
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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Figure 4C: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week specimen received, Central Zone (2010-2011)



Note: Two specimens were positive for influenza A and one or more other virus type(s). These cases have been included in the influenza A counts, as well as the other respective specimen type(s). They have not been included in the 'Mixed' category.

Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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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Table 4A: New Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Central Zone (Week 4: Jan 23-29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.8
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	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	0	0.0	3	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.1

Table 4B: Cumulative Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Central Zone (Aug 29, 2010 – Jan 29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	5	4.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	4.1
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	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	9	0.3	2	0.1	1	<0.1	2	0.1	14	0.5
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	2	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.7
75+ years	0	0.0	15	5.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	5.5
Total	0	0.0	33	0.7	2	<0.1	1	<0.1	2	0.0	38	0.9

Source for Tables 4A & 4B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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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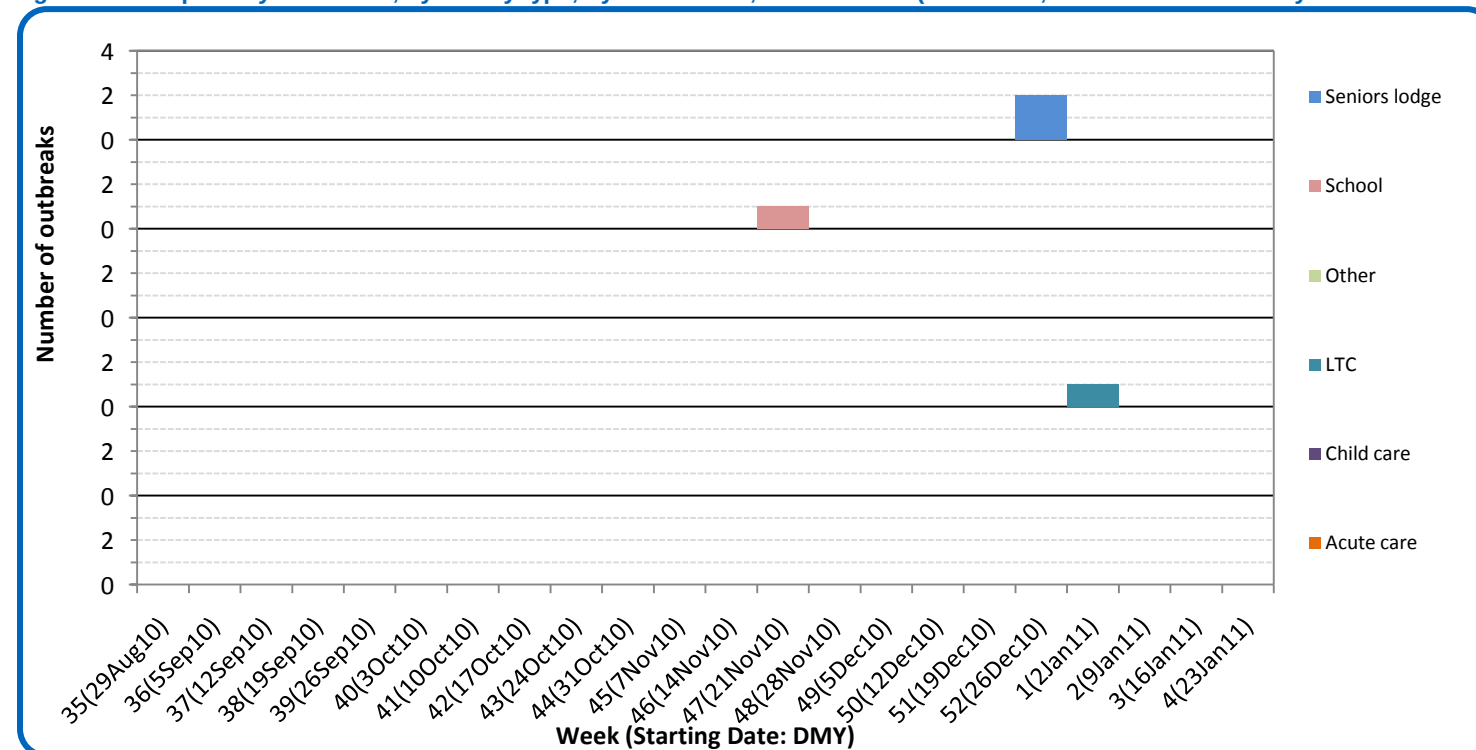
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Of the three Central Zone respiratory outbreaks mentioned in last week's update, the one occurring in a LTC facility with an onset date of Jan 8, 2011 has since been attributed to coronavirus. The other two outbreaks are still pending laboratory confirmation.

Figure 4D: Respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by onset week, Central Zone (2010-2011; school outbreaks may not have a laboratory confirmation)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on Jan 29, 2011.

For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#). LTC stands for long term care facility.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

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

The coronavirus outbreak in the long term care facility had an attack rate of 52%.

Influenza-like illness visits to emergency departments and urgent care centers

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 Central Zone for cough or breathing difficulties has shown a decreasing pattern in recent weeks.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices for influenza-like illness (ILI) or lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The combined percentage of ILI- and LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of Central Zone was 17% higher in Week 3 (Jan 16 – 22, 2011) compared to the week prior to that, as LRTI-related visits increased (no ILI-related visits were reported).

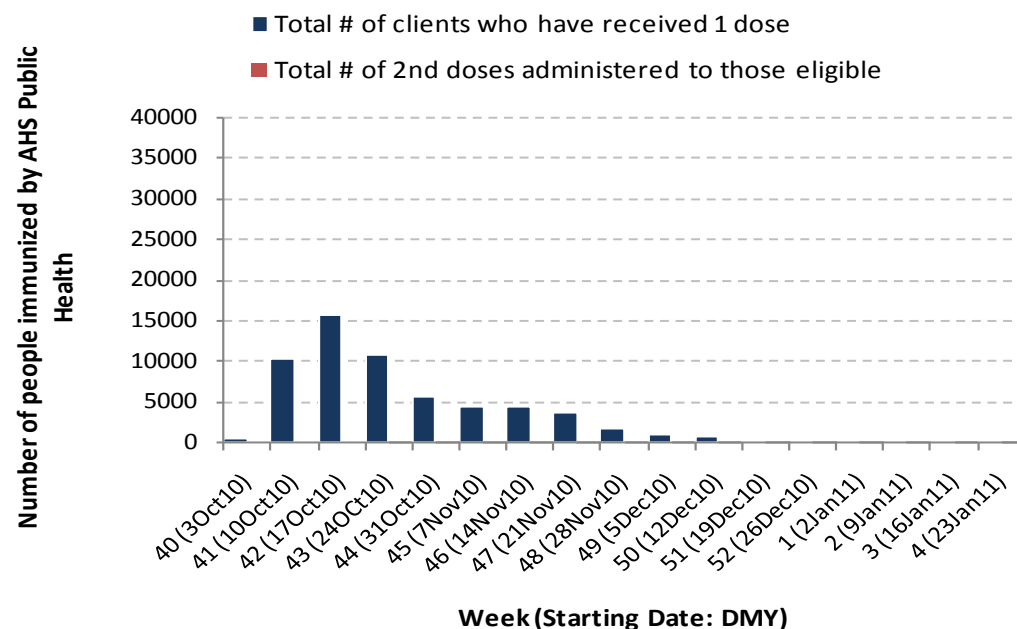
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Figure 4E: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Central Zone (2010-2011)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

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 4C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Central Zone (2010-2011)

Priority Group		Number Immunized (Week 4 – Jan 23-29, 2011)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff		0	403
Health care workers		10	2,558
Pregnant women		1	422
Residents of long term care		1	1,104
65 years of age and over		33	22,079
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	Dose #1	90	2,080
	Dose #2	36	719
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	Dose #1	26	2,218
	Dose #2	8	159
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	2	630
	Dose #2	0	23
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years		28	6,812
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	21	1,920
	Dose #2	1	67
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years		62	20,525
Total number of clients who have received 1 dose		274	60,751
Total number of 2nd doses administered to those eligible*		45	968

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

*Children under 9 years of age who have not received at least one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine in past years require two doses, given at least four weeks apart.

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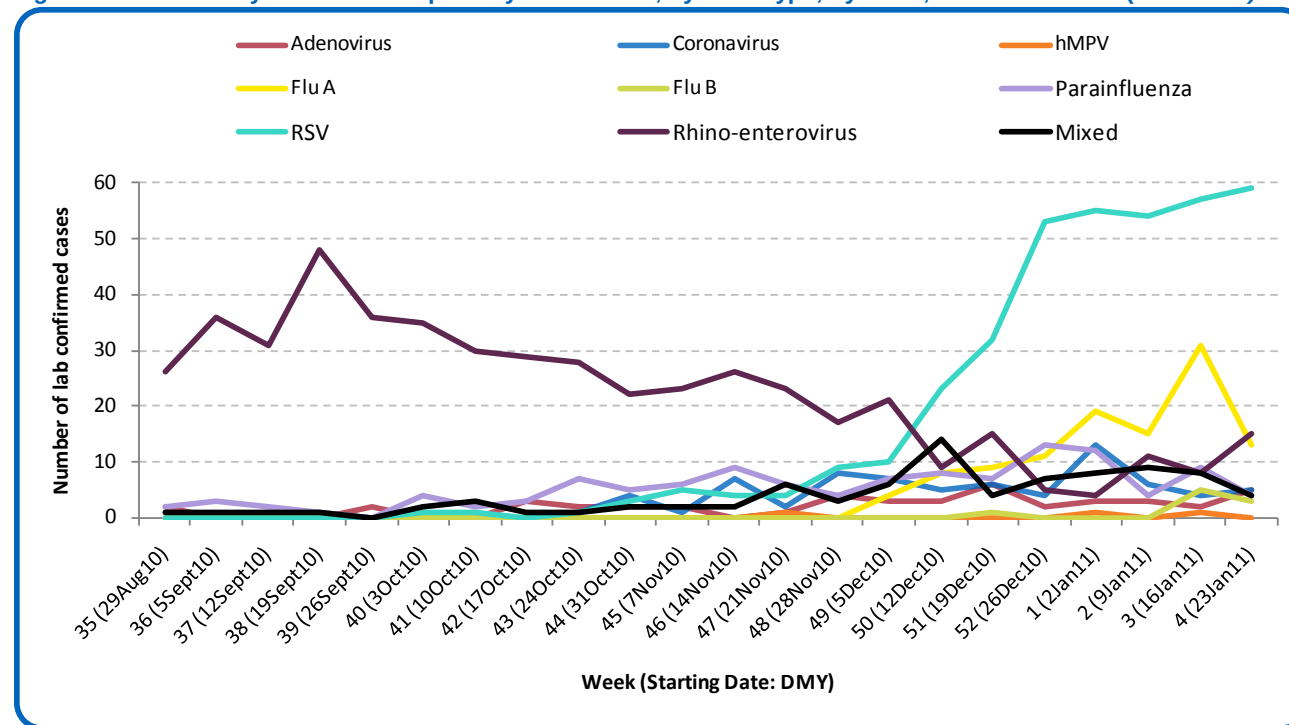
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 5: ZONE 4 – EDMONTON

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The number of RSV cases confirmed in Edmonton Zone continued to increase last week compared to the previous week. RSV continues to be the predominant respiratory virus circulating in Edmonton Zone. This season, there have been a total of 119 influenza cases confirmed in this area of the province. The age-specific rates for infants 0 to less than 2 years of age and for adults aged 75 years and over are higher compared to other age groups, at 6.6 per 10,000 and 4.9 per 10,000, respectively.

Figure 5A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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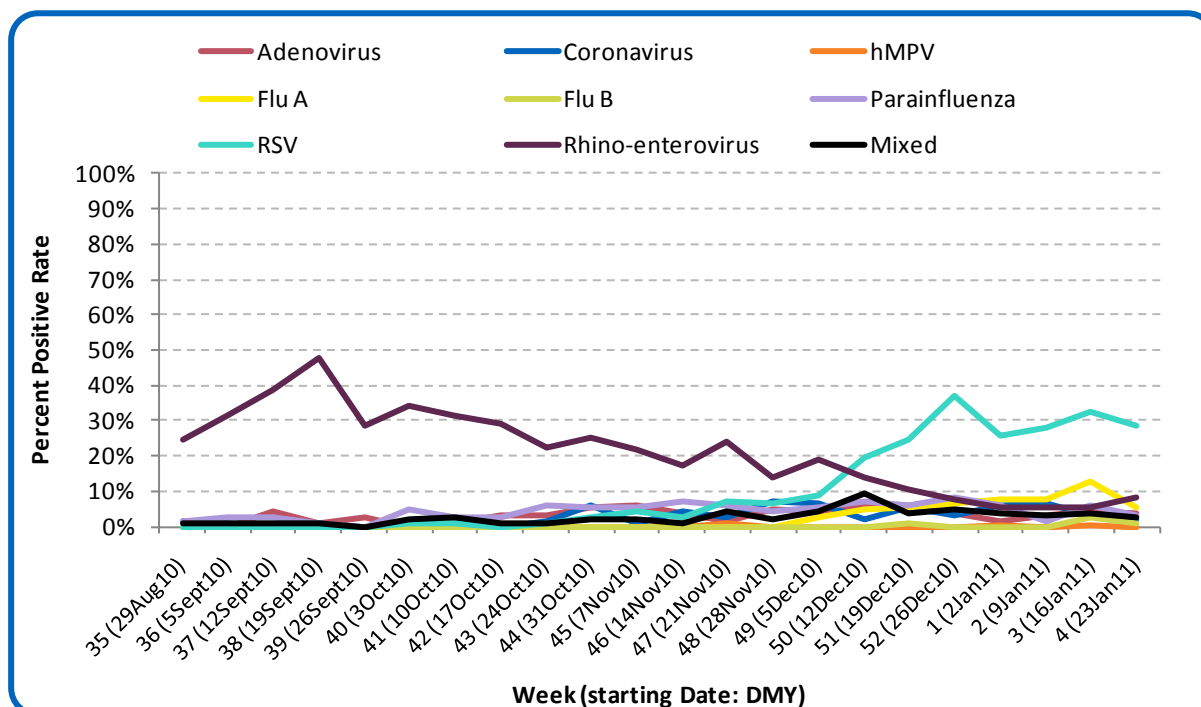
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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Figure 5B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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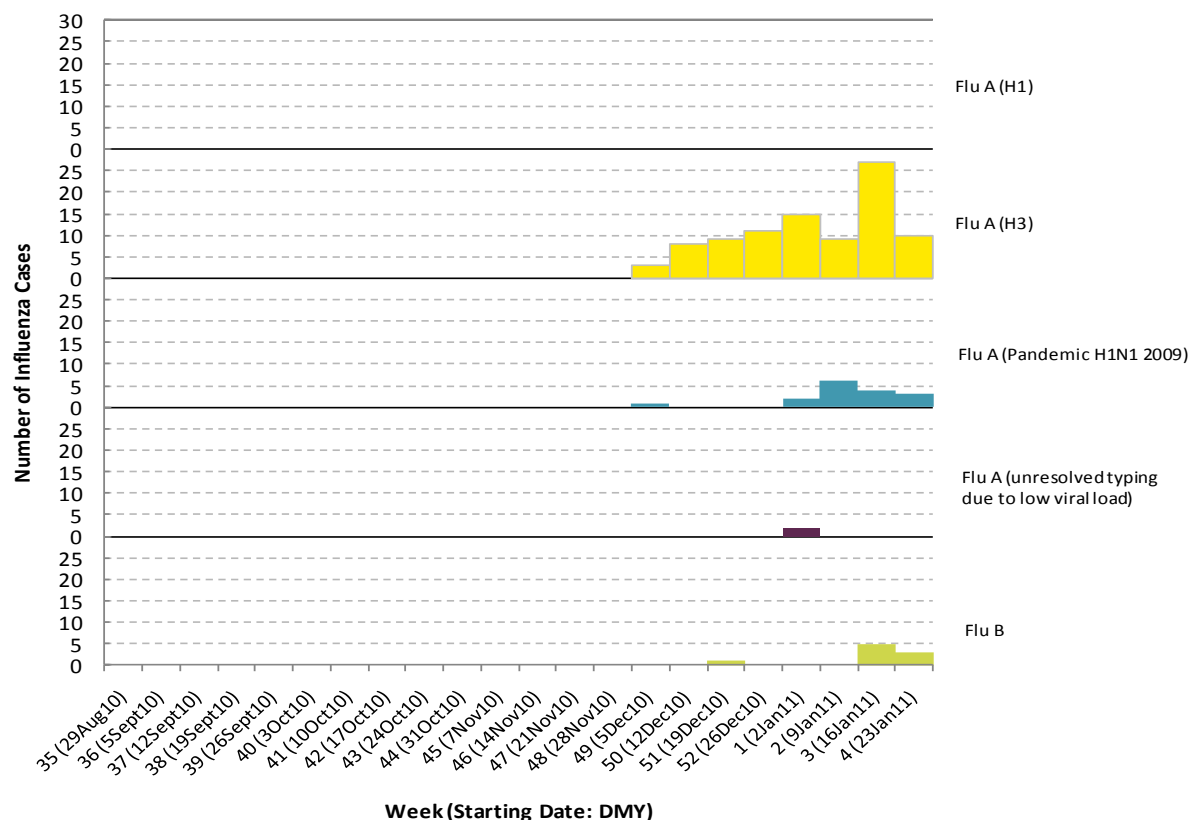
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Figure 5C: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week specimen received, Edmonton Zone (2010-2011)



Note: One specimen was positive for influenza A and one or more other virus type(s). This cases has been included in the influenza A count, as well as the other respective specimen type(s). It has not been included in the 'Mixed' category.

Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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: February 1, 2011

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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Table 5A: New Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Edmonton Zone (Week 4: Jan 23-29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.5
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	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2	3	0.2
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	3	<0.1	2	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3
75+ years	0	0.0	3	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.5
Total	0	0.0	10	0.1	3	<0.1	0	0.0	3	<0.1	16	0.1

Table 5B: Cumulative Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Edmonton Zone (Aug 29, 2010 – Jan 29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	14	4.7	3	1.0	1	0.3	2	0.7	20	6.6
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	7	1.7	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	9	2.2
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	2	0.4	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.8
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	3	0.2	1	0.1	0	0.0	6	0.5	10	0.8
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	32	0.4	9	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	41	0.5
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	6	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.9
75+ years	0	0.0	28	4.7	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	29	4.9
Total	0	0.0	92	0.8	16	0.1	2	<0.1	9	0.1	119	1.1

Source for tables 5A & 5B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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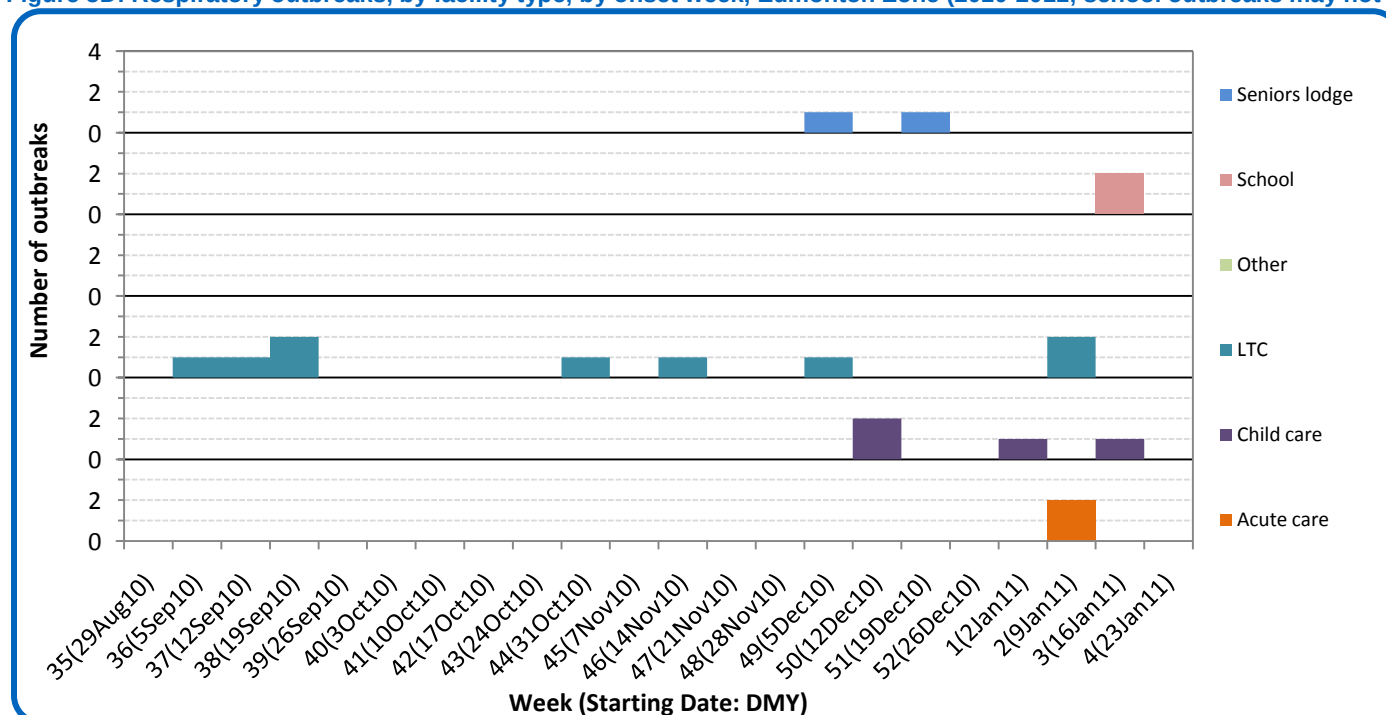
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An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

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No new outbreaks were reported in Edmonton Zone for Week 4 (Jan 23 – 29, 2011). One outbreak in a child care facility that occurred prior to this has since been confirmed and attributed to RSV.

Figure 5D: Respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by onset week, Edmonton Zone (2010-2011; school outbreaks may not have a laboratory confirmation)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on Jan 29, 2011. LTC stands for long term care facility.
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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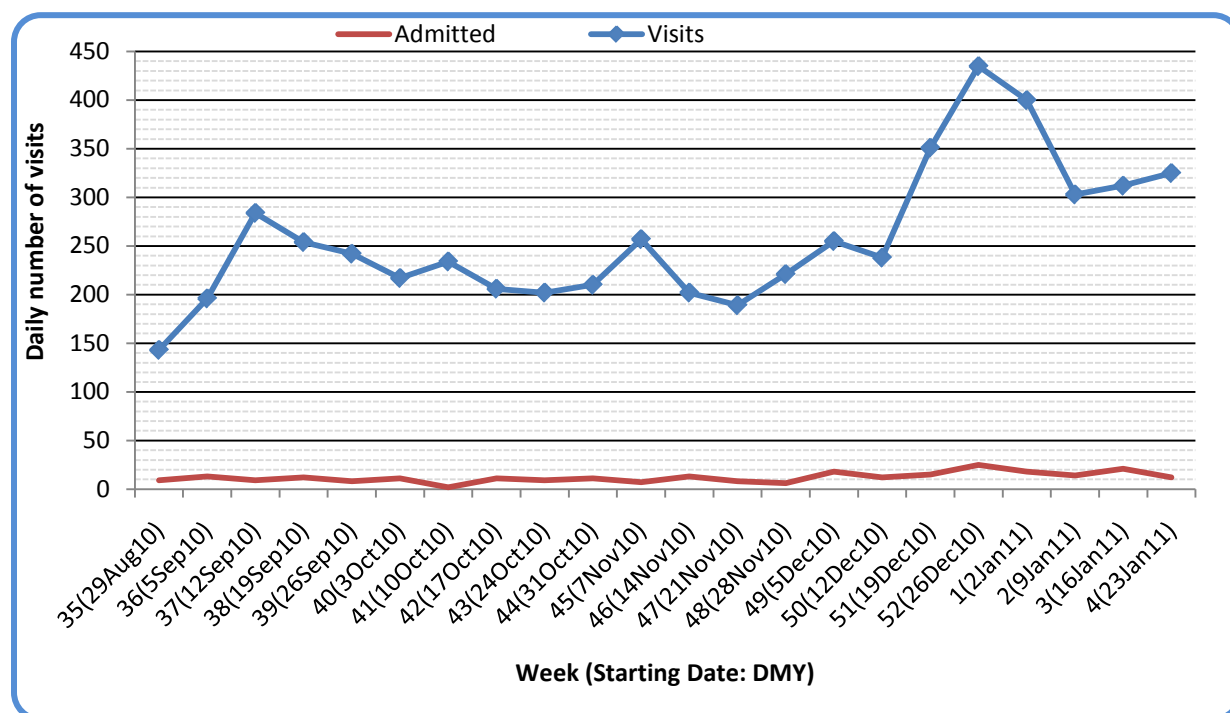
Report Date: February 1, 2011

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 of patients with cough/congestion symptoms increased by 4% in Week 4 (Jan 23-29, 2011) compared to Week 3 at nine emergency departments/urgent care centers in Edmonton Zone. The percentage of these visits remains at 4% of all visits. In contrast, the number of admissions to hospitals for the same reasons decreased by 42% in Week 4 compared to the previous week.

Figure 5E: Visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for cough/congestion and admissions to hospitals, Edmonton Zone, by visit week (2010-2011)



Source: Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on Jan 29, 2011.
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 RSV outbreak in an Edmonton Zone child care facility had an attack rate of 42%.

Influenza-like illness visits to emergency departments and urgent care centers

The number of visits and hospital admissions of patients with ILI symptoms at nine emergency departments/urgent care centers in Edmonton Zone increased by 19% and 18%, respectively, in Week 4 (Jan 23-29, 2011) compared to Week 3. The percentage of ILI-related visits is close to 5% of all visits screened for ILI symptoms.

Respiratory related calls to Health Link Alberta

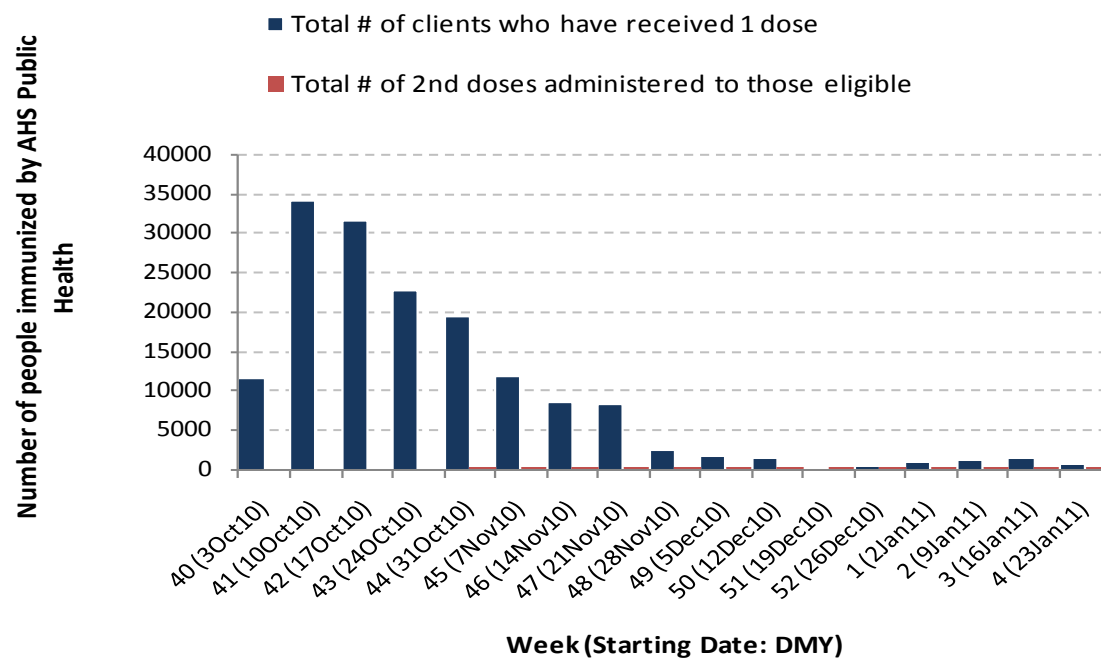
The number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of Edmonton Zone for cough or breathing difficulties was 4% lower in Week 4 (Jan 23-29, 2011) than in Week 3. A declining pattern has continued in recent weeks, while a contrasting increasing pattern is being seen for ED visits for cough/congestion in the same period.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices for influenza-like illness (ILI) or lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The combined percentage of ILI- and LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of Edmonton Zone was 26% lower in Week 3 (Jan 16-22, 2011) compared to the week prior to that, as both ILI- and LRTI-related visits had decreased.

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Figure 5F: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, Edmonton Zone (2010-2011)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

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>

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Table 5C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, Edmonton Zone (2010-2011)

Priority Group		Number Immunized (Week 4 – Jan 23-29, 2011)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff		1	321
Health care workers		25	4,755
Pregnant women		15	1,389
Residents of long term care		0	1,039
65 years of age and over		75	48,364
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	Dose #1	150	6,073
	Dose #2	84	1,771
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	Dose #1	69	7,015
	Dose #2	22	353
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	17	1,317
	Dose #2	1	35
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years		52	17,002
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	49	5,384
	Dose #2	2	160
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years		390	66,828
Total number of clients who have received 1 dose		843	159,487
Total number of 2nd doses administered to those eligible*		109	2,319

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

*Children under 9 years of age who have not received at least one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine in past years require two doses, given at least four weeks apart.

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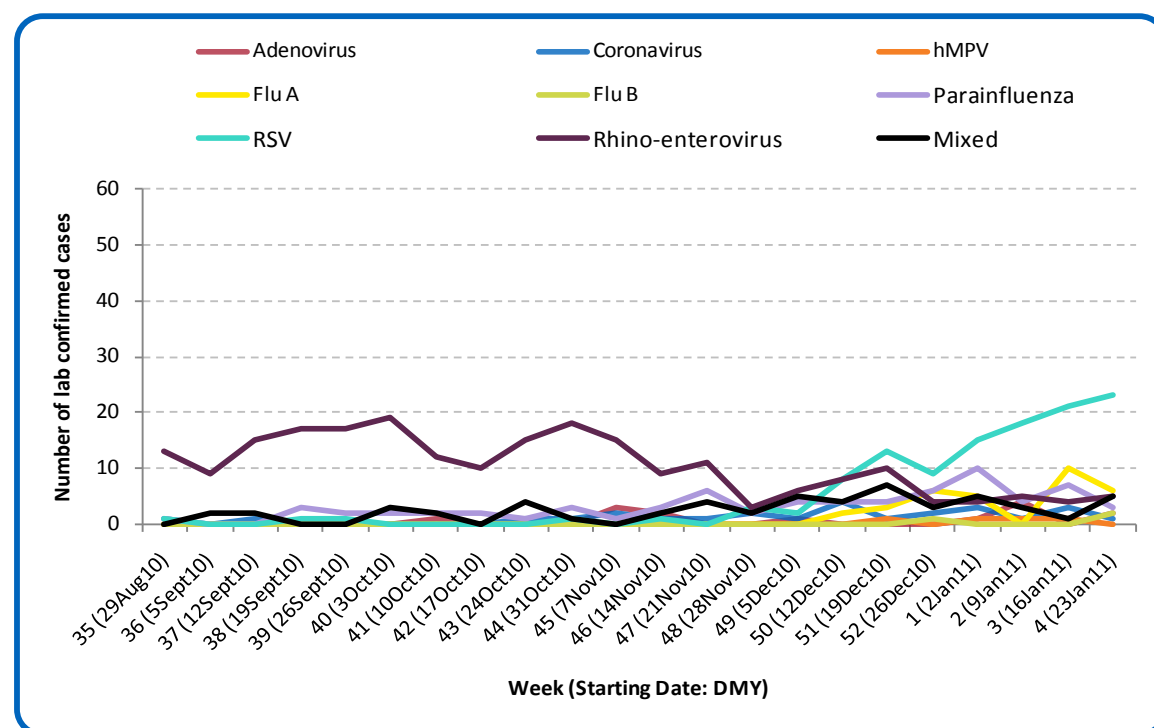
An influenza report targeted to the general public is available at: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/health-info/influenza-evidence.html>

SECTION 6: ZONE 5 – NORTH

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The number of laboratory confirmed RSV cases continues to increase in North Zone. As well, there were eight new cases of influenza confirmed in North Zone last week, including three cases of influenza A (H3), three cases of influenza A (H1N1) 2009 and two cases of influenza type B. Consistent with other areas of the province, the age specific rate for infants 0 to less than 2 years of age for confirmed influenza in North Zone is higher than the rate for any other age group (7.2 per 10,000 compared to 1.1 or less per 10,000). The total number of confirmed cases of influenza in North Zone this season is 35; including 21 cases of influenza A (H3), eleven cases of influenza A (H1N1) 2009, and three case of influenza type B.

Figure 6A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, North Zone (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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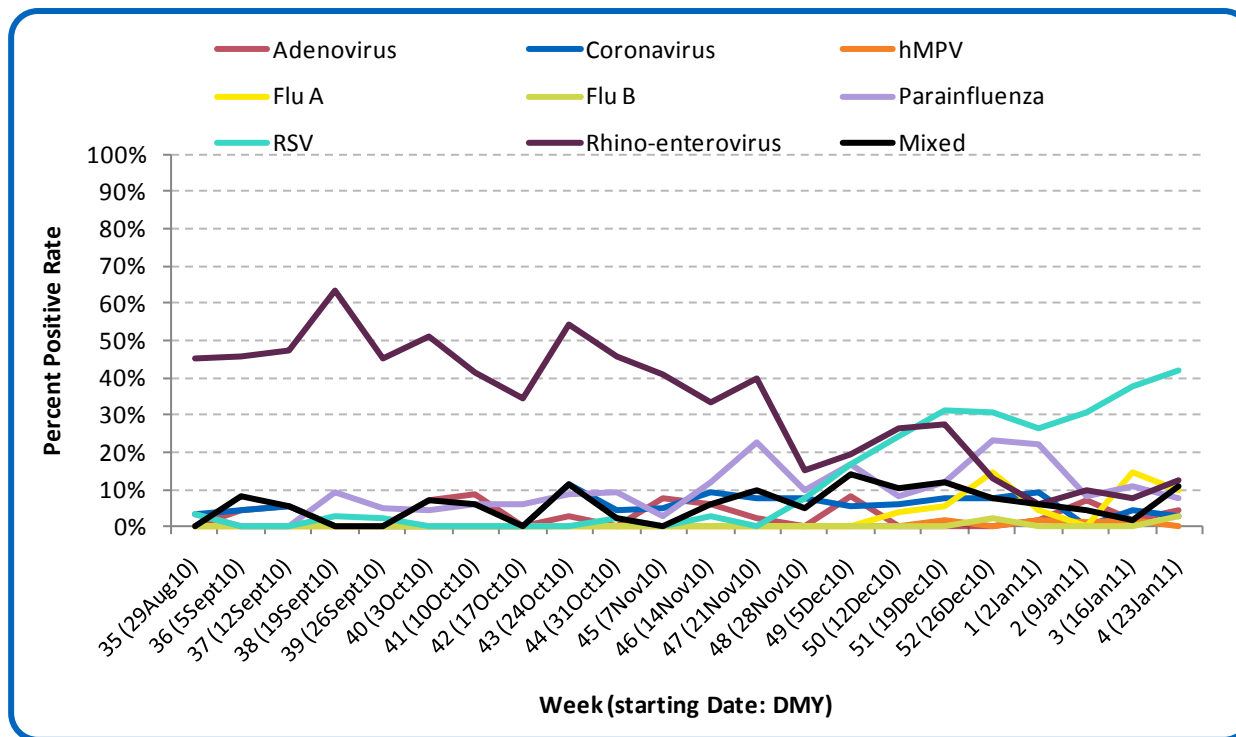
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Figure 6B: Respiratory Specimen Percent Positive Rates, by virus type, by week, North Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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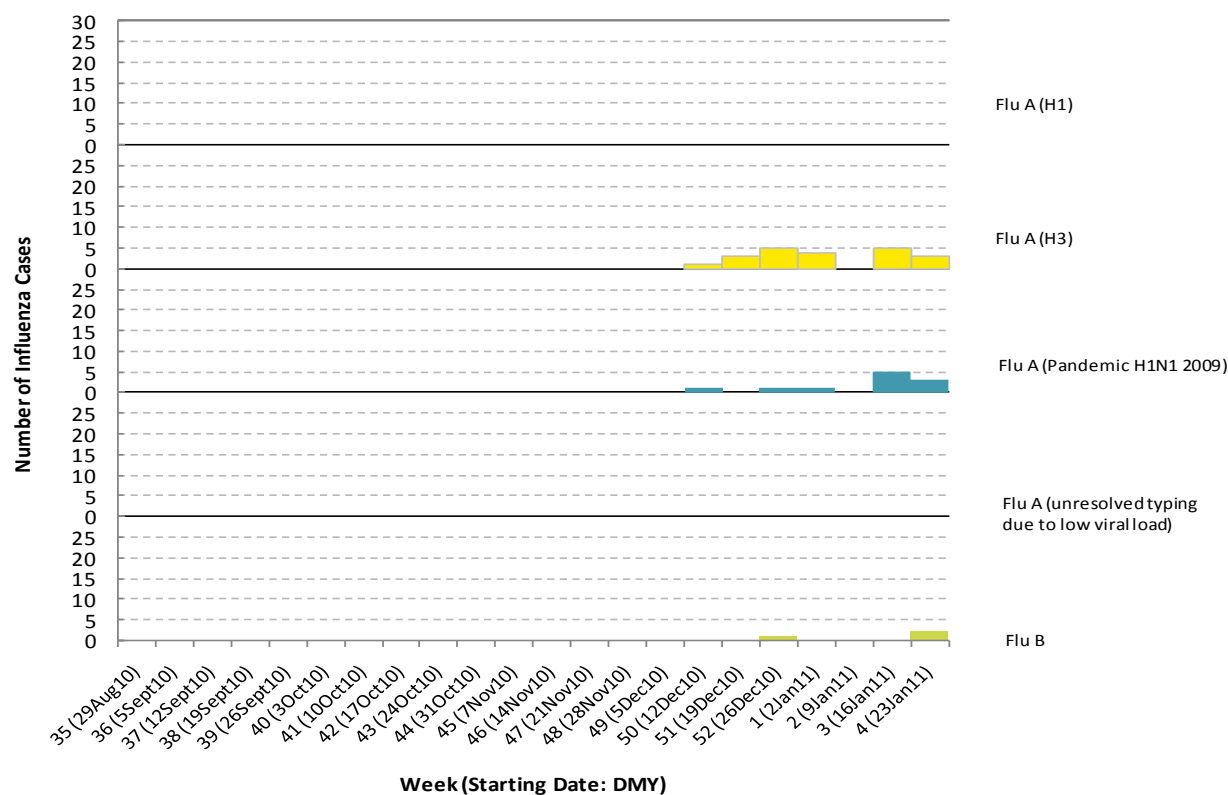
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Figure 6C: Laboratory confirmed Influenza cases, by subtype, by week specimen received, North Zone (2010-2011)



Note: Four specimens were positive for influenza A and one or more other virus type(s). These cases have been included in the influenza A counts, as well as the other respective specimen type(s). They have not been included in the 'Mixed' category.

Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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: New Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, North (Week 4: Jan 23-29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.7	2	1.4
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	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1	3	0.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	0	0.0	3	0.1	3	0.1	0	0.0	2	<0.1	8	0.2

Table 6B: Cumulative Influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, North Zone (Aug 29, 2010-Jan 29, 2011)

	Flu A (Seasonal-H1)		Flu A (Seasonal-H3)		Flu A (Pandemic H1N1 2009)		Flu A (unresolved typing due to low viral load)		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	6	4.3	3	2.2	0	0.0	1	0.7	10	7.2
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	2	1.0
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.8
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	3	0.5	3	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.1
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	9	0.3	4	0.1	0	0.0	1	<0.1	14	0.5
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	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.6
Total	0	0.0	21	0.5	11	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.1	35	0.8

Source for Tables 6A & 6B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before Jan 29, 2011).

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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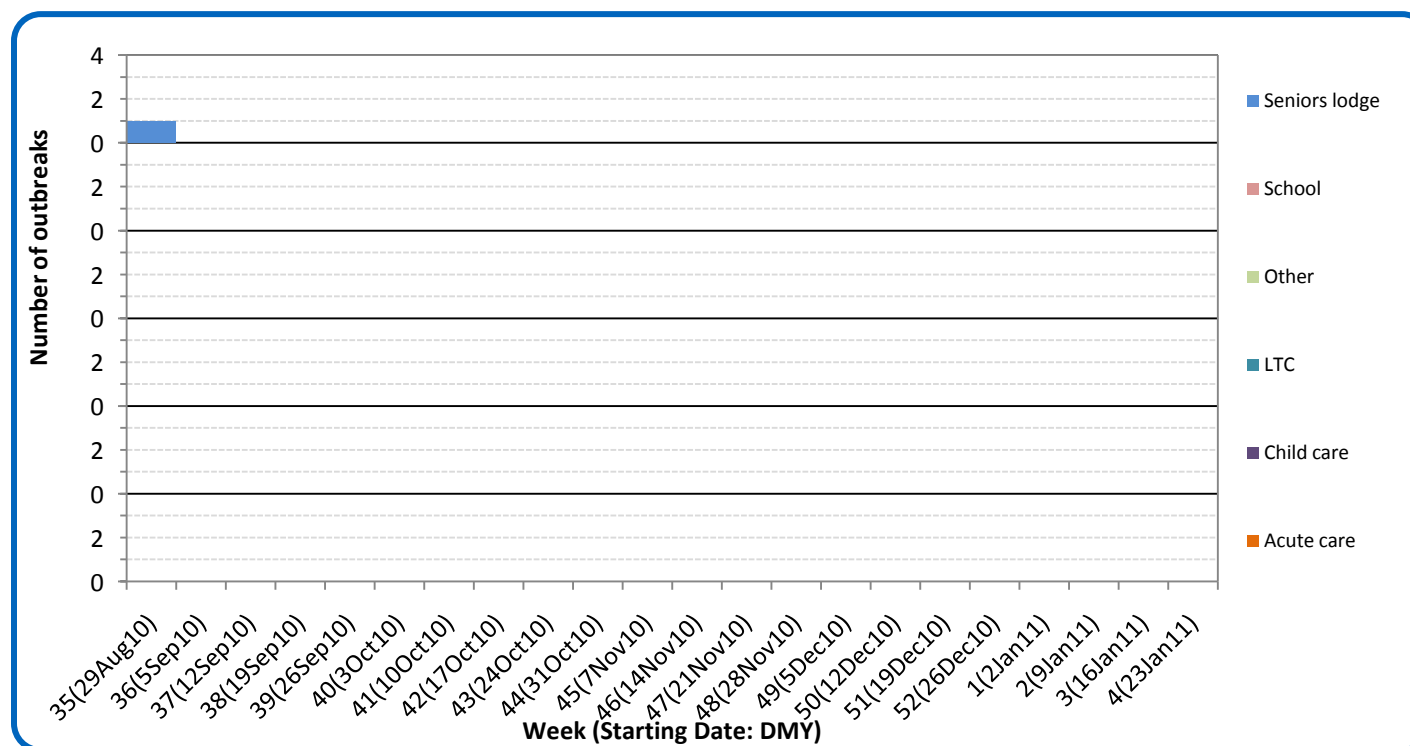
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Since the beginning of September, there have been no laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks reported in North Zone.

Figure 6D: Respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by onset week, North Zone (2010-2011; school outbreaks may not have a laboratory confirmation)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on January 29, 2011. LTC stands for long term care facility. For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

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

There have been no reports of respiratory outbreaks in North Zone since the beginning of September.

Influenza-like illness visits to emergency departments and urgent care centers

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 North Zone for cough or breathing difficulties was 60% higher in Week 4 (Jan 23 – 29, 2011) compared to the previous week. This is the highest this indicator has been this season.

Percentage of visits to sentinel offices for influenza-like illness (ILI) or lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI)

The combined percentage of ILI- and LRTI-related visits to sentinel physician offices by residents of North Zone was 54% lower in Week 3 (Jan 16 – 22, 2011) than in Week 2, as both ILI- and LRTI-related visits had decreased.

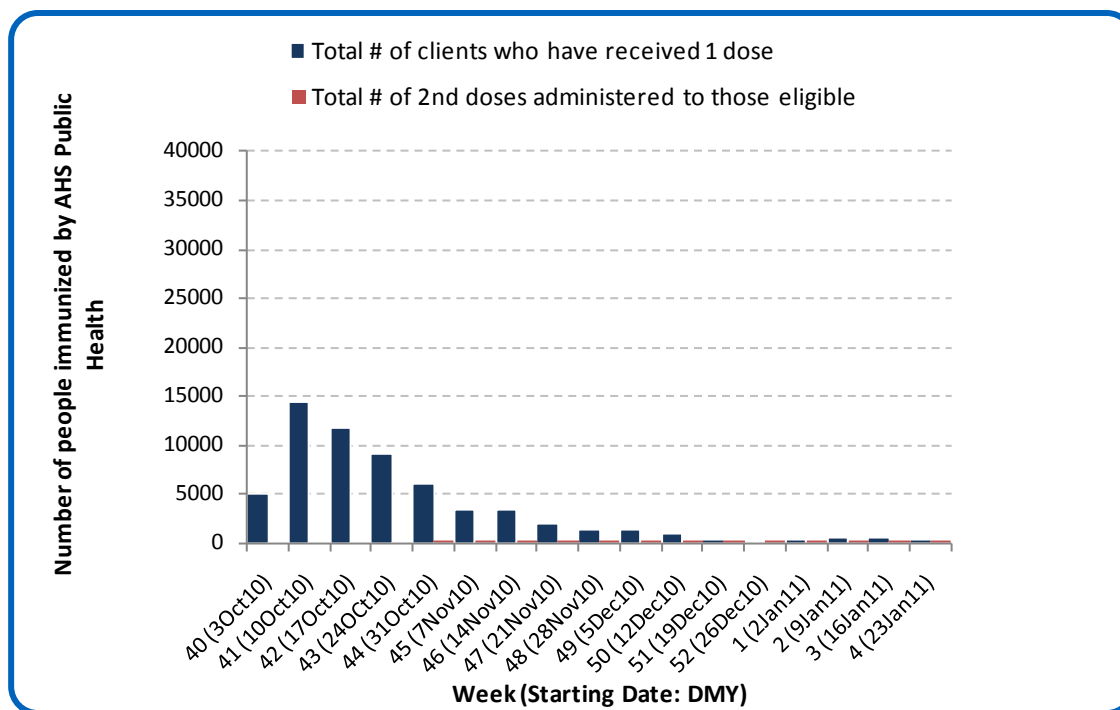
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Figure 6E: Number Immunized by AHS (Public Health), by week, North Zone (2010-2011)



Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

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 6C: AHS (Public Health) Delivered Influenza Immunizations (with Cumulative totals), by priority group, North Zone (2010-2011)

Priority Group		# Immunized (Week 4 – Jan 23-29, 2011)	Cumulative Number Immunized (since Oct 3, 2010)
Long term care staff		4	808
Health care workers		16	4,659
Pregnant women		6	551
Residents of long term care		2	1,248
65 years of age and over		49	15,727
All children 6 months up to and including 23 months*	Dose #1	61	2,180
	Dose #2	42	672
All children 24 months up to and including 59 months*	Dose #1	19	2,467
	Dose #2	5	112
High risk: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	2	923
	Dose #2	0	10
High risk: 9 years up to and including 64 years		55	7,684
Healthy: 5 years up to and including 8 years*	Dose #1	24	2,398
	Dose #2	2	52
Healthy: 9 years up to and including 64 years		220	22,954
Total number of clients who have received 1 dose		458	61,599
Total number of 2nd doses administered to those eligible*		49	846

Source: AHS Zones (doses do not include those delivered by external providers)

*Children under 9 years of age who have not received at least one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine in past years require two doses, given at least four weeks apart.

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 laboratory confirmed respiratory virus activity in Alberta is based on data from 2 sources:

- 1) Non-influenza viruses: The Alberta Provincial Public Health Laboratory DIAL system (Data Integration for Alberta Laboratories) – a specimen based system. Cases are 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.
- 2) Influenza viruses: The Alberta influenza Case Management System – an influenza case based system.

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

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.

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. In addition to reporting visits of patients with ILI, TARRANT physicians also report visits with lower respiratory tract infections (LRTI). Each visit is recorded only once, even if a patient has symptoms consistent with ILI and LRTI. The combined ILI- and LRTI-related visits are therefore suggestive of overall respiratory infections in the patient population.
3. 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.
4. 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. This report includes only those outbreaks that are laboratory confirmed and caused by influenza-like illness viruses; outbreaks 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. Outbreaks in schools are officially counted in tables or graphs whether there is or not a laboratory confirmation; outbreaks in hospital and residential institutions that are pending for laboratory confirmation are described for information only but not officially presented in graphs or tables in this report.

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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