

Weekly Report

May 26th, 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.

To navigate to certain sections of the report or to visit other relevant websites, use the Quick Links below

[Alberta Snapshot](#)

[Section 1: Alberta](#)

[Section 2: Zone 1 - South](#)

[Section 3: Zone 2 - Calgary](#)

[Section 4: Zone 3 - Central](#)

[Section 5: Zone 4 - Edmonton](#)

[Section 6: Zone 5 - North](#)

[Annex: Data Notes](#)

Current Global Information

[FluWatch \(PHAC\)](#)

[FluView \(US CDC\)](#)

[HPA \(UK\)](#)

[WHO](#)

[Travel Advisories](#)

What's New?

- According to the most recent international and global influenza activity reports, the influenza season is nearly concluded in the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere. Tropical areas of the world, including the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Jamaica, Rwanda and Madagascar, are experiencing low levels of transmission with various sub-types circulating in different areas.
- The influenza season has not started in the southern hemisphere. There have been some reports of influenza-like-illness (ILI) in Australia however detections of influenza virus have decreased recently.
- Influenza activity continues to decrease in the United States and Canada, although localized activity persists in areas of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The small numbers of influenza detections that are occurring in the United States and Canada are predominantly influenza type B.
- In Alberta, influenza activity continues to decline. Rhino-enterovirus is currently the predominant respiratory virus circulating. As of the end of last week (May 21, 2011), the total number of influenza cases confirmed in the province this season was 1503, of which 36.5% have been identified as influenza A (H3), 16.5% as influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 45.2% as influenza type B, and 1.8% influenza A with unresolved sub-typing.
- One respiratory outbreak was confirmed in Alberta since the last update. It occurred in a Calgary Zone long term care facility and was attributed to influenza A (H3). The preliminary attack rate was calculated as 13%. The onset of symptoms occurred in Week 19 (May 8-14, 2011).
- Please note that the next Alberta Respiratory Virus Surveillance Update will be distributed on June 7, 2011 and will be released every two weeks thereafter until the end of August 2011. Weekly reporting will resume in September, 2011.
- Also note that the 2010-11 influenza immunization clinics are now over. Cumulative immunization information will not be provided in this update, however Influenza immunization rates for the 2010-11 influenza season will be provided in the next Alberta respiratory virus surveillance update on June 7, 2011.

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

[Back to first page](#)

Indicators		Cumulative Counts Week 35 (starting Aug 29/10) to Week 20 (starting May 15/11)					Alberta	
		South	Calgary	Central	Edmonton	North		
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	Number of cases with a positive respiratory specimen ¹	Adenovirus	10	49	18	109	20	206
		Coronavirus	13	78	43	127	47	308
		Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	9	25	5	34	14	87
		Influenza A	49	207	132	274	162	824
		Influenza B	94	176	73	204	132	679
		Parainfluenza	37	127	70	266	115	615
		Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	123	482	214	792	337	1948
		Rhino enterovirus	127	578	233	819	398	2155
		Mixed	39	176	57	189	105	566
		Total	501	1898	845	2814	1330	7388
Outbreaks	# laboratory confirmed respiratory outbreaks ²	0	24	19	38	7	88	

-- Information not available

*Note: 28 specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s). These cases have been included in the influenza counts, as well as the other respective specimen type(s). They have not been included in the 'Mixed' category. Five specimens were 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 May 21, 2011).

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

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: May 26, 2011

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

SECTION 1: ALBERTA

[Back to first page](#)

Summary

Although transmission of rhino-enterovirus continues, respiratory virus activity (including influenza) is generally declining in Alberta.

Laboratory Data (see [Figure 1A](#), [Figure 1B](#) & [Figure 1C](#), [Table 1A](#) & [Table 1B](#))

The overall trend in the number of Influenza cases confirmed in the province continues to decline. Rhino-enterovirus is currently the predominant virus circulating and there has recently been an increase in adenovirus as well (which appears to be concentrated primarily in Edmonton Zone). As of the end of last week (May 21, 2011), the total number of confirmed cases of influenza in the province this season is 1503 (36.5% influenza A (H3), 16.5% influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 45.2% influenza type B, and 1.8% influenza A with unresolved sub-typing). 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 21.2 per 10,000 compared to 9.8 per 10,000 or lower for all other age groups.

Outbreaks (see [Figure 1D](#))

One new respiratory outbreak has been confirmed in Alberta since the last update. It was an influenza A (H3) outbreak in a Calgary Zone long term care facility with a preliminary attack rate of 13%. The onset of symptoms occurred in Week 19 (May 8-14, 2011).

Health Link Alberta Calls (see [Figure 1E](#))

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties continues to decline.

Emergency Department/Urgent Care Center Visits and Hospital Admissions

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers (ED's) and hospital admissions for influenza-like illness (ILI) in the City of Calgary and Edmonton Zone decreased by 20% and 15%, respectively, in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) from the previous week. Generally, both of these indicators have been declining over the last several weeks.

The number of emergency department visits for cough was relatively unchanged in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) as compared to the previous week, while the number of hospital admissions for the same reason decreased by 12%. Generally, the number of emergency department visits for cough has been declining over the last several weeks, while the trend for hospital admissions appears to be fluctuating.

Sentinel Physician Office Visits

The combined percentage of ILI- and LRTI-related visits of all visits to sentinel physician offices in Alberta decreased by 56% in Week 19 (May 8-14, 2011) compared to the previous week. This indicator has been decreasing for the past several weeks.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

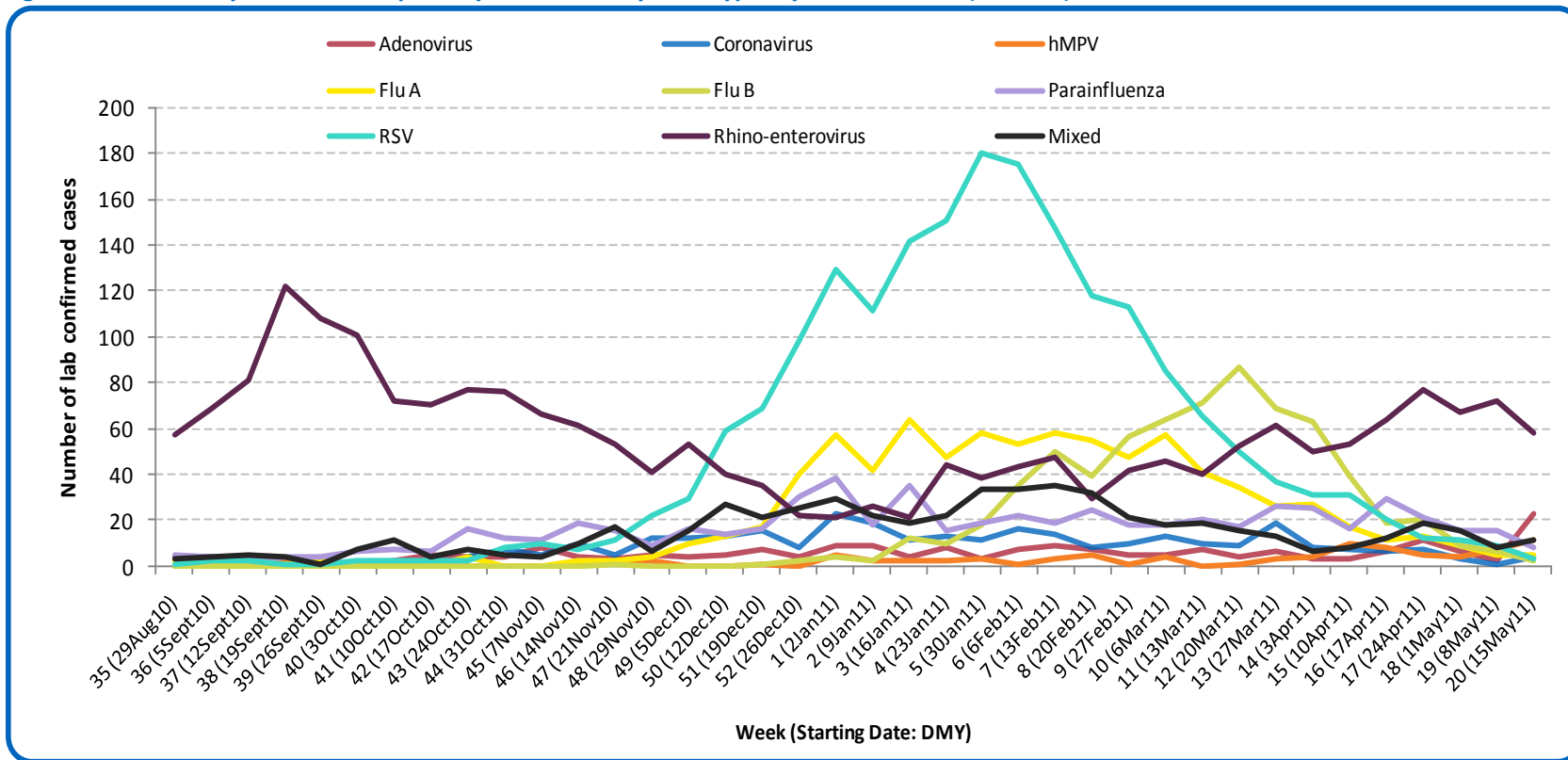
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 1A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Alberta (2010-11)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 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

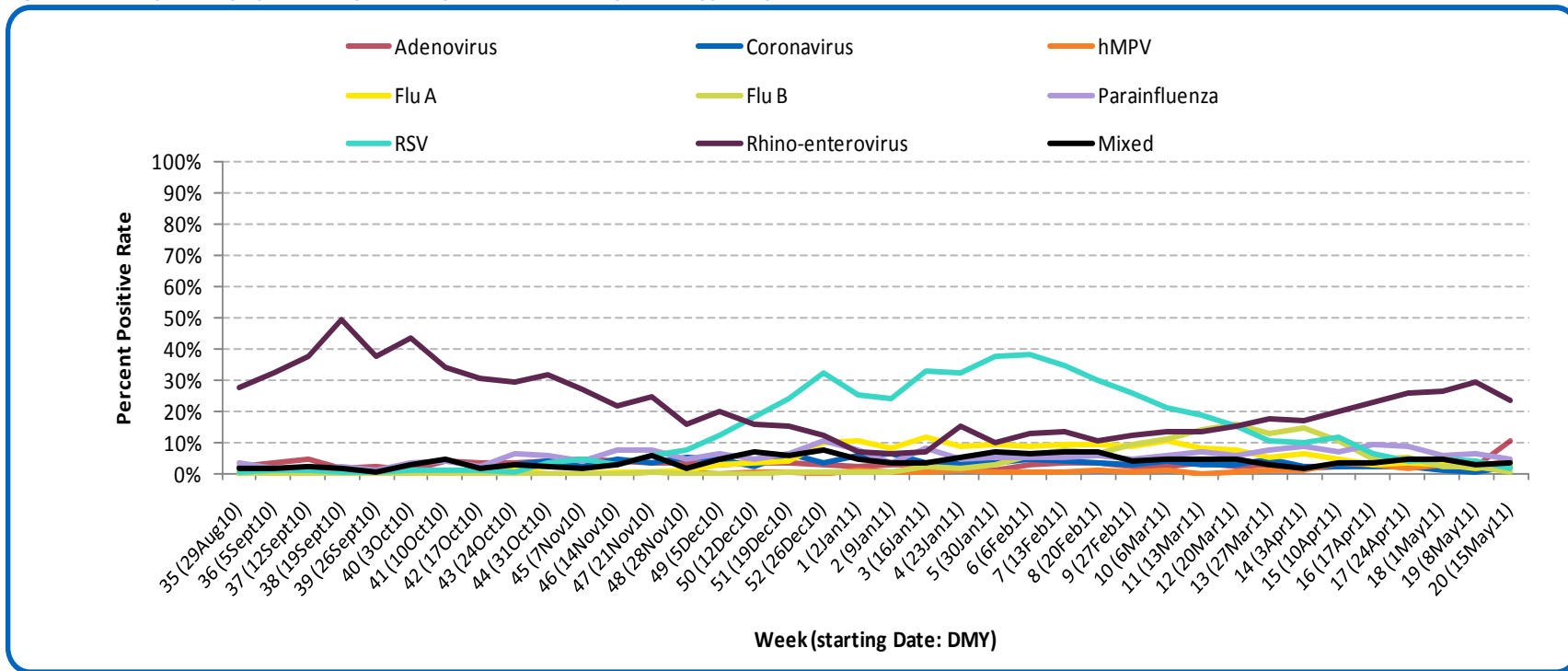
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[Back to start of section](#)

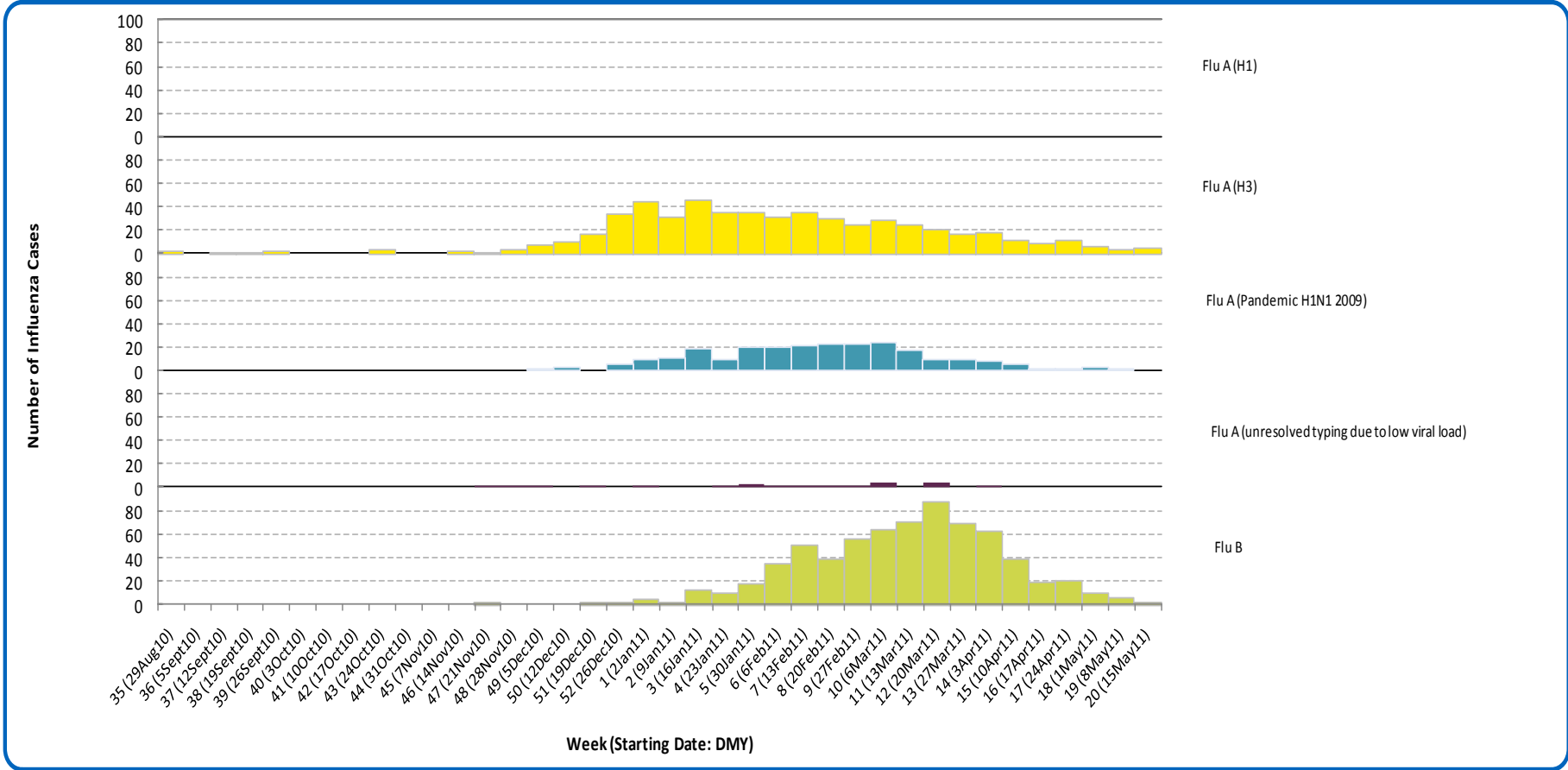
Figure 1B: Respiratory specimen percent positive rates, by virus type, by week, Alberta (2010-11)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011).
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 1C: Laboratory confirmed influenza cases, by subtype, by week specimen received, Alberta (2010-2011)



*Note: 28 specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s). Five specimens were positive for both influenza A & B.
 Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011).
 For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

Table 1A: New influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Week 20: May 15-21, 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	2	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.2
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	1	0.1
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Total	0	0.0	5	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	<0.1	7	<0.1

Table 1B: Cumulative influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Aug 29, 2010 – May 21, 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	83	8.0	33	3.2	5	0.5	98	9.5	219	21.2
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	46	3.1	16	1.1	2	0.1	82	5.5	146	9.8
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	37	2.1	10	0.6	2	0.1	97	5.4	146	8.1
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	31	0.7	18	0.4	3	0.1	136	3.3	188	4.5
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	220	0.9	167	0.7	12	0.0	221	0.9	620	2.5
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	25	1.2	3	0.1	0	0.0	26	1.2	54	2.5
75+ years	0	0.0	107	5.8	1	0.1	3	0.2	19	1.0	130	7.1
Total	0	0.0	549	1.5	248	0.7	27	0.1	679	1.8	1503	4.1

Source for Table 1A & 1B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 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

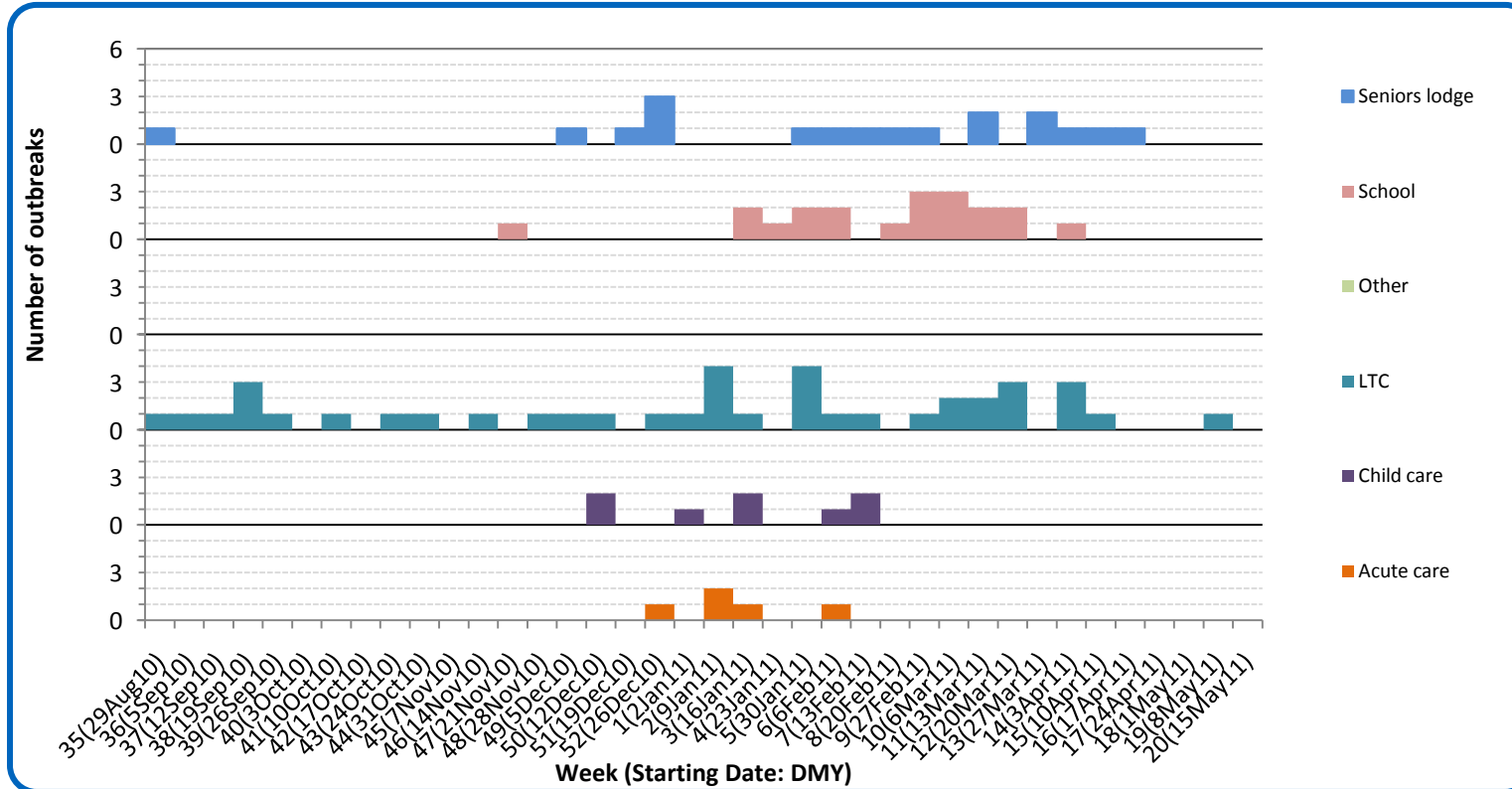
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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[Back to start of section](#)

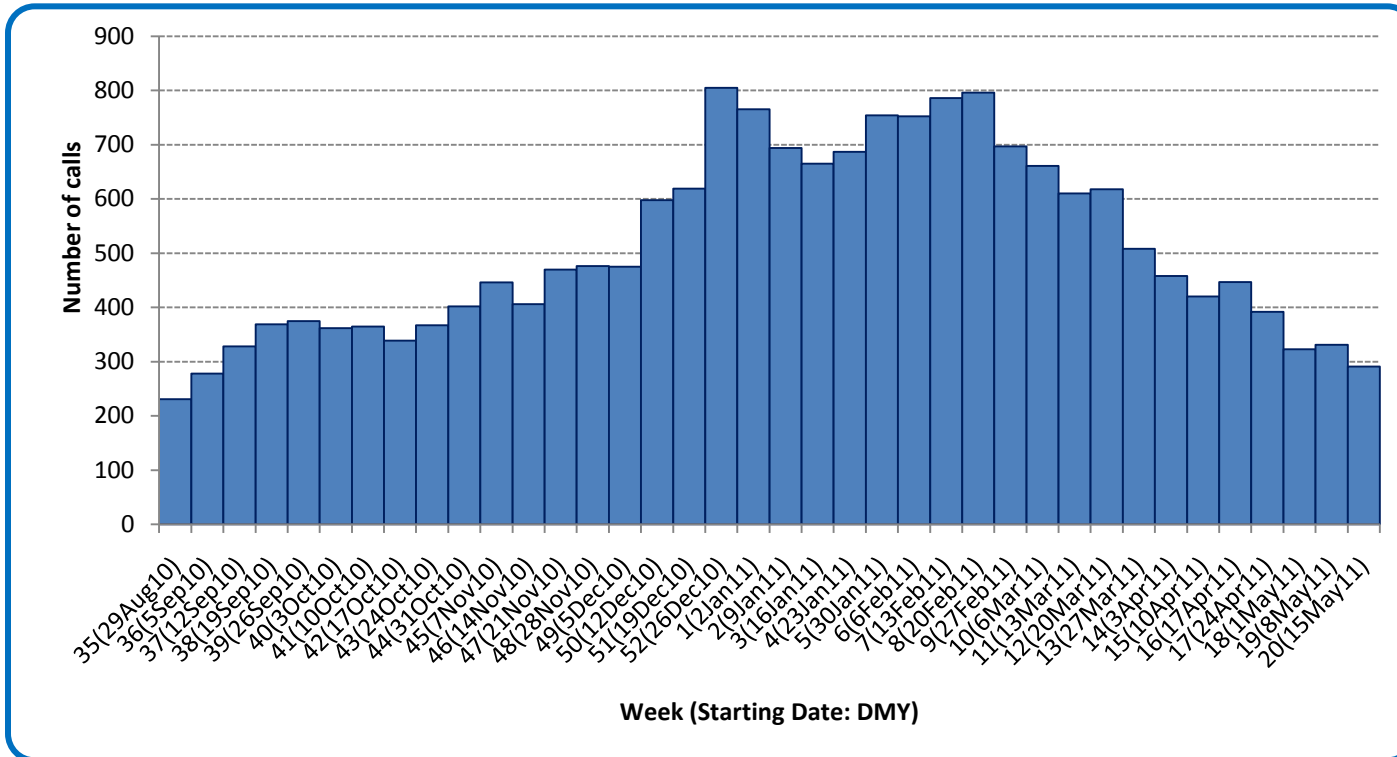
Figure 1D: Respiratory outbreaks, by facility type, by onset week, Alberta (2010-2011; school outbreaks may not have a laboratory confirmation)



Source: Alberta Outbreak Reporting Form as of 23:59 on May 21, 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](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 1E: Number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties, by week, Alberta (2010-11)



Source: Sharp Focus - Health Link Alberta - via Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on May 21, 2011. For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SECTION 2: ZONE 1 - SOUTH

[Back to first page](#)

Summary

Despite some fluctuations in the number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties, respiratory virus activity appears to be low in South Zone.

Laboratory Data (see [Figure 2A](#), [Figure 2B](#), [Figure 2C](#), [Table 2A](#) & [Table 2B](#))

The number of new cases of influenza being confirmed in South Zone has remained low for the past several weeks. The total number of laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in this part of the province this season is 143. The age specific rate for confirmed influenza in South zone is highest for children between the ages of 2 to less than 5 years, at 15.0 per 10,000.

Outbreaks

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

Health Link Alberta Calls (see [Figure 2D](#))

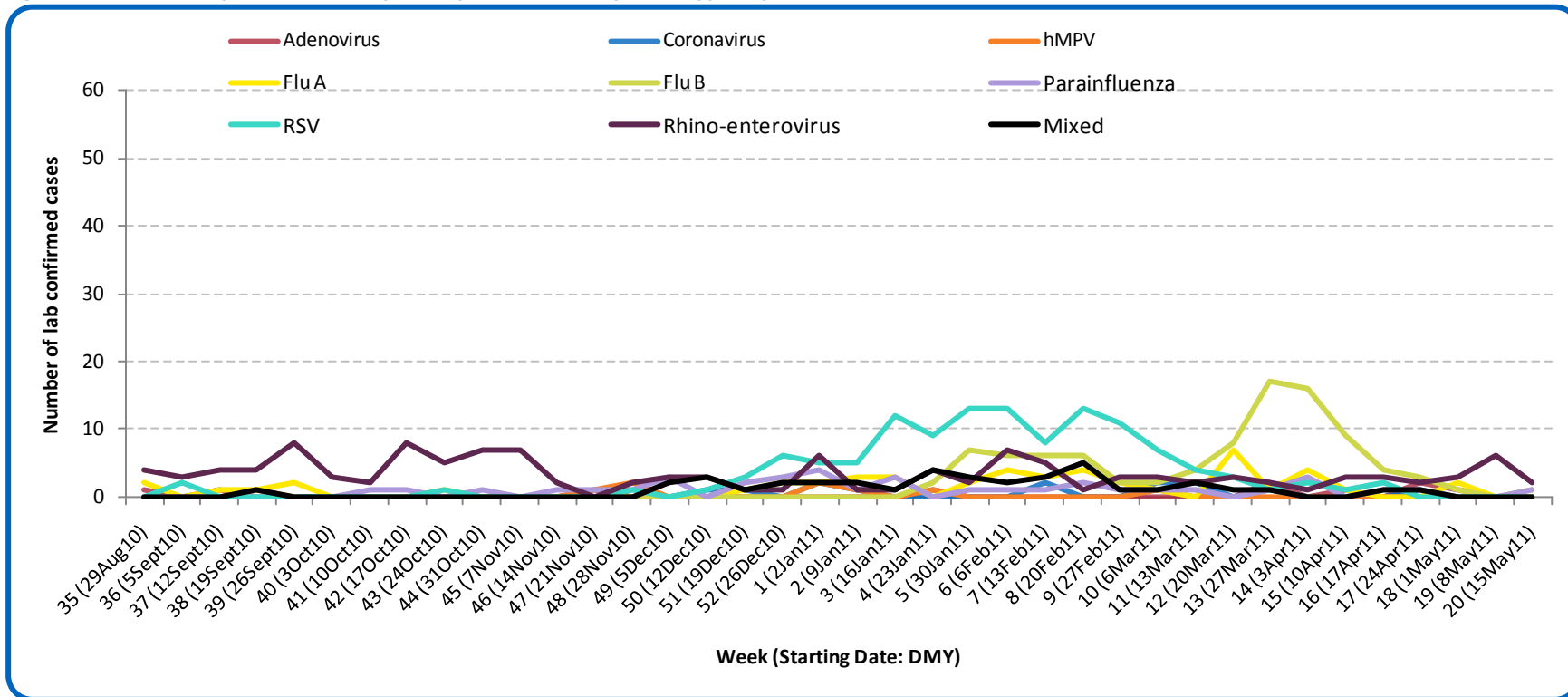
The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties in the South Zone decreased in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) compared to the previous week. Generally, this indicator has been fluctuating over the last several weeks.

Emergency Department/Urgent Care Center Visits and Hospital Admissions

This information is not available for South Zone.

[Back to start of section](#)

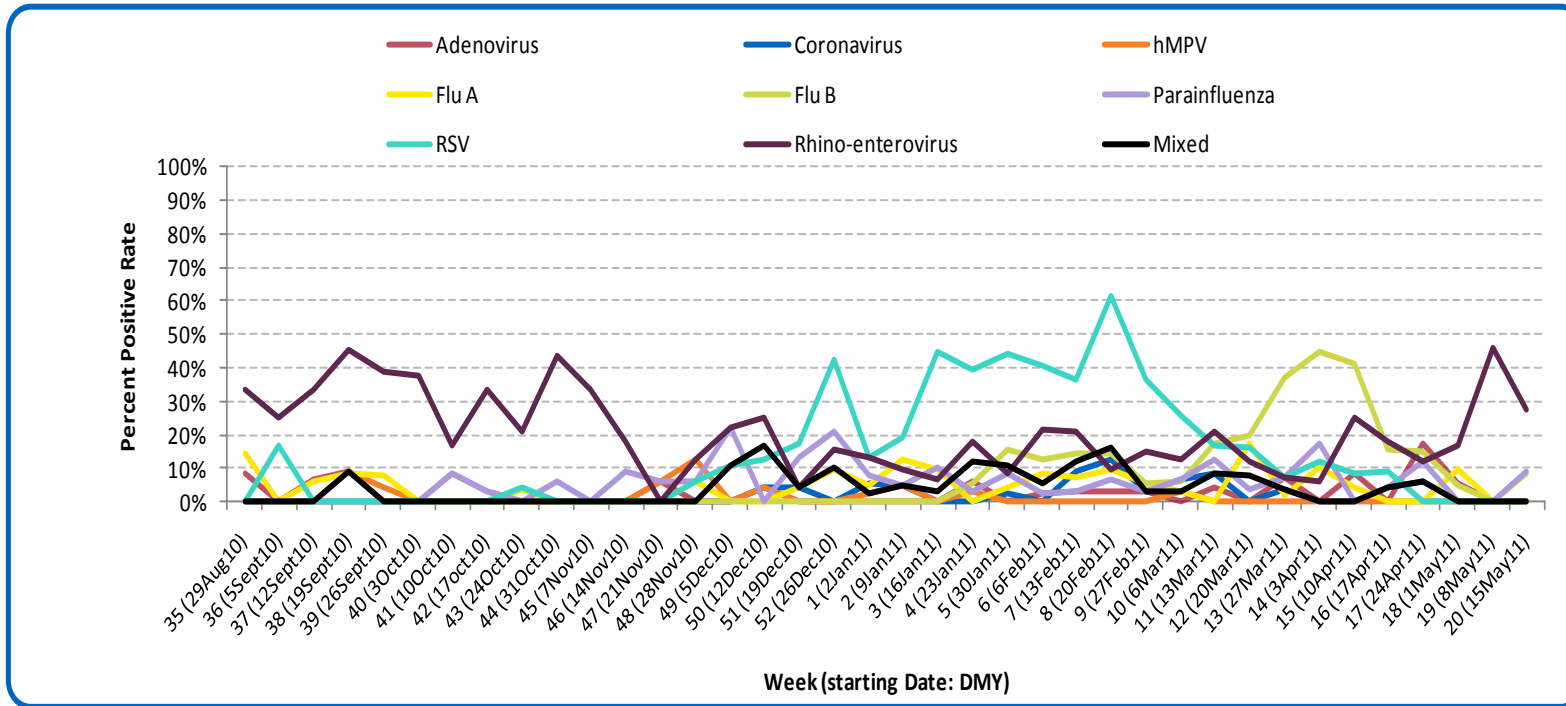
Figure 2A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

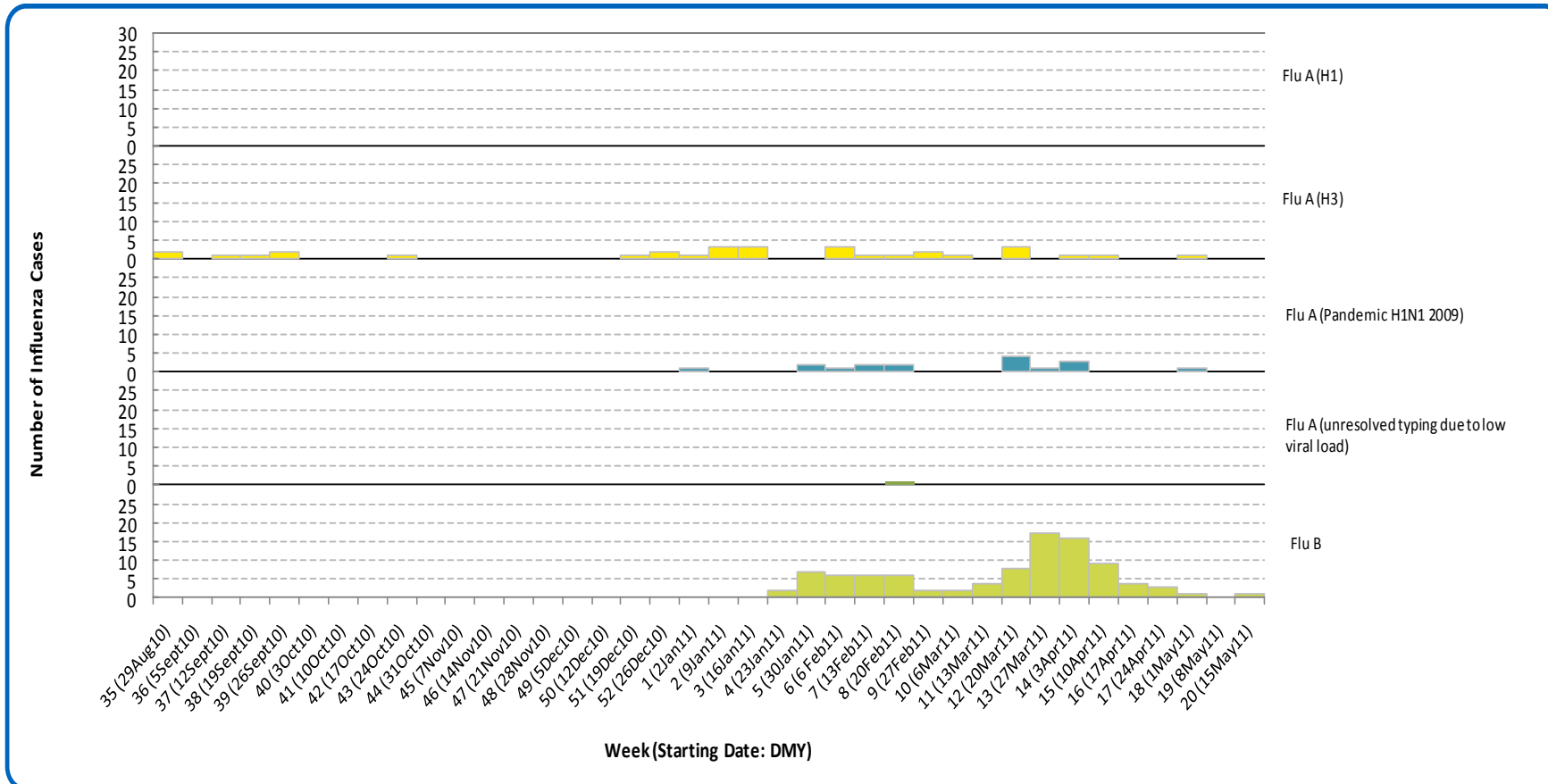
Figure 2B: Respiratory specimen percent positive rates, by virus type, by week, South Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 2011).

*Note: Two specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one other virus type. One specimen was positive for both influenza A & B.

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

[Back to start of section](#)

Table 2A: New influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Alberta (Week 20: May 15-21, 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	1	0.7	1	0.7
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	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	1	0.0	1	<0.1

Table 2B: Cumulative influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, South Zone (Aug 29, 2010–May 21, 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	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	6.0	9	10.8
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	5	4.2	2	1.7	0	0.0	11	9.2	18	15.0
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	7.5	12	8.2
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	23	6.8	24	7.1
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	19	1.1	12	0.7	1	0.1	40	2.3	72	4.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.0	0	0.0	3	1.5	5	2.6
75+ years	0	0.0	2	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	3	1.6
Total	0	0.0	31	1.1	17	0.6	1	<0.1	94	3.3	143	5.1

Source for Tables 2A & 2B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before *May 21, 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

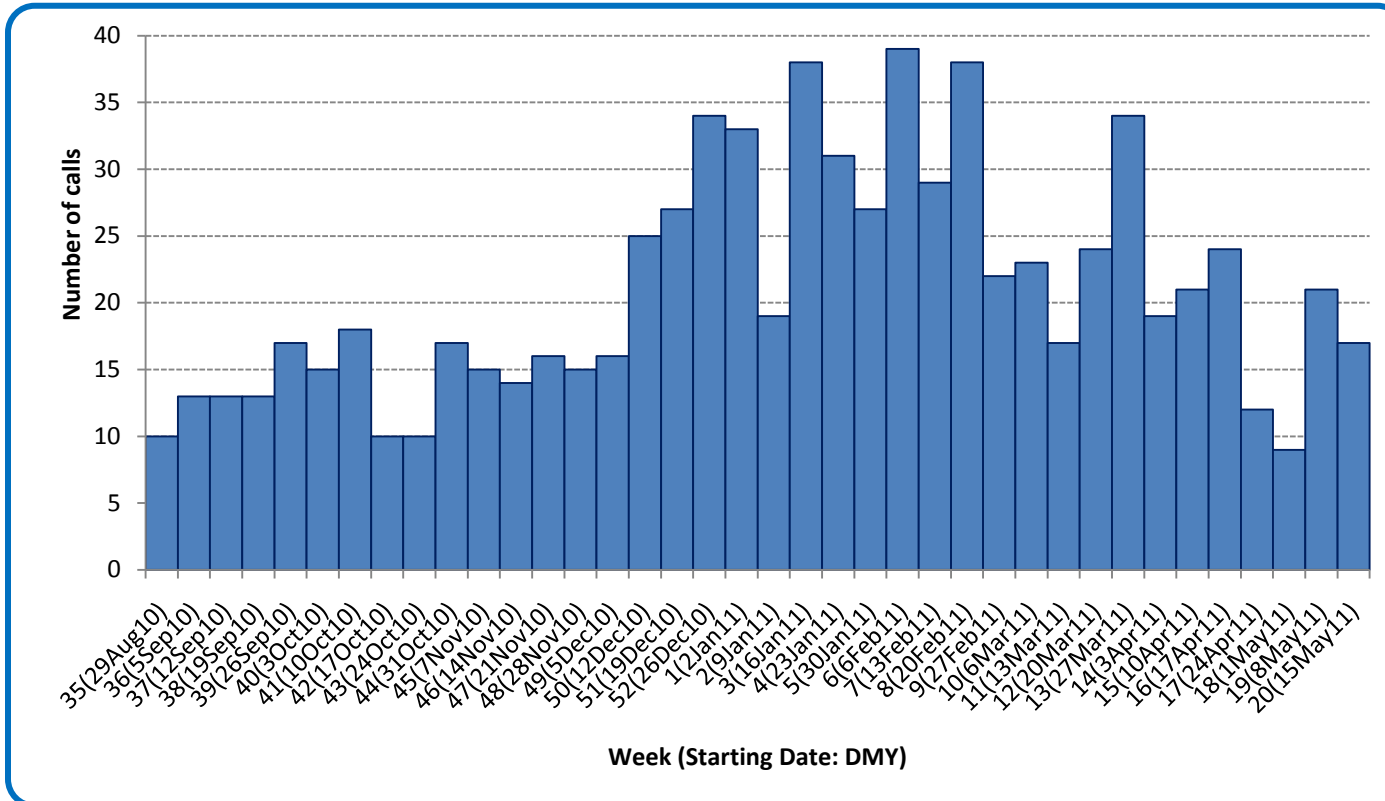
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 2D: Number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties, by week, South Zone (2010-11)



Source: Sharp Focus - Health Link Alberta - via Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on May 21, 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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Report Date: May 26, 2011

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SECTION 3: ZONE 2 - CALGARY

[Back to first page](#)

Summary

Despite ongoing rhino-enterovirus activity, respiratory virus activity is generally declining in Calgary Zone.

Laboratory Data (see [Figure 3A](#), [Figure 3B](#), [Figure 3C](#), [Table 3A](#) & [Table 3B](#))

Influenza activity in Calgary Zone has continued to be low for the past several weeks. Rhino-enterovirus is currently the predominant respiratory virus circulating. Since the beginning of the season, a total of 383 cases of influenza have been confirmed in Calgary Zone (37.9% have been identified as influenza A (H3), 13.6% as influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 46.0% as influenza type B and 2.6% as influenza A with unresolved sub-typing). Compared to the age specific rates in other age groups, the rate for confirmed influenza is highest among infants less than 2 years of age at 12.2 per 10,000.

Outbreaks (see [Figure 3D](#))

Since the last update, there has been one new influenza A (H3) outbreak confirmed in a Calgary Zone long term care facility. The onset of symptoms occurred in Week 19 (May 8-14, 2011) and the preliminary attack rate was calculated as 13%.

Health Link Alberta Calls (see [Figure 3E](#))

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties in the Calgary Zone decreased in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) compared to the previous week. Despite some minor fluctuations, this indicator has been decreasing since the end of February, 2011.

Emergency Department/Urgent Care Center Visits and Hospital Admissions (See [Figure 3F](#))

The number of visits to emergency departments and hospital admissions for patients with influenza-like-illness (ILI) symptoms decreased by 25% and 56%, respectively, in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) compared to the week prior to that. The trend for emergency department visits appears to be declining overall, while the trend for hospital admissions has been fluctuating.

The number of emergency department visits for cough at the six urban emergency departments/urgent care centers (ED's) in the City of Calgary was relatively unchanged in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) as compared to the previous week, while hospital admissions decreased by 40%. Generally, the trend over the last several weeks for emergency department visits for ILI has been decreasing, while the number of hospital admissions for ILI has been fluctuating.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

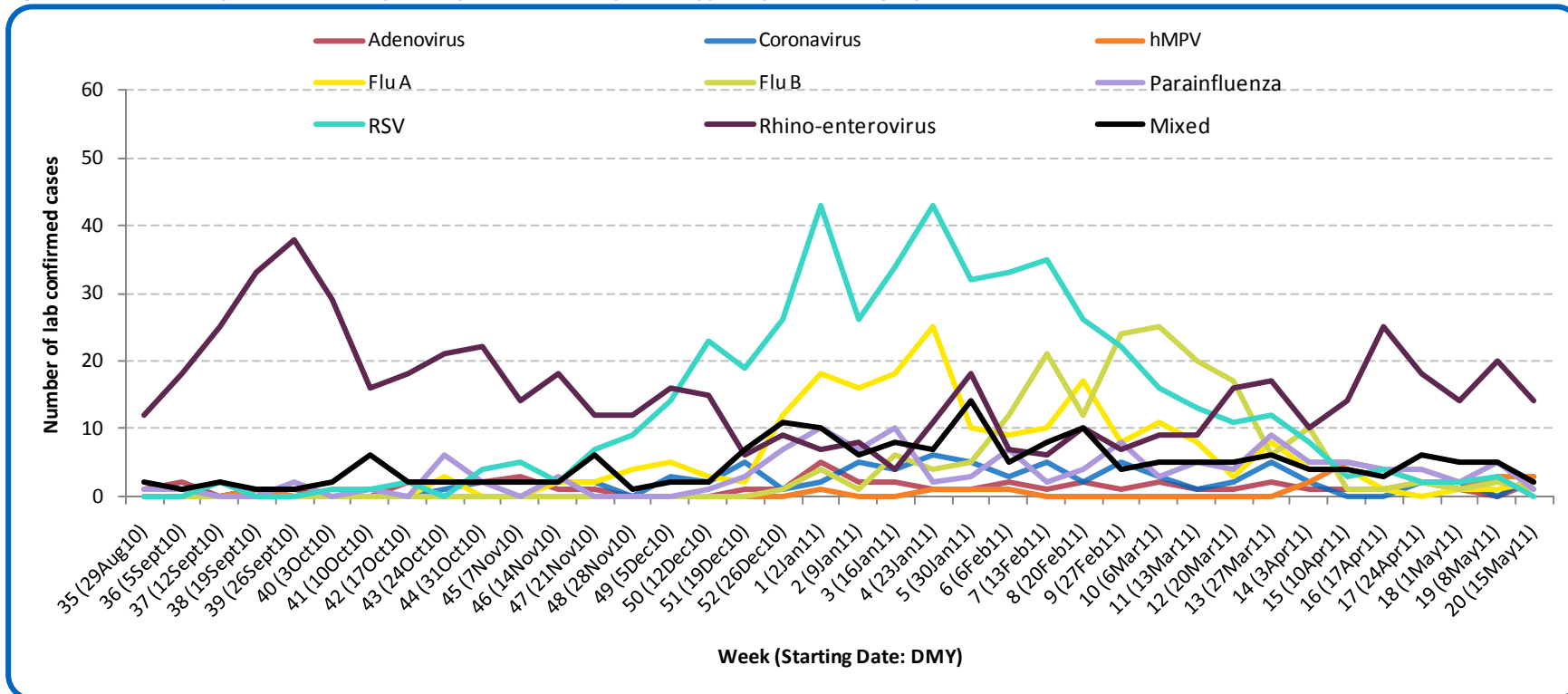
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[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

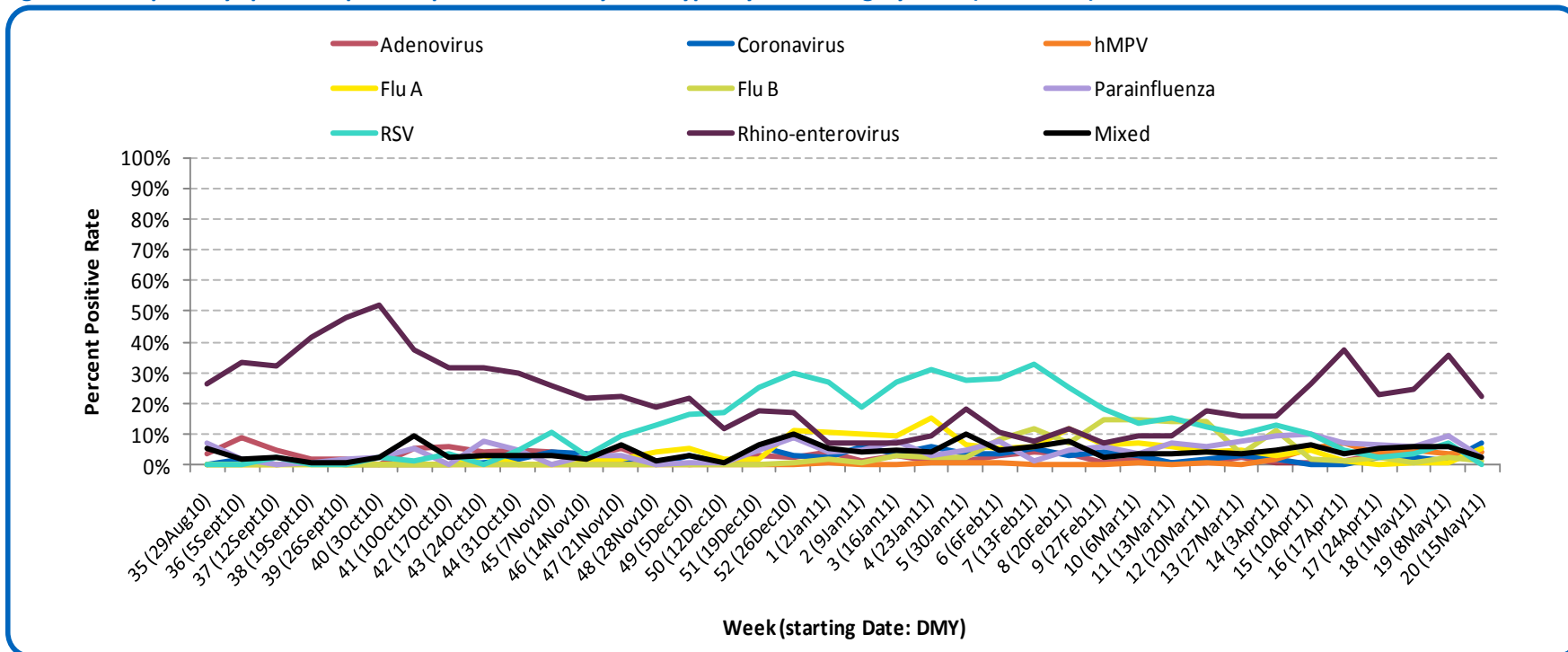
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[Back to start of section](#)

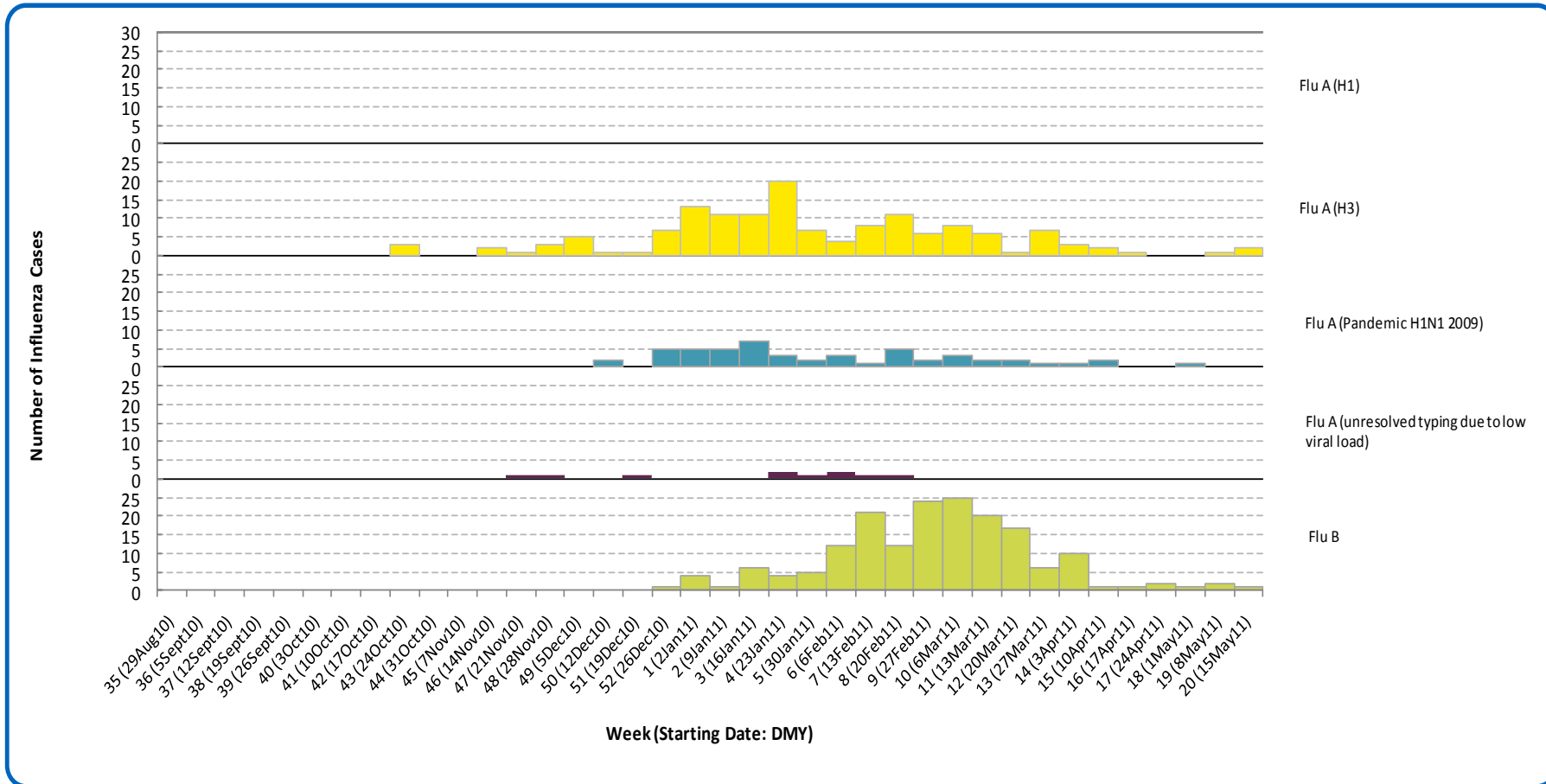
Figure 3B: Respiratory specimen percent positive rates, by virus type, by week, Calgary Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

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



*Note: Five specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s). One specimen was positive for both influenza A & B.

Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011).

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 start of section](#)

Table 3A: New influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Week 20: May 15-21, 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	1	0.2	1	0.2
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	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Total	0	0.0	2	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1	3	<0.1

Table 3B: Cumulative influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Calgary Zone (Aug 29, 2010 – May 21, 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	18	4.8	7	1.9	1	0.3	20	5.3	46	12.2
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	13	2.4	3	0.6	1	0.2	19	3.5	36	6.7
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	9	1.4	1	0.2	2	0.3	30	4.6	42	6.5
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	10	0.7	1	0.1	2	0.1	44	3.0	57	3.9
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	64	0.7	39	0.4	3	<0.1	60	0.6	166	1.8
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	10	1.4	1	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.3	13	1.8
75+ years	0	0.0	21	3.4	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2	23	3.8
Total	0	0.0	145	1.1	52	0.4	10	0.1	176	1.3	383	2.8

Source for tables 3A & 3B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before *May 21, 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

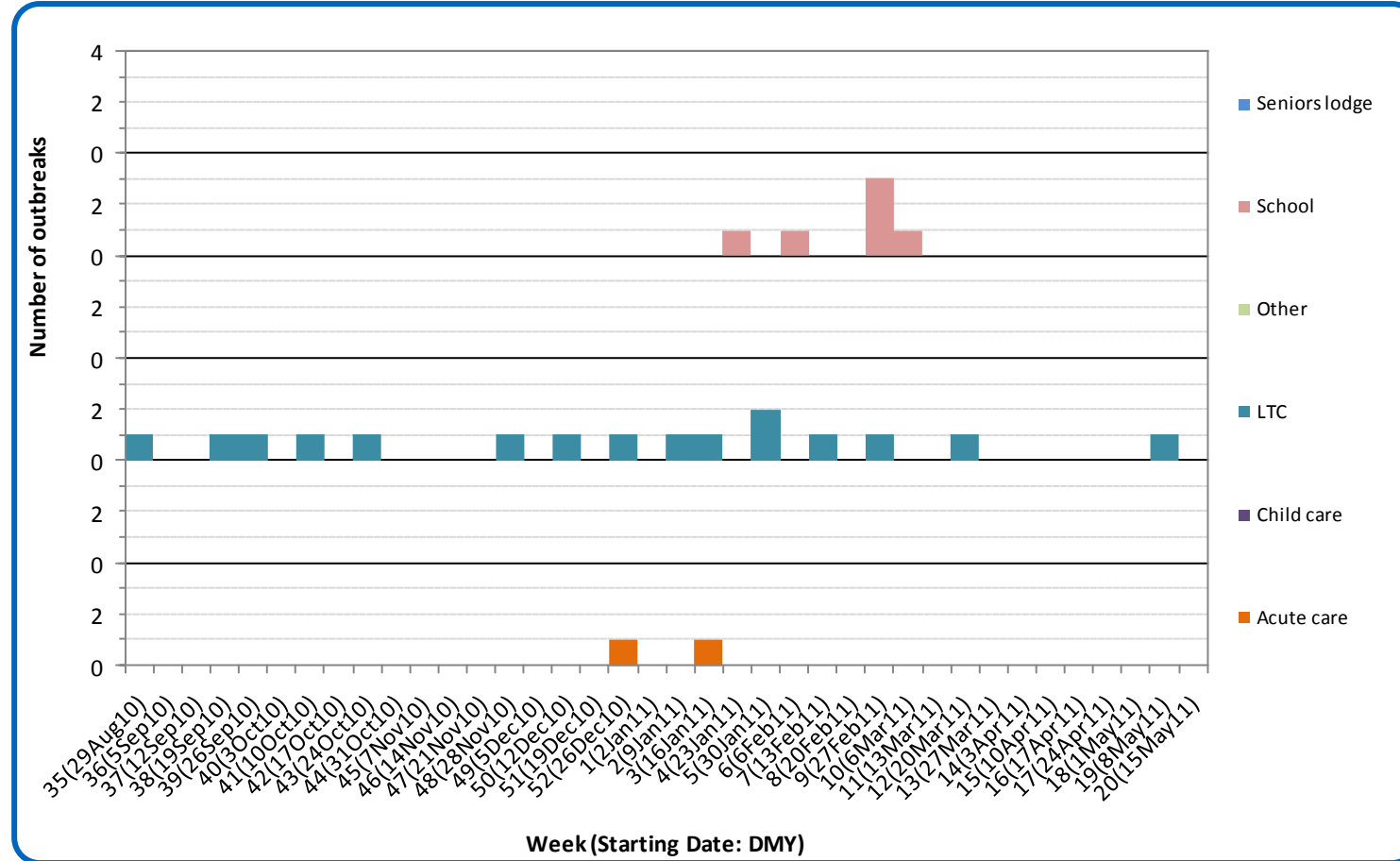
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 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](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

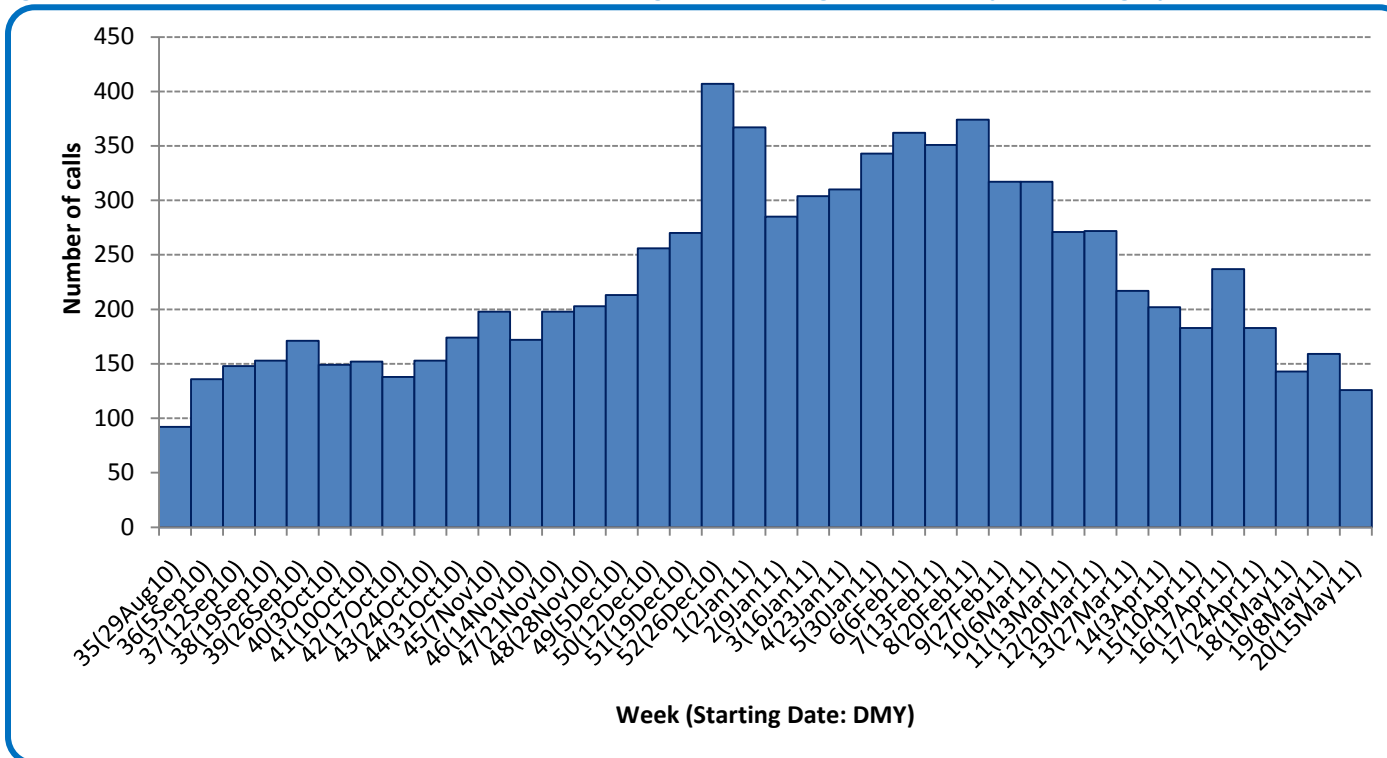
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 3E: Number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties, by week, Calgary Zone (2010-11)



Source: Sharp Focus - Health Link Alberta - via Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on May 21, 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

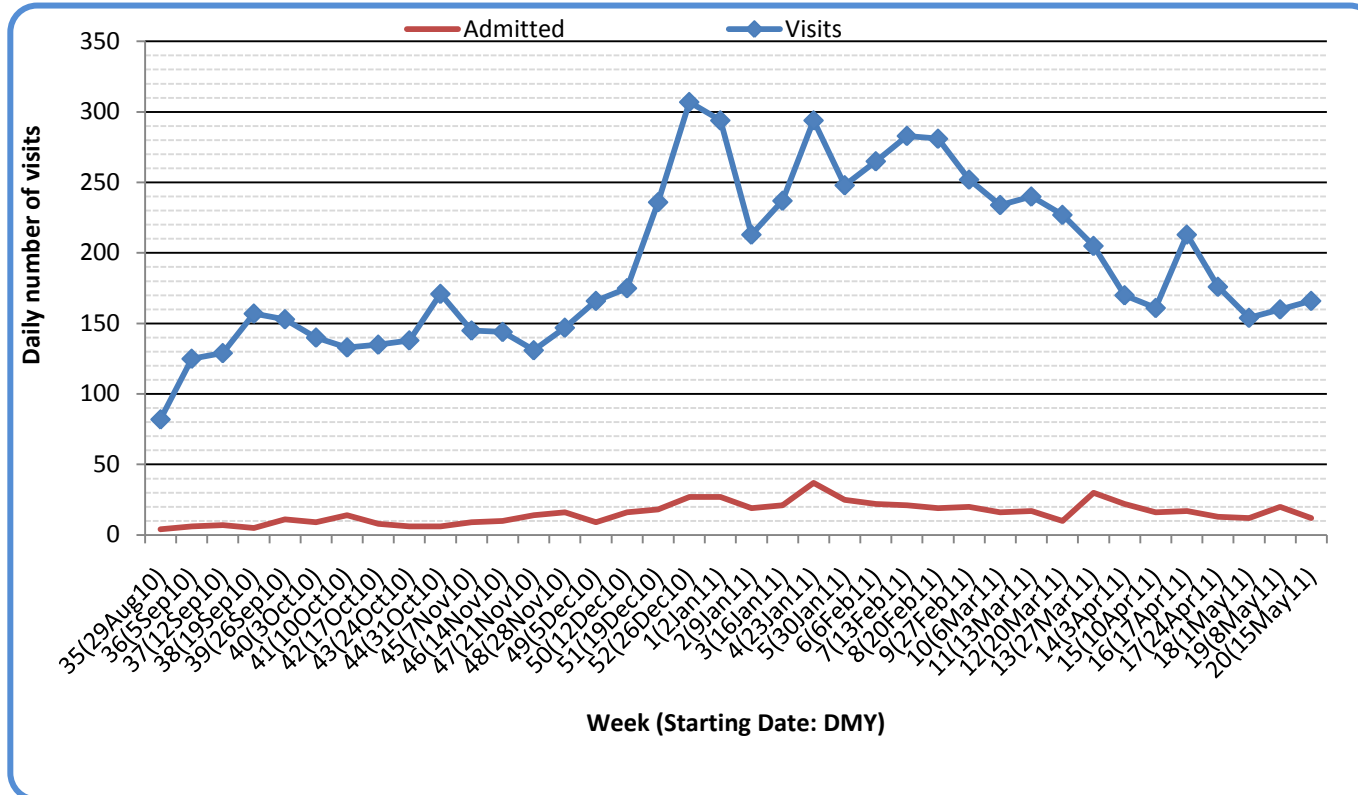
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to first start of section](#)

Figure 3F: 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 May 21, 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: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to first page](#)

Summary

Overall, respiratory virus activity appears to be declining in Central Zone.

Laboratory Data (see [Figure 4A](#), [Figure 4B](#), [Figure 4C](#) & [Table 4A](#))

The number of new influenza cases being confirmed in Central Zone has been low for the last 2 weeks. Rhino-enterovirus activity appears to be decreasing as well. This season, the total number of influenza cases confirmed in Central Zone is 205 (51.7% have been identified as influenza A (H3), 10.7% as influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 35.6% as influenza B and 2.0% as influenza A with unresolved sub-typing). At this point in the season, the age-specific rate for confirmed cases of influenza (all types) is highest for infants under the age of 2 years, at 20.2 per 10,000.

Outbreaks (see [Figure 4D](#))

No new respiratory outbreaks have been reported or confirmed in Central Zone since the last update.

Health Link Alberta Calls (see [Figure 4E](#))

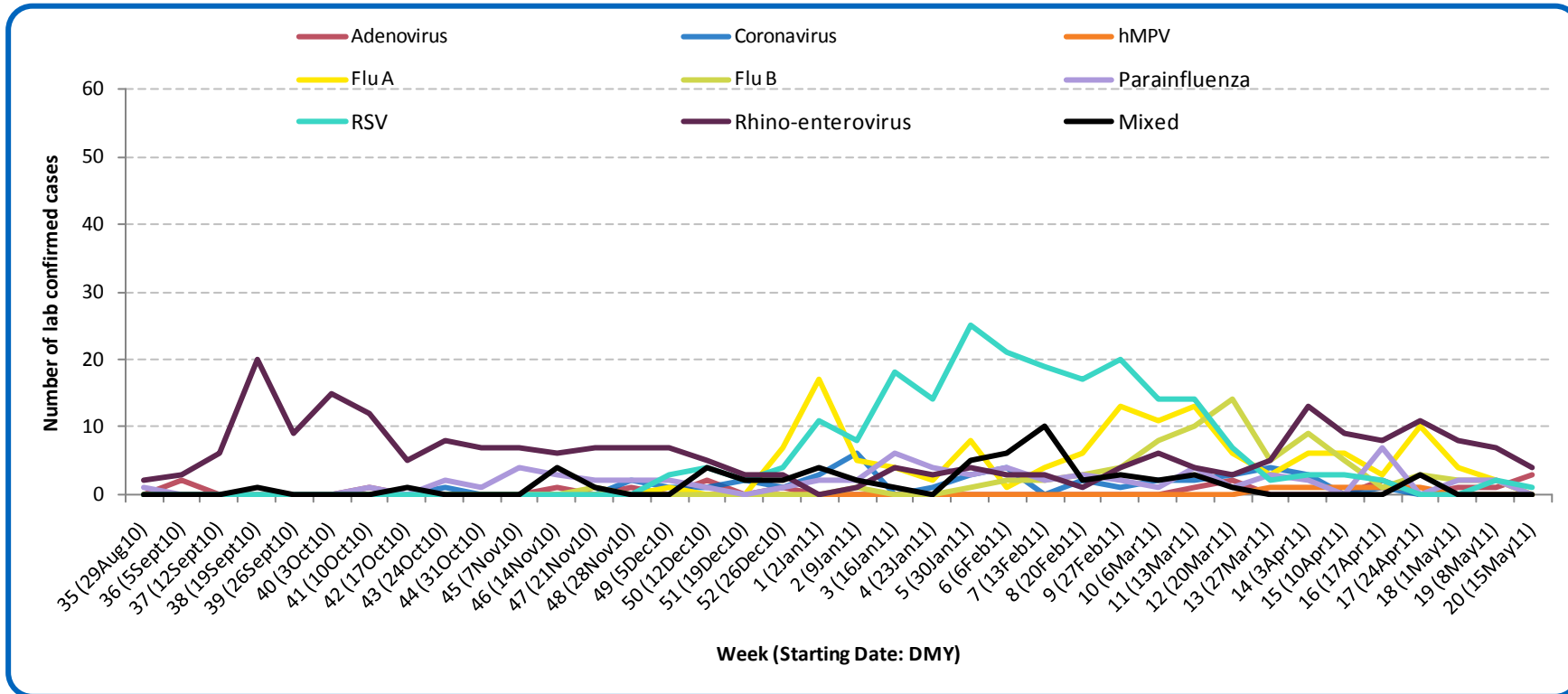
The number of calls to Health Link Alberta in Central Zone for cough or breathing difficulties continues to decline. This indicator is currently at the same level seen early in the 2010-11 influenza season.

Emergency Department/Urgent Care Center Visits and Hospital Admissions

There are no data available from this zone.

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

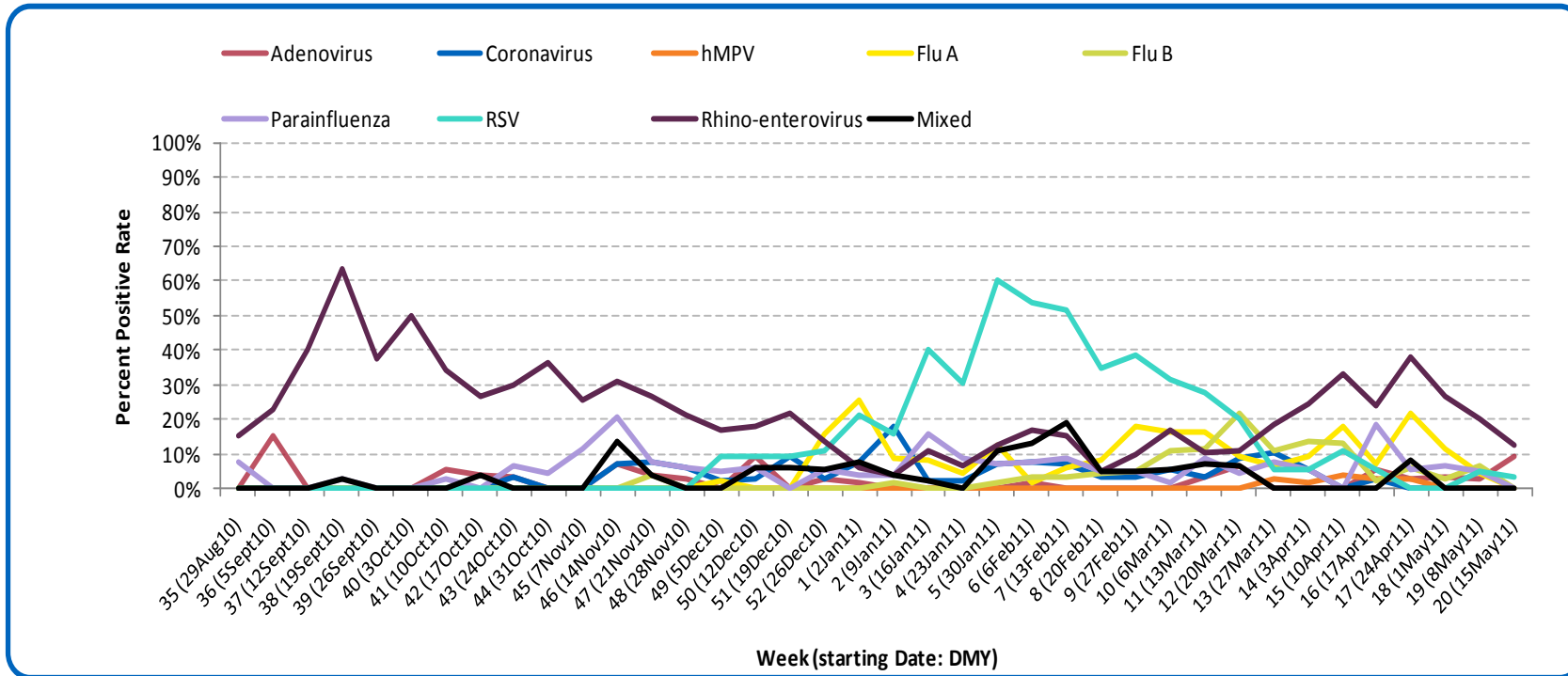
SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance
Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

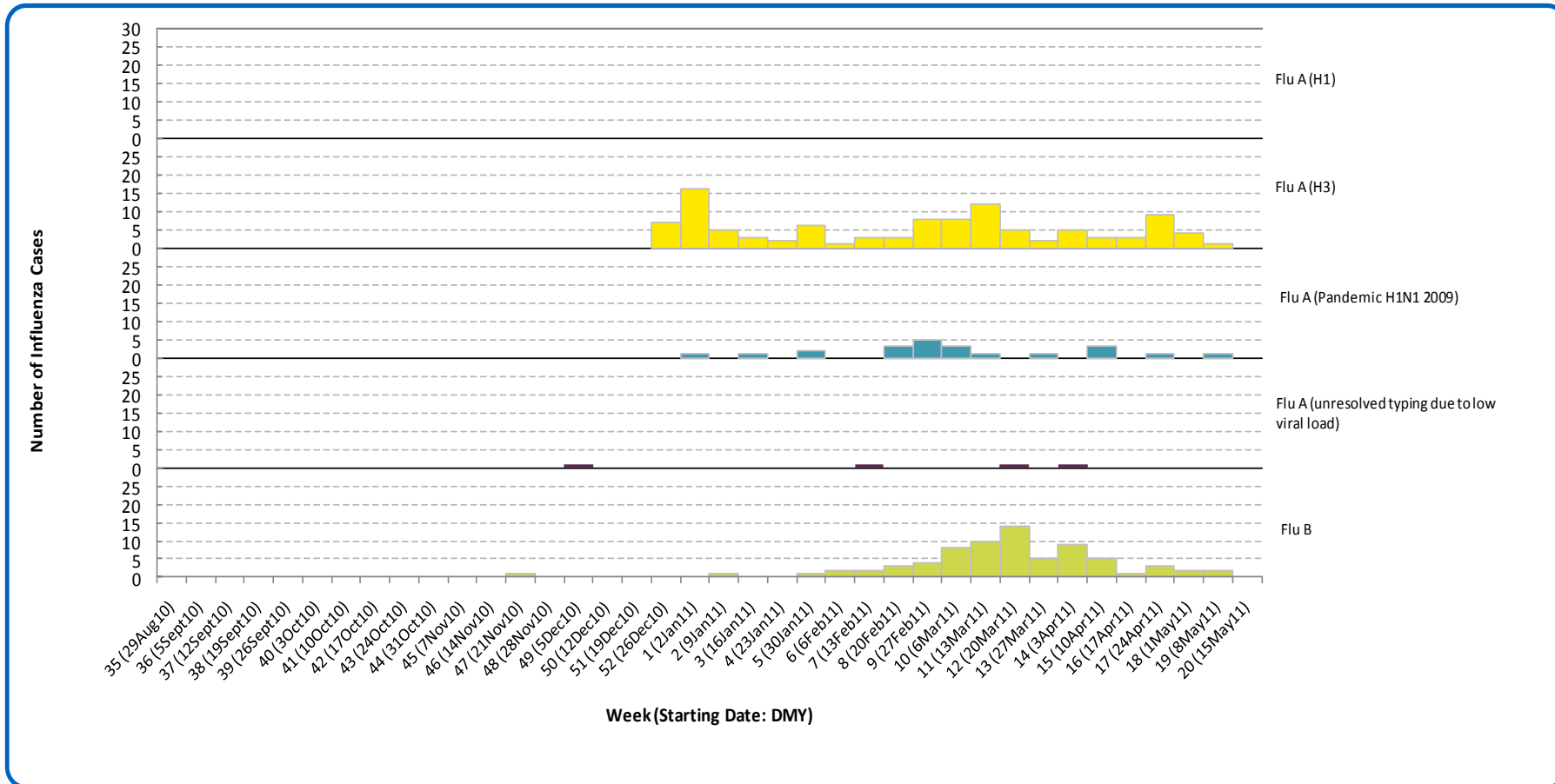
Figure 4B: Respiratory specimen percent positive rates, by virus type, by week, Central Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

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



*Note: Seven specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s).

Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 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: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

Table 4A: Cumulative influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Central Zone (Aug 29, 2010 – May 21, 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	11	8.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	11.3	25	20.2
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	3	1.7	2	1.1	0	0.0	8	4.4	13	7.2
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	5	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	4.4	15	6.7
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	3	0.6	2	0.4	0	0.0	9	1.7	14	2.6
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	40	1.4	18	0.6	3	0.1	26	0.9	87	3.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	3	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.3	7	2.3
75+ years	0	0.0	41	14.9	0	0.0	1	0.4	2	0.7	44	16.0
Total	0	0.0	106	2.4	22	0.5	4	0.1	73	1.6	205	4.6

Source for Tables 4A: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before *May 21, 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

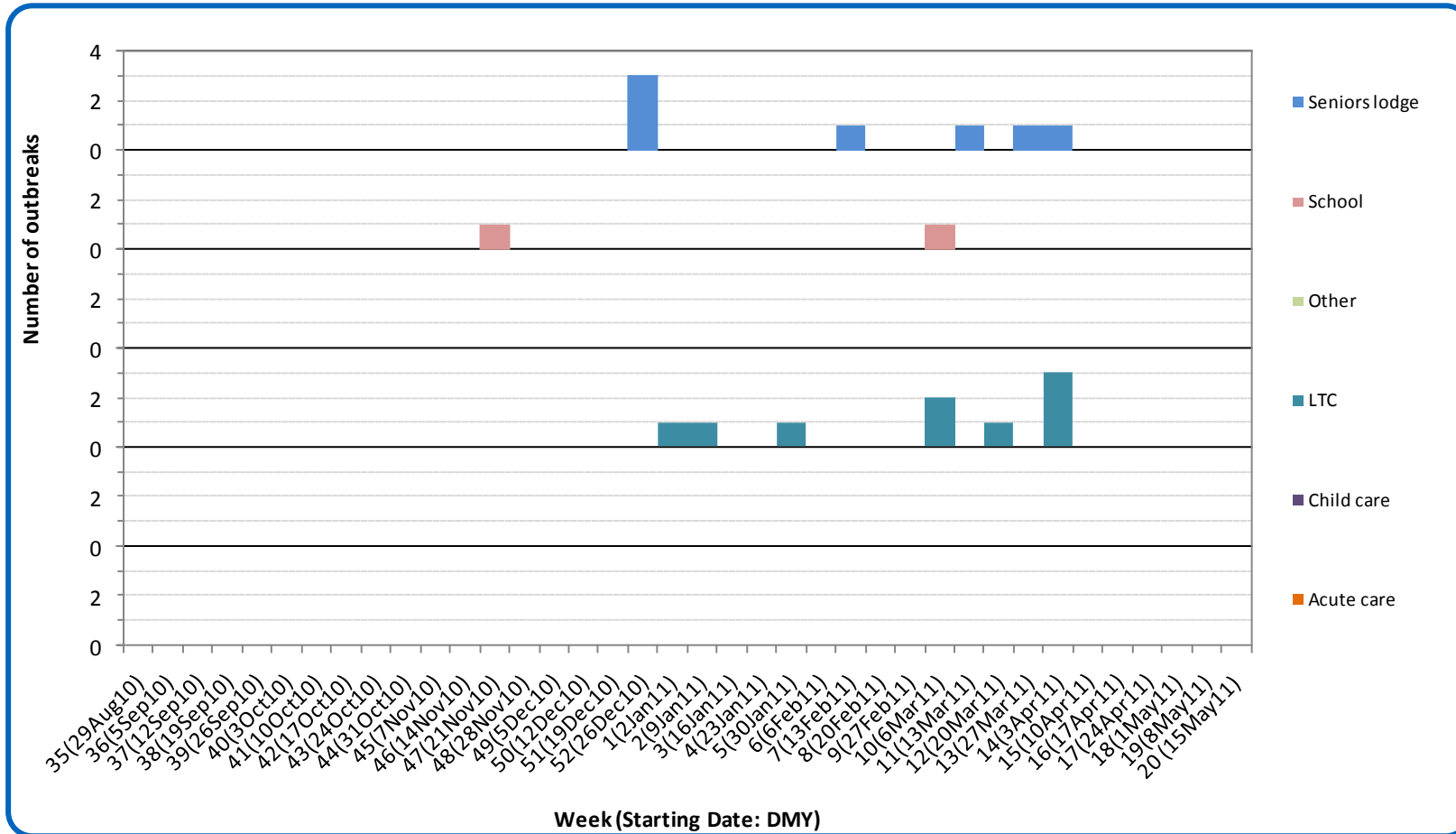
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 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

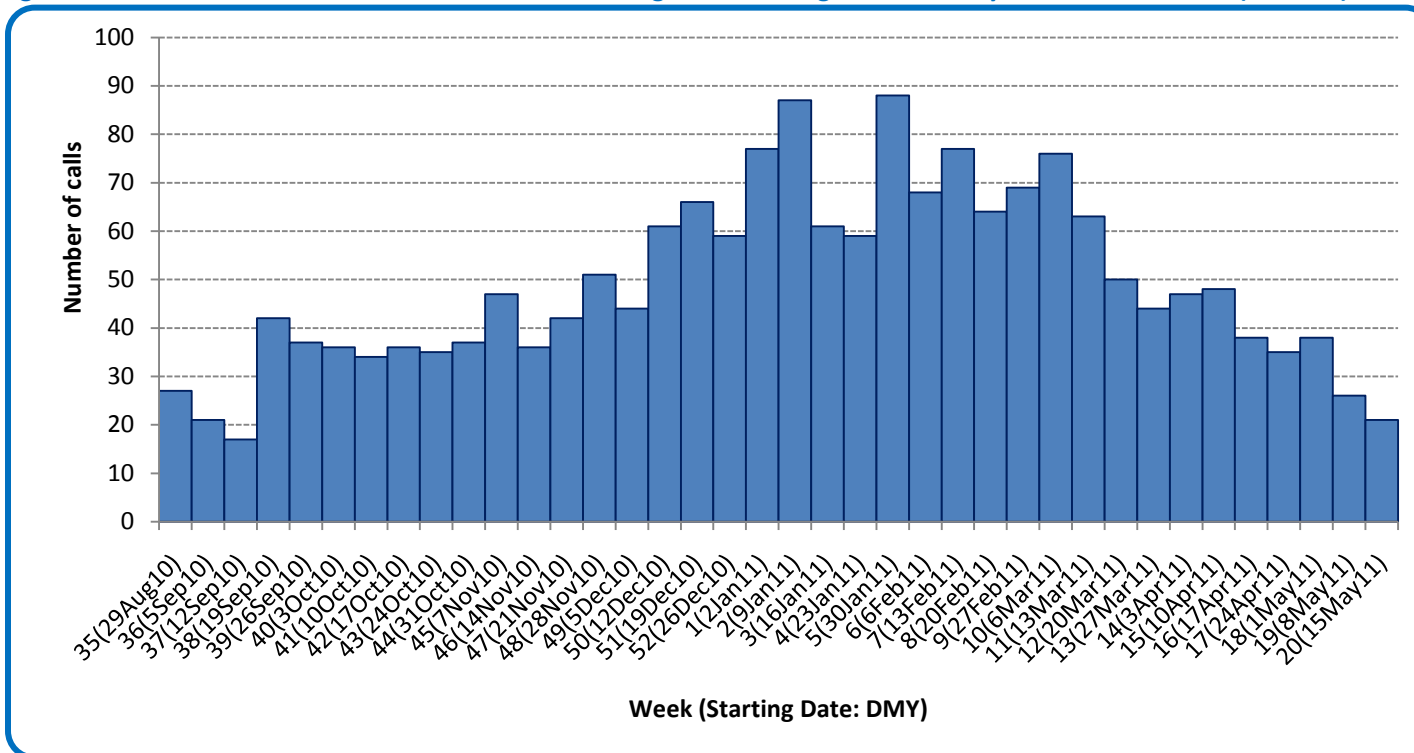
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 4E: Number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties, by week, Central Zone (2010-11)



Source: Sharp Focus - Health Link Alberta - via Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on May 21, 2011. For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SECTION 5: ZONE 4 – EDMONTON

[Back to first page](#)

Summary

With the exception of ongoing transmission of rhino-enterovirus and a recent increase in adenovirus activity, respiratory virus activity appears to be declining in Edmonton Zone.

Laboratory Data (see [Figure 5A](#), [Figure 5B](#), [Figure 5C](#), [Table 5A](#) & [Table 5B](#))

With only two cases of influenza confirmed in Edmonton Zone in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011), influenza activity continues to decrease. Rhino-enterovirus is currently the predominant respiratory virus in Edmonton Zone, however adenovirus activity appears to be increasing recently as well. As of the end of last week (May 21, 2011), the total number of influenza cases confirmed in this part of the province this season is 478 (38.9% have been identified as influenza A (H3), 16.1% as influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 42.7% as influenza B and 2.3% as influenza A with unresolved sub-typing). The age-specific rate for confirmed influenza (all types) for infants less than 2 years of age is higher compared to other age groups, at 25.5 per 10,000 (compared to 9.6 per 10,000 or lower for other age groups).

Outbreaks (see [Figure 5D](#))

Since last weeks' update, no new respiratory outbreaks were reported or confirmed in Edmonton Zone.

Health Link Alberta Calls (see [Figure 5E](#))

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta in Edmonton Zone for cough or breathing difficulties was relatively unchanged in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) compared to the previous week. With the exception of some small increases observed in recent weeks, this indicator has been declining since the end of February, 2011.

Emergency Department/Urgent Care Center Visits and Hospital Admissions (See [Figure 5F](#))

The number of visits to nine emergency departments/urgent care centers for ILI symptoms decreased by 14%, while the number of hospital admissions for the same reason increased by 17% in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) from the previous week. Generally, these indicators have been declining in recent weeks.

The number of visits to emergency departments/urgent care centers for cough/congestion symptoms was relatively unchanged in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) from the previous week, while the number of hospital admissions for the same reason increased by 31%. The trend for emergency department visits has been gradually declining over the last several weeks, whereas the trend for hospital admissions has been fluctuating.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

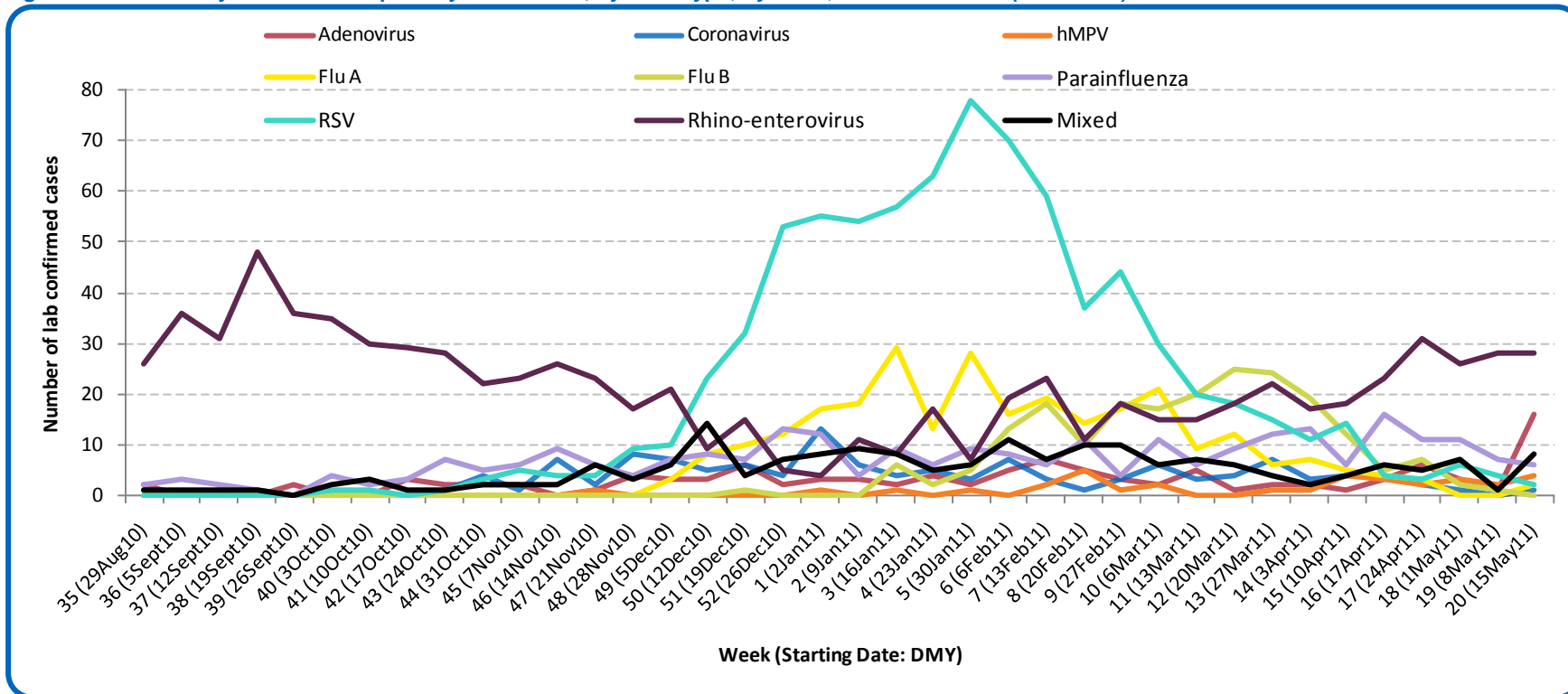
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

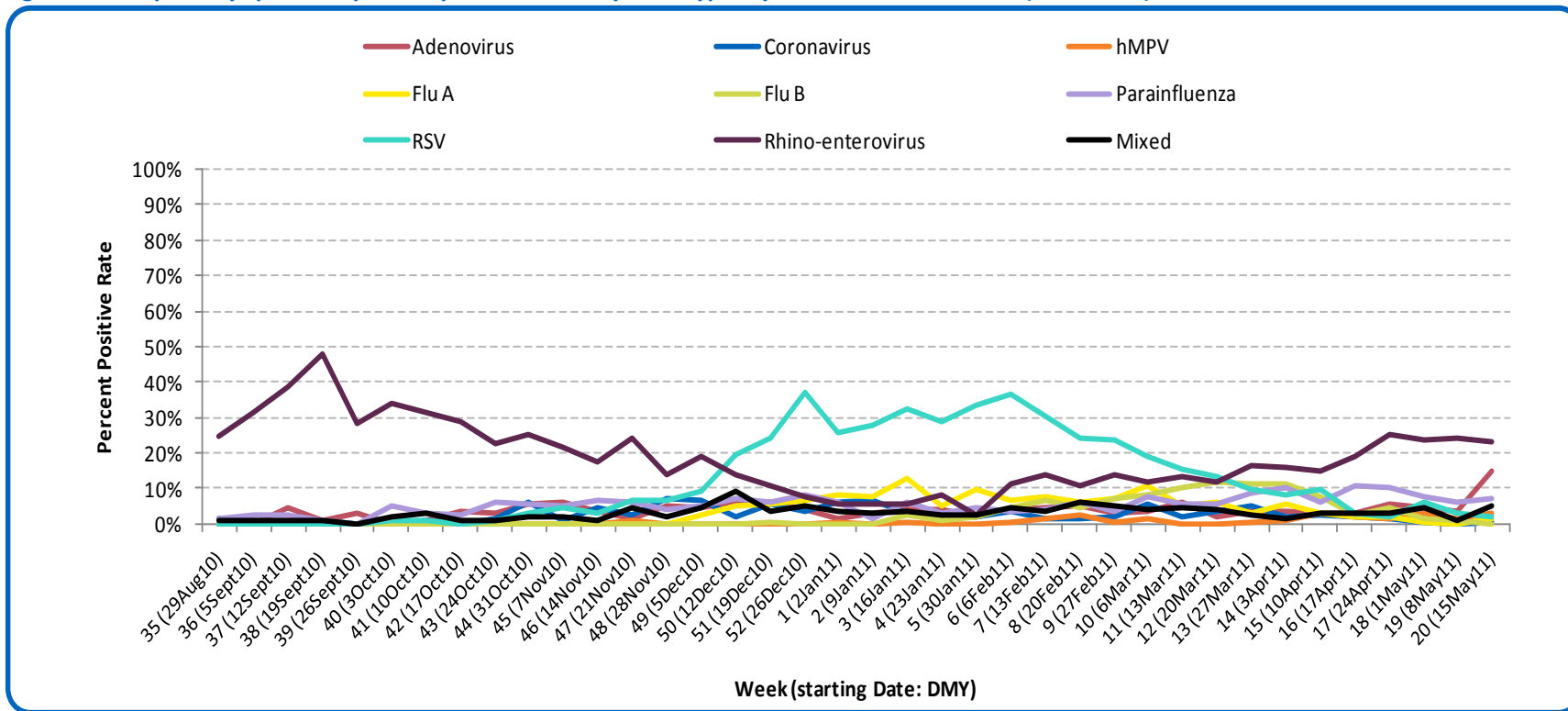
Figure 5A: Laboratory confirmed respiratory virus cases, by virus type, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010-2011)



Sources: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory and the Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 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

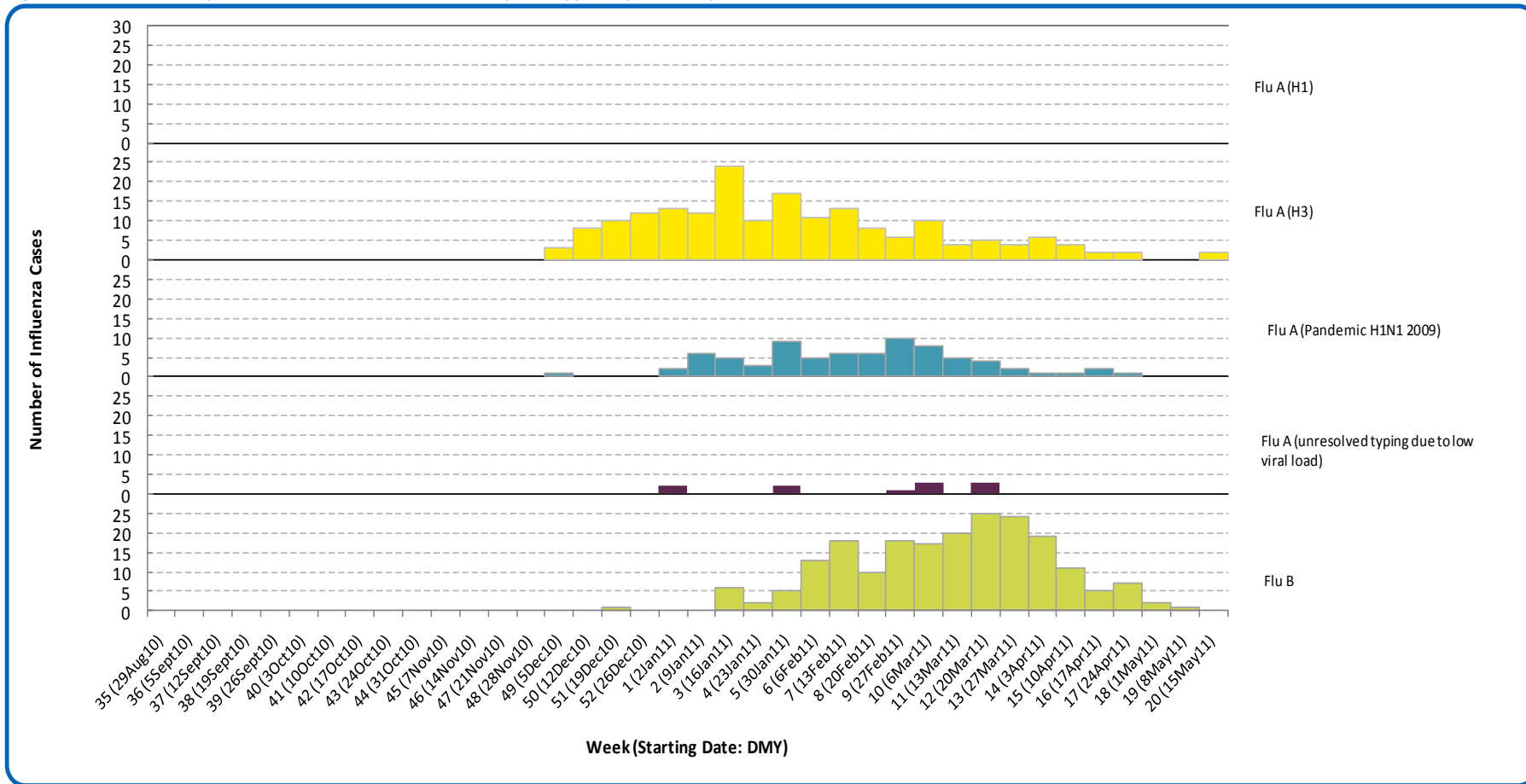
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

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



*Note: Six specimens were positive for influenza A or B and one or more other virus type(s). Three specimens were positive for both influenza A & B.

Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 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: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

Table 5A: New influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Edmonton Zone (Week 20: May 15-21, 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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	0	0.0	2	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0

Table 5B: Cumulative influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, Edmonton Zone (Aug 29, 2010 – May 21, 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	34	11.1	8	2.6	3	1.0	33	10.8	78	25.5
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	15	3.4	5	1.1	1	0.2	21	4.8	42	9.6
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	11	2.1	4	0.8	0	0.0	33	6.2	48	9.0
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	9	0.7	3	0.2	1	0.1	42	3.4	55	4.4
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	70	0.9	56	0.7	5	0.1	49	0.6	180	2.3
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	10	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	1.6	21	3.0
75+ years	0	0.0	37	6.1	1	0.2	1	0.2	15	2.5	54	8.9
Total	0	0.0	186	1.6	77	0.7	11	0.1	204	1.8	478	4.1

Source for tables 5A & 5B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 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

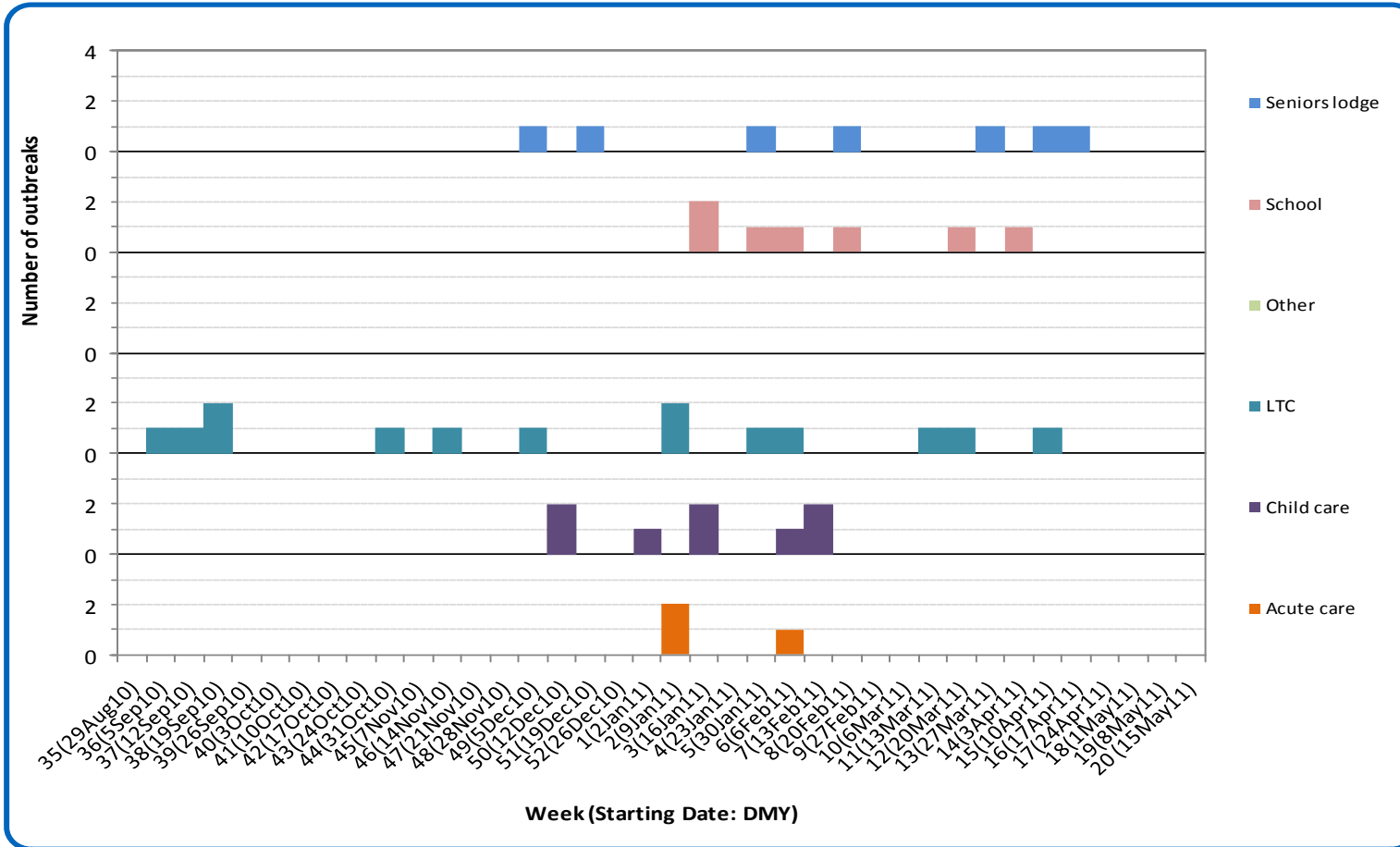
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 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](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

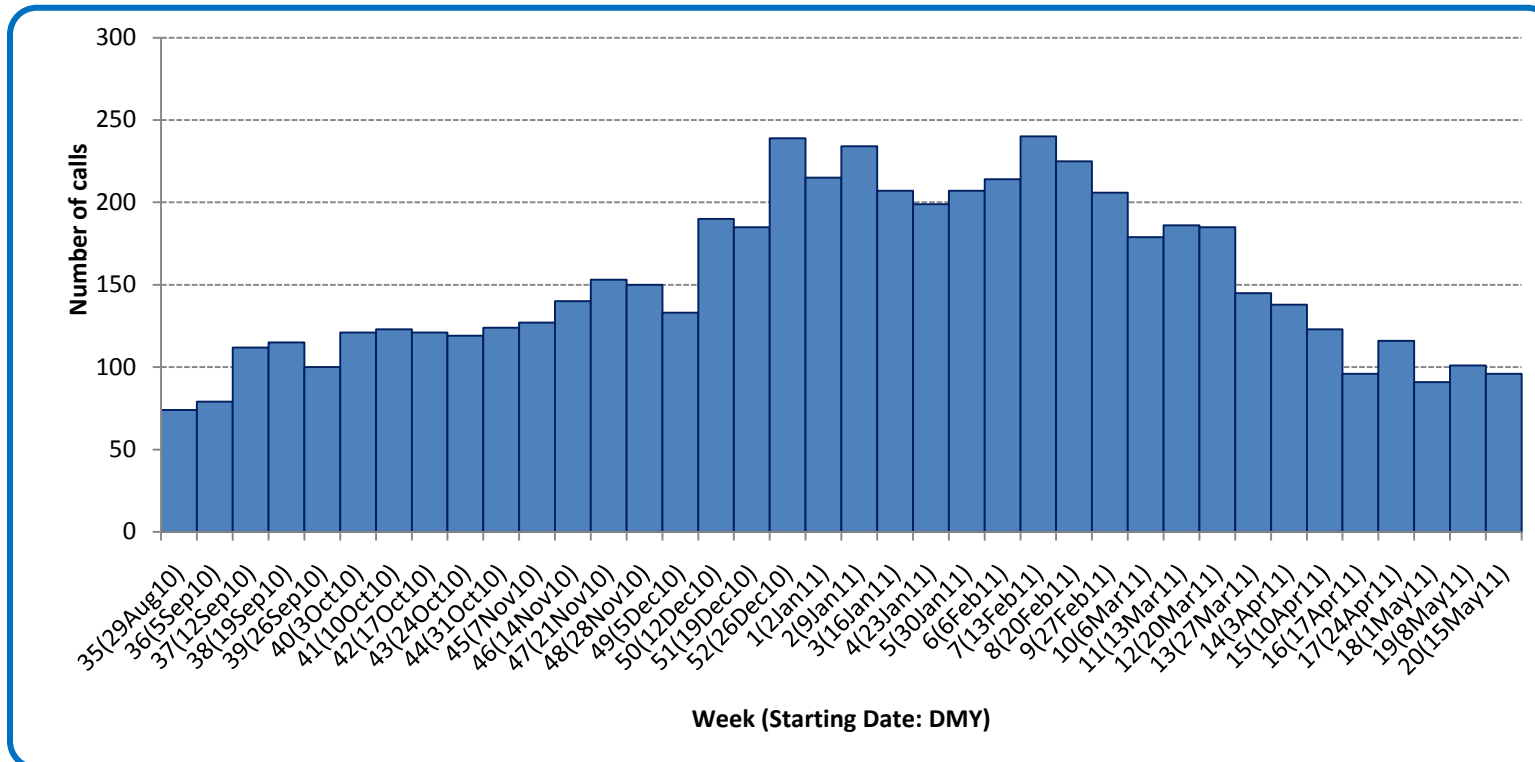
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

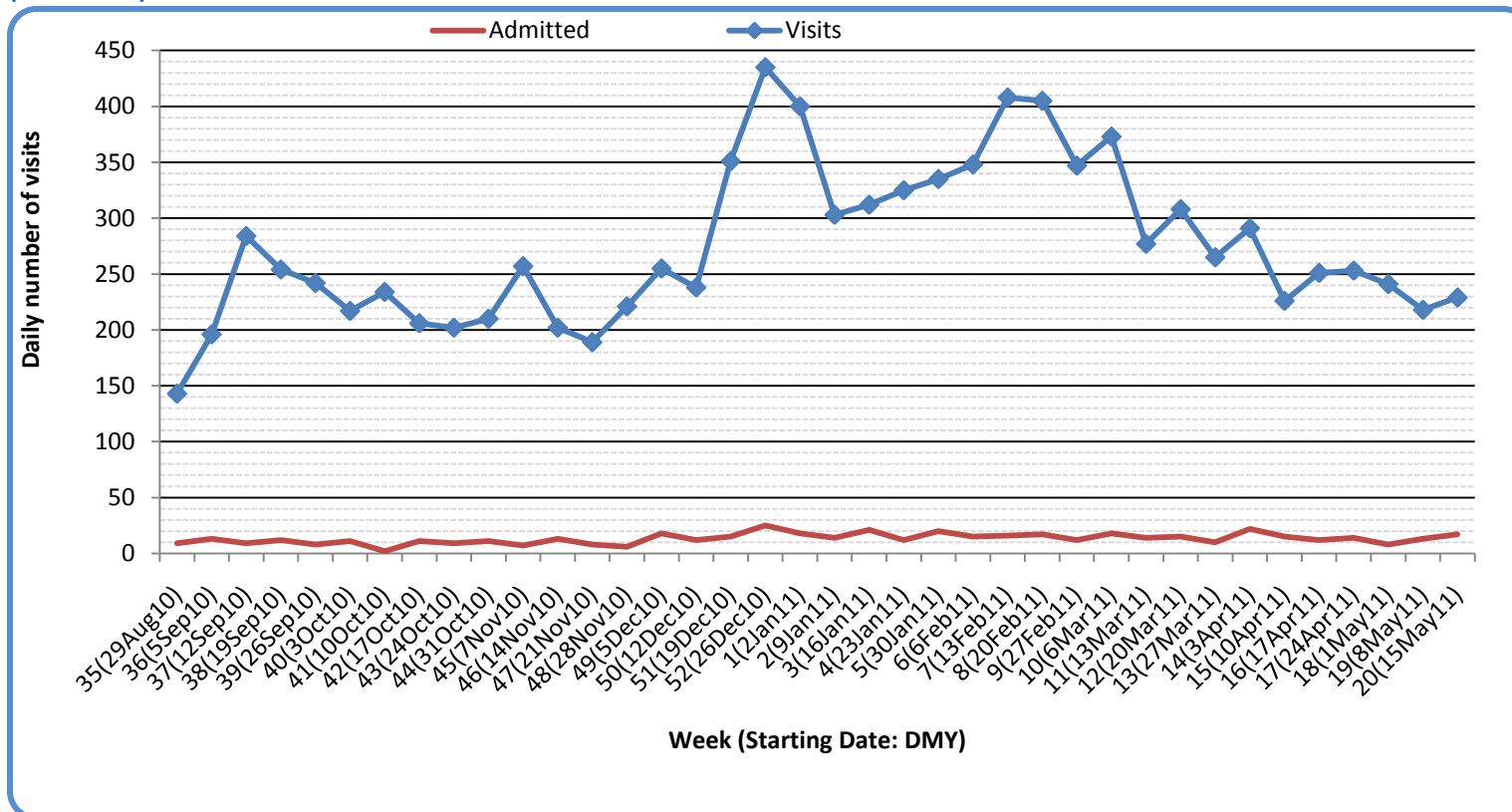
Figure 5E: Number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties, by week, Edmonton Zone (2010-11)



Source: Sharp Focus - Health Link Alberta - via Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSN) as of 23:59 on May 21, 2011. For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 5F: 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 May 21, 2011.
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

SECTION 6: ZONE 5 – NORTH

[Back to first page](#)

Summary

Despite continuing transmission of rhino-enterovirus, respiratory virus activity is generally declining in North Zone.

Laboratory Data (see [Figure 6A](#), [Figure 6B](#), [Figure 6C](#), [Table 6A](#) & [Table 6B](#))

Influenza activity continues to decline in North Zone. Rhino-enterovirus continues to circulate. So far this season, 294 cases of influenza have been confirmed in North Zone (27.6% have been identified as influenza A (H3), 27.2% as influenza A (H1N1) 2009, 44.9% as influenza B and 0.3% as influenza A with unresolved sub-typing). At this point in time, the age specific rate for confirmed influenza (all types) among infants under the age of 2 years is much higher than the rate for any other age group (42.8 per 10,000 compared to 18.2 per 10,000 or lower).

Outbreaks (see [Figure 6D](#))

There have been no new respiratory outbreaks confirmed or reported in North Zone.

Health Link Alberta Calls (see [Figure 6E](#))

The number of calls to Health Link Alberta by residents of North Zone for cough or breathing difficulties increased in Week 20 (May 15-21, 2011) compared to the previous week. This increase may be due, in part, to the recent fires in and around the Slave Lake area. Despite this increase, the number of calls has generally been declining over the last several weeks.

Emergency Department/Urgent Care Center Visits and Hospital Admissions

There are no data available for the North Zone.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

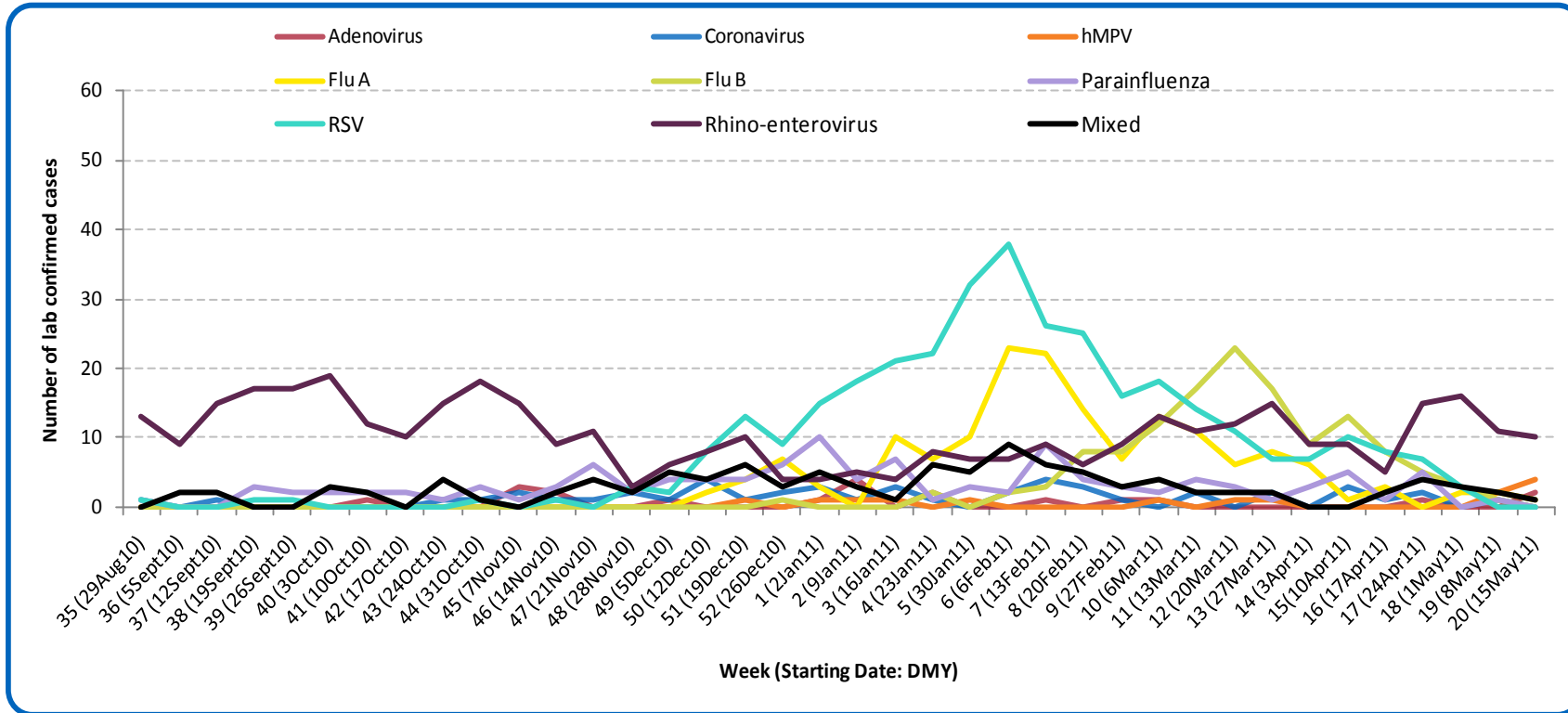
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 2011). For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

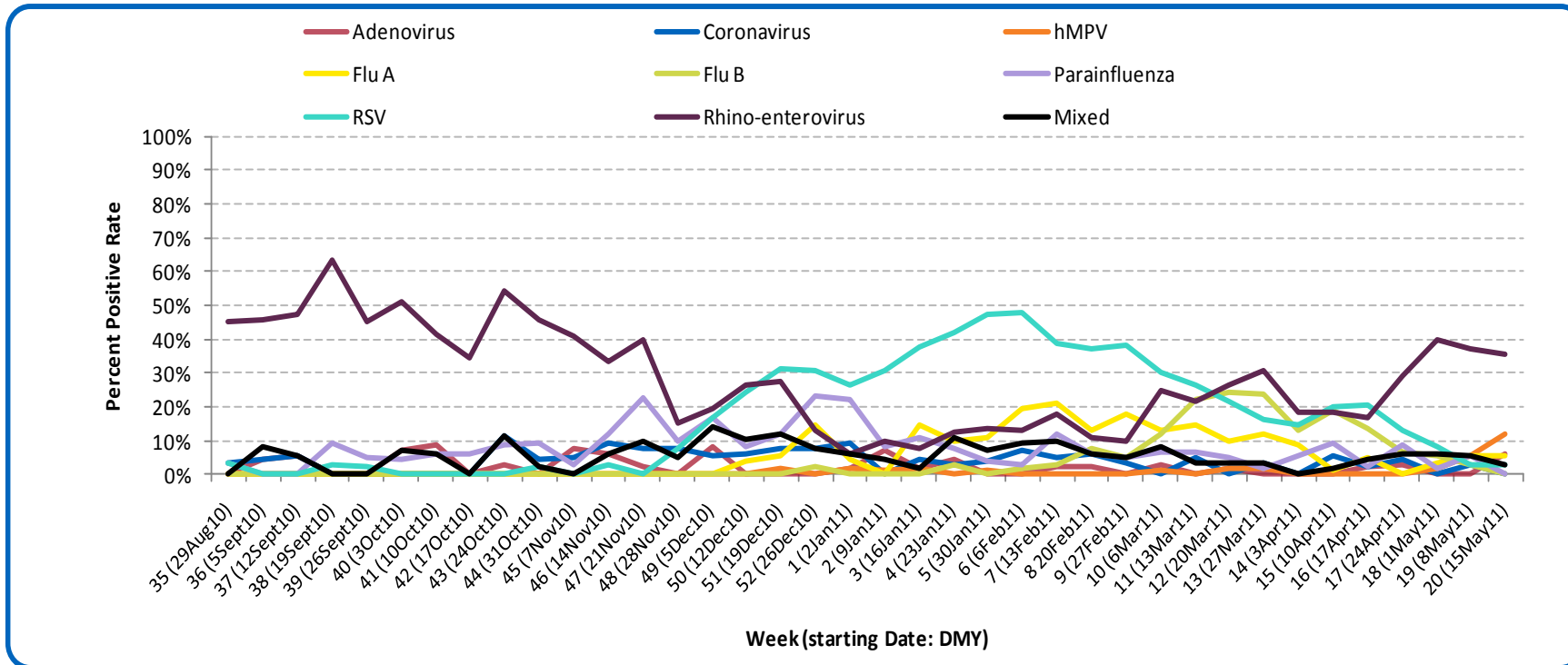
SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance
Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

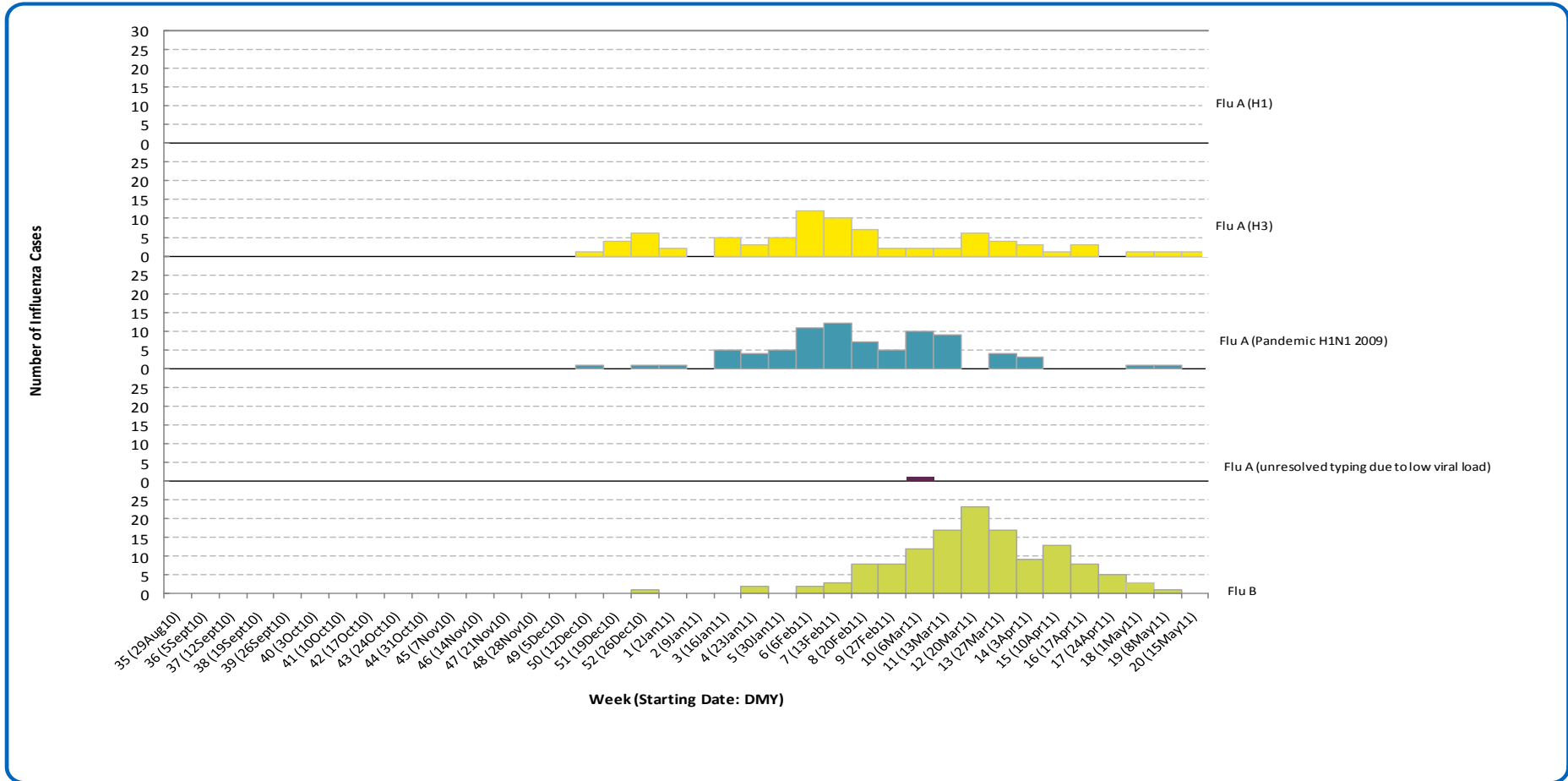
Figure 6B: Respiratory specimen percent positive rates, by virus type, by week, North Zone (2010-2011)



Source: DIAL – Provincial Laboratory (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 2011)
For more information on data definitions and sources see [Annex: Data Notes section at the end of this report](#)

[Back to start of section](#)

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



*Note: Eight specimens were positive for influenza A and one or more other virus type(s).

Source: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before May 21, 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: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

Table 6A: New influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, North Zone (Week 20: May 15-21, 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	0	0.0	1	0.7
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	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
75+ years	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	0	0.0	1	<0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	<0.1

Table 6B: Cumulative influenza cases (and age specific rates), by subtype, by age group, North Zone (Aug 29, 2010-May 21, 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	16	11.2	18	12.6	1	0.7	26	18.2	61	42.8
2 to <5 years	0	0.0	10	4.9	4	2.0	0	0.0	23	11.3	37	18.2
5 to <9 years	0	0.0	11	4.5	5	2.1	0	0.0	13	5.3	29	11.9
9 to <18 years	0	0.0	9	1.6	11	2.0	0	0.0	18	3.2	38	6.8
18 to <65 years	0	0.0	27	1.0	42	1.5	0	0.0	46	1.6	115	4.1
65 to <75 years	0	0.0	2	0.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	2.7	8	3.6
75+ years	0	0.0	6	3.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	3.8
Total	0	0.0	81	1.9	80	1.8	1	<0.1	132	3.0	294	6.8

Source for Tables 6A & 6B: Outbreak Response Toolkit (includes cases with positive respiratory specimens received on or before *May 21, 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

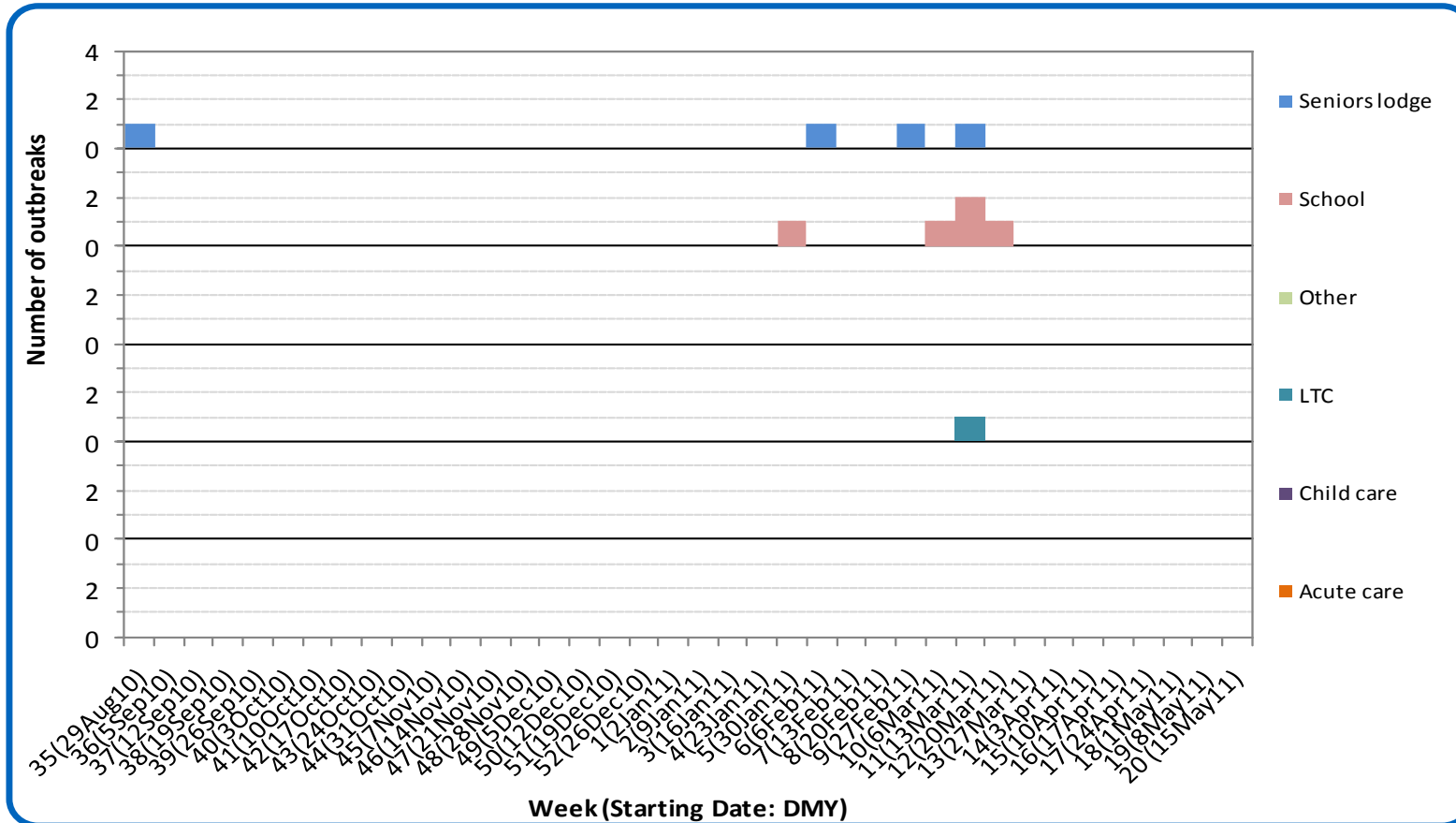
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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

[Back to start of section](#)

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 May 21, 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](#)

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

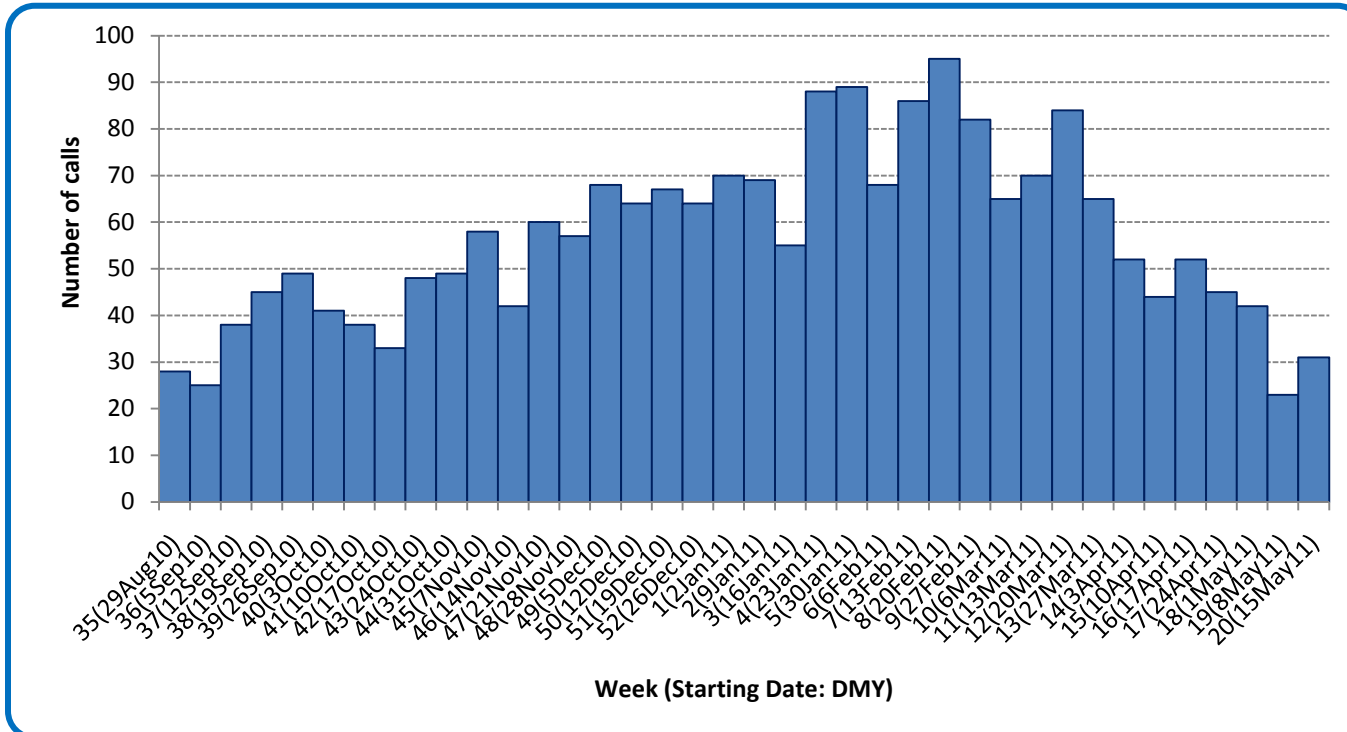
Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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[Back to start of section](#)

Figure 6E: Number of calls to Health Link Alberta for cough or breathing difficulties, by week, North Zone (2010-11)



Source: Sharp Focus - Health Link Alberta - via Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) as of 23:59 on May 21, 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: May 26, 2011

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ANNEX: DATA NOTES

[Back to first page](#)

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.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

Public Health Surveillance

Report Date: May 26, 2011

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OUTBREAKS

[Back to first page](#)

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.

SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH STATUS ASSESSMENT

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