

# Ontario Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Study (VE) Bulletin.

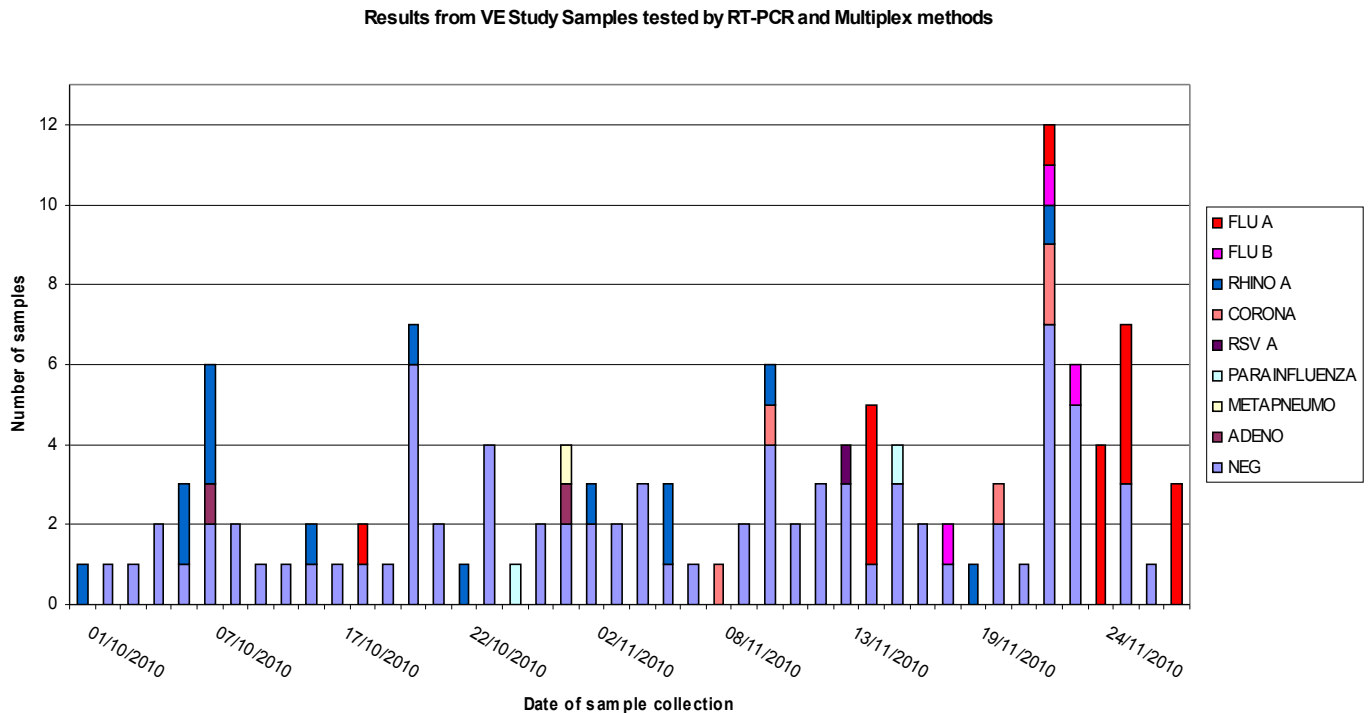
## Dear Sentinel,

This is the first in a series of bulletins that aims to give you concise feedback about the study as well as circulating respiratory pathogens in Ontario as reported in the Ontario Influenza Bulletin and data collected through our study. We are pleased to announce that in spite of an unexpected delay in swab delivery to our warehouse, all 140 consenting sentinels across the province have now received collection kits. Toronto Public Health Lab now receives close to 30 samples per week from VE sentinels, and we see a clear increase in influenza positivity rates in Ontario, especially in Toronto and surrounding regions of Halton, Peel, York and Durham. Influenza is now the most common virus circulating, with a total of 20 positive samples as of December 3, with Rhinovirus the second most common with 15 positive samples. The main influenza subtype detected is influenza A, H3, (16 samples) but we also found 1 pandemic H1N1 and 3 influenza B positive samples.

## Study related news and issues:

Please note that the **collection date** should be filled in on the requisition in **Box 4 – Reason for Test**. Please also complete **Submitter and Patient information**. Please also note that the white envelopes that come packaged with the Safe-T-Boxes should not be used and can be discarded. We request that you use the clear Biohazard bags and place the specimen in the longer pocket and seal it. The requisition goes in the short pocket.

**Figure 1: Results from VE specimens tested by RT PCR and Multiplex methods, October 1, to December 3, 2010.**



**Table 1: Respiratory viruses detected among VE specimens, October 1 – December 3, 2010**

Detected viruses	Number of positive specimens	Public Health Unit*
Influenza A/H3	16	HAL, PEEL, SMD, TOR, DUR
Influenza A/pH1N1	1	TOR
Influenza B	3	HAL, TOR, YRK
Parainfluenza	3	TOR
Coronavirus	5	DUR, HAM, OTT, NPS
Adenovirus	2	HKP
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	1	SMD
Entero/Rhinovirus	16	NIA, WAT, TOR, PEEL
Human Metapneumovirus	1	NIA
<b>Total Positive</b>	<b>48</b>	
<b>Total specimens tested</b>	<b>132</b>	

(Public Health Unit codes: HAL – Halton, DUR – Durham Region, TOR – City of Toronto, YRK – Region of York, OTT – City of Ottawa, PEEL – Peel region, NPS – North Bay Parry Sound District, SMD – Simcoe-Muskoka District, HKP – Hliburton-KAawartha-Pine Ridge District, NIA – Niagara Regional Area, WAT – Waterloo)

For more information see: <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/studies/vestudy/index.html>

### **Influenza activity in Ontario**

Overall, influenza activity in Ontario for week 47 (November 21 – November 27, 2010), was slightly higher than previous week with Ontario health units reporting 23 new cases of influenza A for the week. This includes samples from Halton, Peel, York, Toronto and Simcoe-Muskoka regions. This ILI rate is higher than the average reported for week 47 in previous years.

For more information see:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/bulletins/2010/docs/flu\\_bul\\_20101203.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/bulletins/2010/docs/flu_bul_20101203.pdf)