

## Ontario Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Study (VE) Bulletin.

Dear Sentinel,

Between November 27 and December 23 the Public Health Ontario Laboratory (PHOL) - Toronto tested samples from 112 cases from VE sentinels. We continue to see low influenza activity in Ontario and in the VE we tested three (3) samples that were positive for influenza. One sample tested positive for A/H3 and two additional samples are pending subtyping. Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates are still comparable to those of the same period last year and, as the table below suggests, most of these continue to be the result of infection with Rhinovirus or Parainfluenza viruses.

### Study related news and issues:

- **Please make sure the specimen tubes have the patient's name on them.**
- **Please fully complete the following fields on the requisition form:**
  - ✓ **Section 1** – Submitter – name and address should be legible. These are used for reporting the results back to you
  - ✓ **Section 2** – Patient Information: Name, DOB, Sex and postal code are required
  - ✓ **Section 3** – Specimen Type and Site: Specify if nasal, nasopharyngeal or other
  - ✓ **Section 4** – Date of collection (!) and clinical information if relevant
  - ✓ **Study questionnaire** – All questions (1-8) should be answered. If the answer to question 4a is N (no) questions 4b-4e may be skipped. Please pay close attention to the first 2 questions and make efforts to assure both are accurately answered prior to submitting the sample.
- **We would like to remind you to please collect samples from patients aged 65 years and older.** The VE study is hoping to evaluate vaccine effectiveness in this age group. Currently only **18/264 (6.8%)** of the samples we received are from individuals aged 65+

**Table 1: Respiratory viruses detected among VE specimens received November 19 – December 23, 2011**

Detected viruses	Number of positive specimens	Public Health Unit
Influenza A (Not subtyped)	2	HAL, TOR
Influenza A/H3	1	WDG
Influenza A/pH1N1	0	
Influenza B	0	
Parainfluenza	8	DUR, HAM, KFL, NIA, SMD, WAT
Coronavirus	5	HAM, TOR, NIA, WDG, WEC
Adenovirus	4	DUR, LGL, NWR, OTT
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	5	DUR, KFL, TOR
Enterovirus	0	
Rhinovirus	15	BRN, DUR, HAL, HDN, NIA, OTT, REN, SMD, TOR, WAT, WDG, YRK
Human Metapneumovirus	0	
<b>Total Positive</b>	<b>40*</b>	(Note: *May include co-infections)
<b>Total specimens tested by Multiplex</b>	<b>138</b>	

(Public Health Unit: ALG – Algoma, BRN – Brant, DUR – Durham, EOH – Eastern Ontario, GBO – Grey-Bruce, HAL – Halton, HDN – Haldimand-Norfolk, HAM – Hamilton, HUR – Huron, KFL – Kingston-Frontenac and Lennox and Addington, LAM – Lambton, LGL - Leeds-Grenville and Lanark, MSL – Middlesex-London, NIA – Niagara Regional Area, NWR - Northwestern, OTT – City of Ottawa, OXF – Oxford, PEEL – Peel region, REN – Renfrew, SMD – Simcoe-Muskoka District, THB - Thunder Bay, TOR – Toronto, WAT – Waterloo, WDG – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, WEC – Windsor-Essex, YRK – Region of York)

For more information on the VE study and information on circulating respiratory viruses, please see: <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/studies/vestudy/index.html>

### Influenza activity in Ontario

Overall, during weeks 47-49 (November 20 – December 10, 2011) influenza activity in Ontario was **low** with 11 new cases testing positive for influenza in the province (3 influenza A(H1N1)pdm 2009, 4 influenza A(H3) and 3 influenza B; one sample was not subtyped). Ontario health units reported **no** new institutional **influenza outbreaks** for this period; however there was a **slight increase** in institutional **respiratory infection outbreaks** during the last 3 weeks (2, 3, and 4 respectively). ILI consultation rates reported by FluWatch sentinels during weeks 47-49 were variable with no significant change compared to the previous period we reported (weeks 35-46).

For more information see: <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/flubulletin.html>