

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

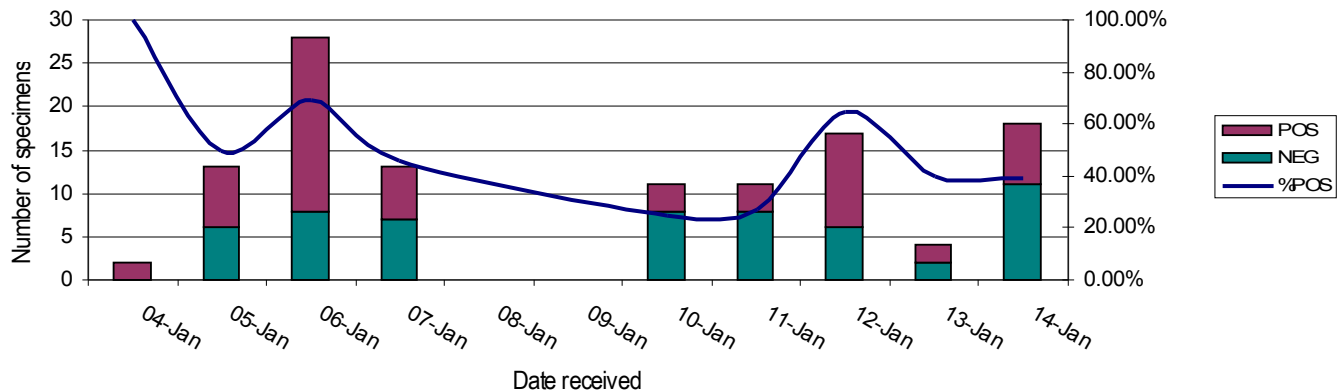
### Dear Sentinel,

Between December 24 and January 14 the Public Health Lab - Toronto received 147 samples from VE sentinels, with overall influenza positivity rates in Ontario at 54% for study samples (compared to 49% previously reported for early December). Most samples came from Toronto and surrounding regions of Halton, Peel, York and Durham, but we received samples from other regions as well (Table 1). Influenza A is the most common respiratory virus circulating, with a total of 79 positive samples between December 24 and January 14 [67 flu A (H3), 5 flu A (pH1N1), 7 flu A (subtype not determined), and 1 flu B].

### Study related news and issues:

Please remember to include your **name and address** on the requisition form as well as on the shipping box. Please make sure to use our Purolator account number (**017556242**) with **every shipment** of samples back to us. Reversing the charges is prohibitively expensive and we might not be able to do it.

**Figure 1: Results from Ontario VE specimens tested for influenza by RT PCR, January 04 - 14, 2010.**



**Table 1: Respiratory viruses detected among VE specimens collected December 24, 2010 – January 14, 2011**

Detected viruses	Number of positive specimens	Public Health Unit
Influenza A/H3	67	DUR, EOH, HAL, HAM, HUR, MSL, NIA, NWR, OTT, PEEL, SMD, TOR, WAT, WDG, YRK
Influenza A/pH1N1	5	HAL, OTT, SMD, TOR, YRK
Influenza B	1	TOR
Parainfluenza	0	
Coronavirus	3	NIA, TOR
Adenovirus	0	
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	2	NIA
Enterovirus/Rhinovirus	3	DUR
Human Metapneumovirus	1	DUR
<b>Total Positive</b>	<b>92</b>	
<b>Total specimens tested</b>	<b>147</b>	

(Public Health Unit: DUR – Durham, EOH – Eastern Ontario, HAL – Halton, HAM – Hamilton, HUR – Huron, KFL – Kingston-Frontenac and Lennox and Addington, MSL – Middlesex-London, NIA – Niagara Regional Area, NWR - Northwestern, OTT – City of Ottawa, PEEL – Peel region, SMD – Simcoe-Muskoka District, TOR – Toronto, WAT – Waterloo, WDG – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, YRK – Region of York)

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

### Influenza activity in Ontario

Overall, in weeks 51-01 (December 19, 2010 – January 08, 2011), influenza activity in Ontario was increasing and was higher for each week than for the previous weeks. On week 2 (January 09-15, 2011) overall activity was lower than the week before (Week 1). Ontario health units reported close to 2000 new cases of confirmed influenza. ILI consultation rate reported by FluWatch sentinels was higher than the average reported for this period in previous years.

For more information see: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/flu/bulletins/2010/default.aspx>