

Ontario Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Study (VE) Bulletin.

Dear Sentinel,

Between April 10 - 29 the Public Health Lab - Toronto received samples from 24 cases from VE sentinels, with overall influenza positivity rates in Ontario at 21% for study cases (compared to 25% previously reported). Influenza **B** is the only influenza virus detected, with a total of 5/5 (100%) positive cases between April 10 - 29. No flu A cases were detected during this period.

Study related news and issues:

- Our team will present the VE study on **Tuesday May 17, 2011 from 12-1** to a diversified audience of healthcare professionals. For more information and to **join us in person or by webinar please register at <http://influenza.eventbrite.com/>**
- Please **continue submitting** samples from patients presenting with ILI until further notice. Your contribution is important for laboratory-confirmed respiratory viral pathogen surveillance. See table 1 below for more viruses detected.

Figure 1: Results from Ontario VE specimens tested for influenza by RT PCR, April 10 - 29, 2011.

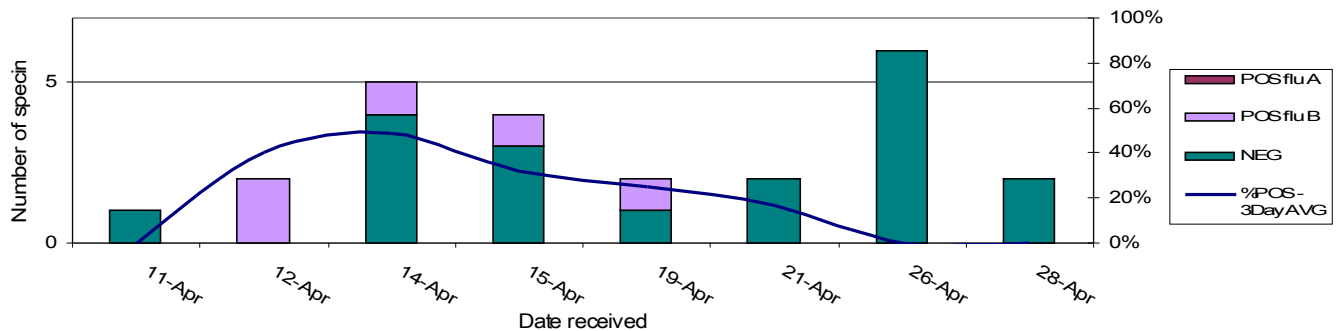


Table 1: Respiratory viruses detected among VE specimens received March 20 – April 9, 2011

Detected viruses	Number of positive specimens	Public Health Unit
Influenza A/H3	0	
Influenza A/pH1N1	0	
Influenza B	5	DUR, LGL, TOR, WAT
Parainfluenza	1	WAT
Coronavirus	4	KFL, NIA, OTT, TOR
Adenovirus	0	
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	0	
Entero/Rhinovirus	1	TOR
Human Metapneumovirus	2	OTT
Total Positive	13*	(Note: *May include co-infections)
Total specimens tested	24	

(Public Health Unit: ALG – Algoma, DUR – Durham, EOH – Eastern Ontario, GBO – Grey-Bruce, HAL – Halton, 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, SMD – Simcoe-Muskoka District, THB - Thunder Bay, 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 14 - 16 (March 27 – April 23, 2011) influenza activity in Ontario decreased and was **lower** than in previous weeks. Ontario health units reported 58, 54 and 38 new confirmed cases of influenza for weeks 14, 15 and 16 respectively. ILI consultation rates reported by FluWatch sentinels in weeks **14 and 15** were **slightly higher** than the average reported for the same period in previous years, and rates reported for week **16** were **slightly lower** than previously reported.

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