

Ontario Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Study (VE) Bulletin.

Dear Sentinel,

Between April 30 and May 27 the Public Health Lab - Toronto (TPHL) received samples from 26 cases from VE sentinels, with overall influenza positivity rates in Ontario at 0% for study cases (compared to 21% previously reported). The last flu positive sample was received on April 19.

Study related news and issues:

- Our VE presentation and webinar was regrettably cancelled due to a last minute scheduling conflict. We would like to apologize to each of you who registered and did not get to see the presentation. We did not yet reschedule, but will keep you informed once we set a new date for our presentation. Regardless, if you have any questions or concerns you can always address them directly to us by phone, fax, email or mail.
- Please continue to submit samples for the VE study throughout the summer. We request that you keep swabbing patients presenting with ILI and continue to send samples to TPHL in order to determine circulating respiratory viruses in Ontario. With the weather getting warmer we would like to emphasize **NOT** to ship samples on Friday and to make sure a fully frozen ice-pack is included in the box with the sample.
- See table 1 below for other respiratory viruses detected in samples received between April 30 and May 27.

Table 1: Respiratory viruses detected among VE specimens received April 30 – May 27, 2011

Detected viruses	Number of positive specimens	Public Health Unit
Influenza A/H3	0	
Influenza A/pH1N1	0	
Influenza B	0	
Parainfluenza	5	ALG, DUR, LAM
Coronavirus	2	NIA
Adenovirus	0	
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	0	
Entero/Rhinovirus	7	DUR, LGL, NIA
Human Metapneumovirus	1	NIA
Total Positive	15	
Total specimens tested	26	

(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 17 - 19 (April 24 – May 14, 2011) influenza activity in Ontario was **lower** than in previous weeks. Ontario health units reported a total of 64 new confirmed cases of influenza for weeks 17, 18 and 19. ILI consultation rates reported by FluWatch sentinels in week **17** were **lower** than the average reported for the same period in previous years, and rates reported for week **19**, at 19.6/1,000 patients, were **slightly higher** than previously reported. No information was given for week 18.

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