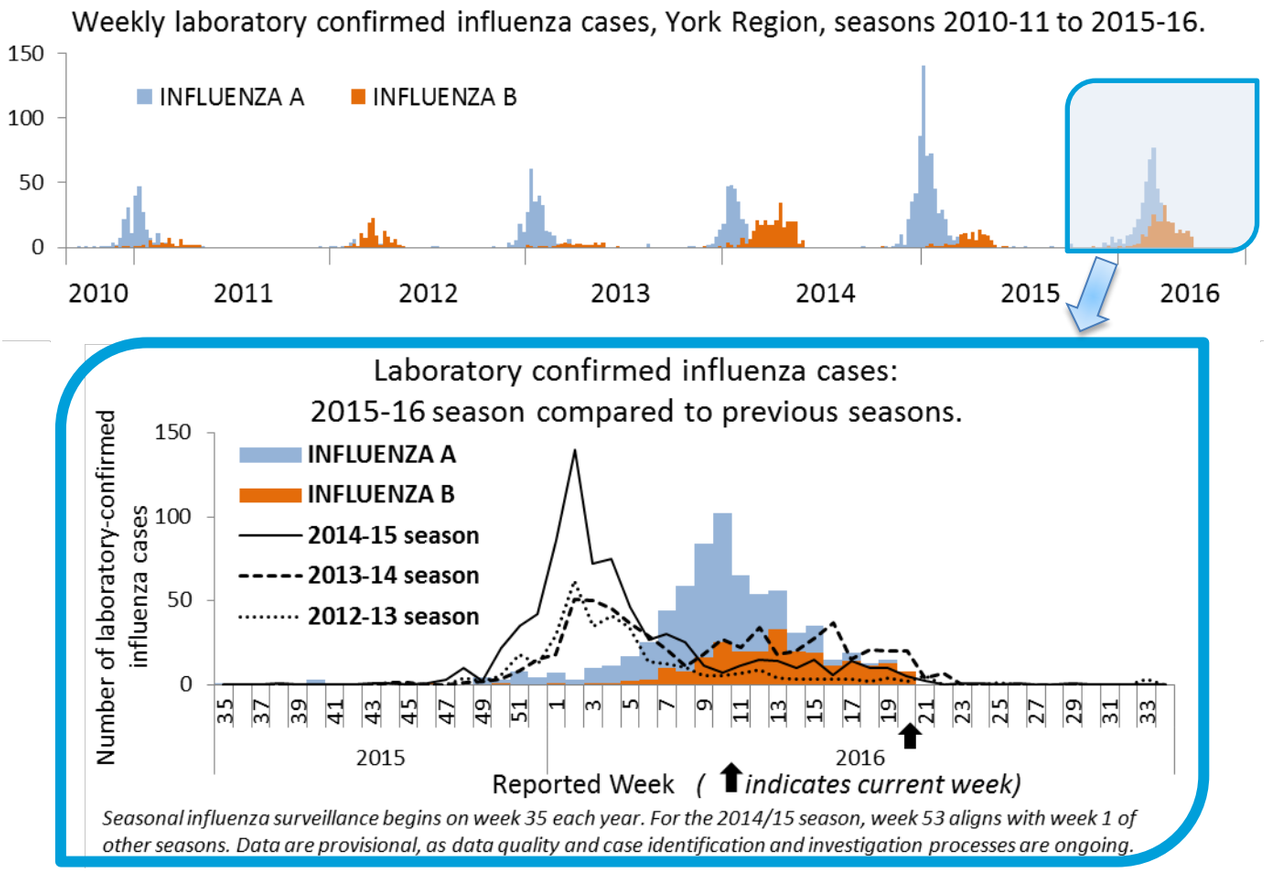
York Region

For your information

2015/16 Influenza Season Weekly Update

Week ending May 21, 2016



Data source[1]: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System database, extracted by York Region Public Health as of May 24, 2016.

Total laboratory confirmed influenza cases this season: **697**

Laboratory confirmed cases reported this week: **8**

Trend: ↓

Flu activity level[2]: **localized**

Influenza A activity peaked during the week ending March 12th

Influenza B activity peaked during the week ending April 2nd

- **Primary circulating strain of influenza A in York Region and Ontario[3]: (H1N1)pdm09**
- **Close to 100% of tested isolates sensitive to Tamiflu and to Relenza in Canada[4]**
- **Rate highest among children under 5 in York Region**

Date released: May 25, 2016

Technical notes are on reverse.

Technical Notes

Introduction

This section details the process conducted to create York Region Public Health's Influenza Season Weekly Update. Any questions, suggestions, requests for further information or accessibility requests pertaining to this document may be directed to:

Supervisor, Surveillance, Education and CQI Unit
Infectious Diseases Control Division
9060 Jane Street, Vaughan, ON L4K 0G5
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As a result of case identification and investigation procedures, as well as ongoing data cleaning efforts, case counts presented in this update may differ from previous reports. These changes, unless otherwise stated, do not reflect an actual change in disease incidence within the population during this time period. The current report statistics represent the most current disease counts in York Region and supersede all previously reported statistics.

Data Sources and Definitions

1. **Integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS)**
   Influenza case data are obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, extracted by York Region Public Health.

2. **Influenza Activity Level Definitions**
   Influenza activity levels are reported by public health units to Public Health Ontario (PHO) on a weekly basis. The descriptions of the activity levels used and listed here represent an Ontario specific operationalization of the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) *FluWatch* report activity level definitions:

   - **No activity** – no laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported and no ongoing laboratory confirmed institutional influenza outbreaks
   - **Sporadic** – at least one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza with no ongoing laboratory-confirmed institutional influenza outbreaks
   - **Localized** – at least one ongoing laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak in an institution
   - **Widespread** – multiple ongoing laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks in institutions separated by some geographic distance, in other words, non-adjacent areas

3. **Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin**
   Information regarding provincial influenza disease occurrence is obtained from PHO's Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin. Complete reports are accessible online, from: http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx

4. **Public Health Agency of Canada *FluWatch* report**
   Information regarding national influenza disease occurrence is obtained from PHAC's *FluWatch* report. Complete reports are accessible online, from: http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/reports-season-2015-2016-saison-rapports-eng.php

Data Extraction and Presentation

Case data are extracted based on the date on which the case was reported and are grouped into the provincial surveillance weeks. Influenza case counts for the five previous influenza seasons are included in the report for comparison.

The data presented include cases who resided in York Region during the time of their diagnosis, and exclude records identified as duplicates or entered in error.