

RESPIRATORY WATCH

Week 7 (Feb. 13, 2005 to Feb. 19, 2005)

A. INFLUENZA

Capital, Western and Eastern regions of the province continue to experience localized influenza activity with new outbreaks reported in three long-term care facilities and 13 schools/daycares. Northern region is reporting sporadic activity with no new outbreaks; lab-confirmed cases were reported only in Colchester East Hants Health Authority (DHA 4).

As of February 19, 2005, a total of 364 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (361 Influenza A and 3 Influenza B) have been reported in Nova Scotia. The number of cases reported to date this season is 5.2% higher than last year's cumulative total of 346 confirmed cases (as of week 7, 2003/04) and it is significantly higher than both the 2001/02 and 2002/03 seasons with 23 and 18 confirmed cases, respectively.

The percent of patient visits due to ILI reported by sentinel physicians this report week was 5.8% (25 ILI / 431 patient visits). Although the rate of ILI has increased in the last three weeks, it remains at or slightly above the mean rate reported for the last five seasons (see Figures 4a and 4b).

Information on weekly influenza activity in the rest of Canada, the United States and internationally is available from the Public Health Agency of Canada's Flu Watch website (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/04-05>).

Table 1: Total number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases by report period and season to date

Region	District	Report Period: Feb. 6, 2005 to Feb. 12, 2005			Season to Date: Aug. 22, 2004 to Feb. 12, 2005		
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Total	Influenza A	Influenza B	Total
Western	DHA 1	4	0	4	23	1	24
	DHA 2	3	0	3	20	0	17
	DHA 3	1	0	1	36	0	34
Northern	DHA 4	1	0	1	18	0	17
	DHA 5	0	0	0	4	0	4
	DHA 6	0	0	0	10	0	10
Eastern	DHA 7	5	0	5	29	0	24
	DHA 8	11	0	11	91	0	80
Capital	DHA 9	12	0	12	130	2	132
Total		37	0	37	361	3	364

Figure 1: Number of lab-confirmed influenza cases in Nova Scotia, by report week, 2004/05

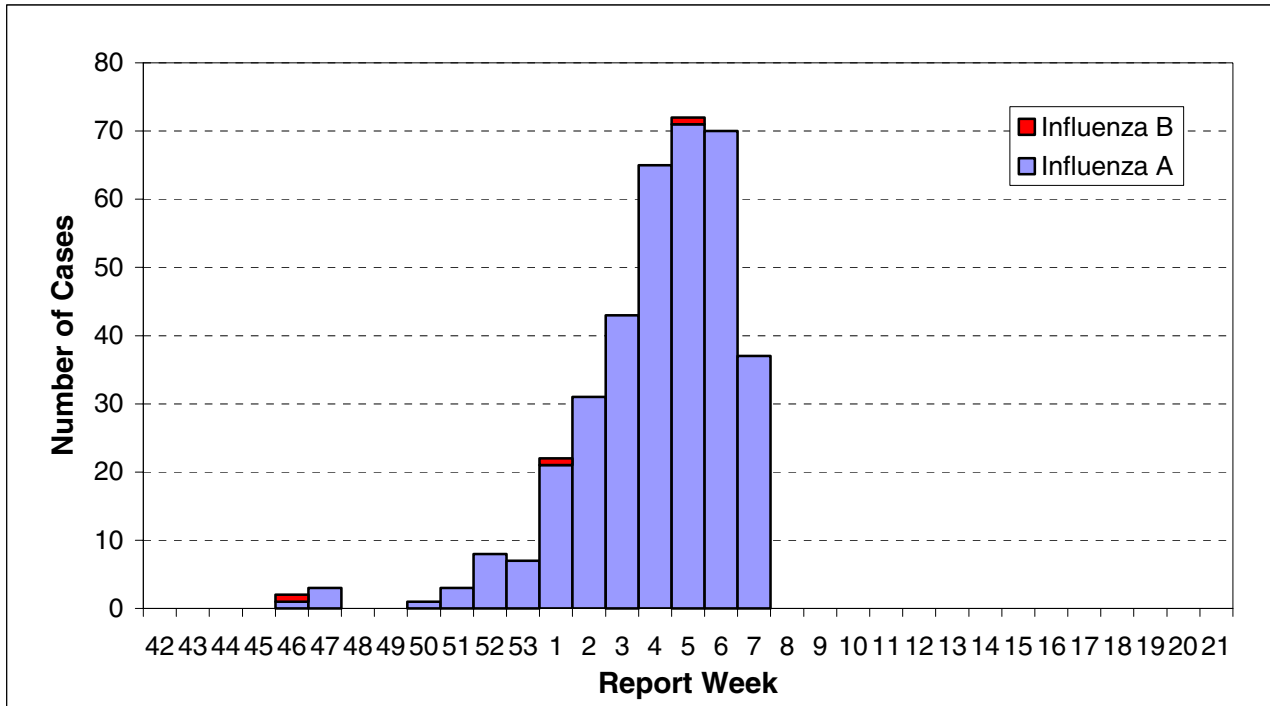


Figure 2: Cumulative number of lab confirmed influenza cases (as of Feb. 19, 2005) by age group (n = 364*)

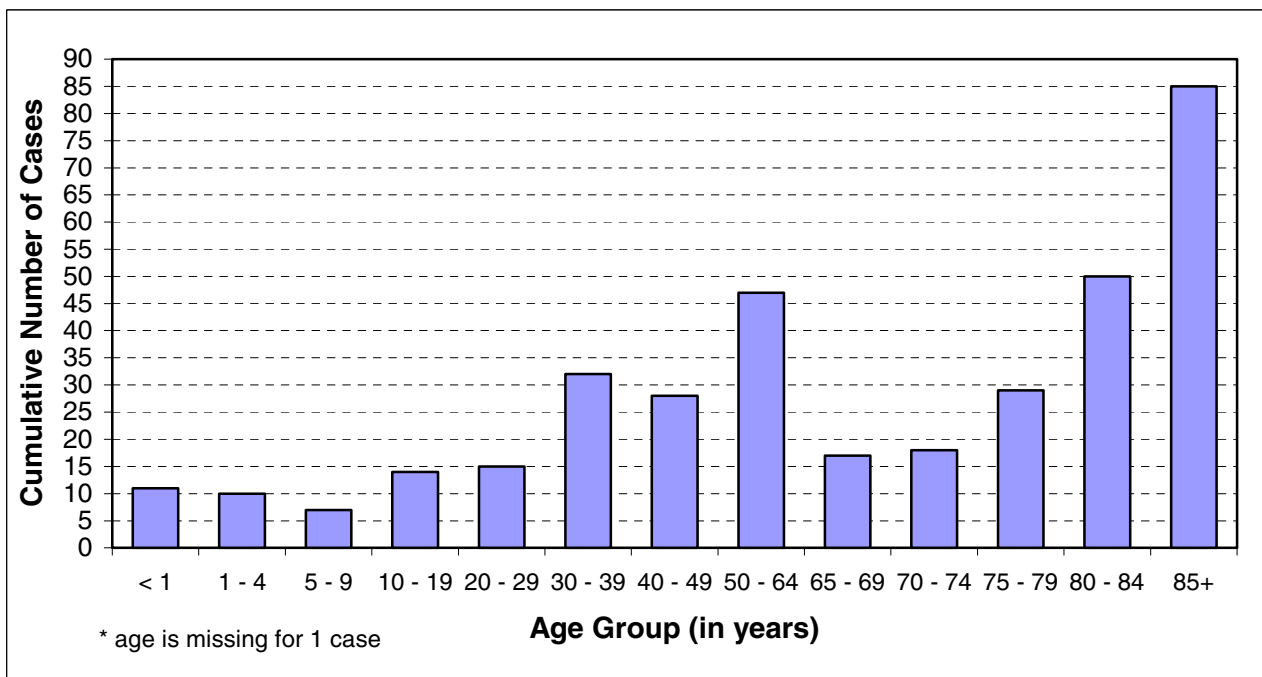


Figure 3: Total number of lab confirmed influenza cases by type and location, reported for week ending Feb. 19, 2005 (n = 37)

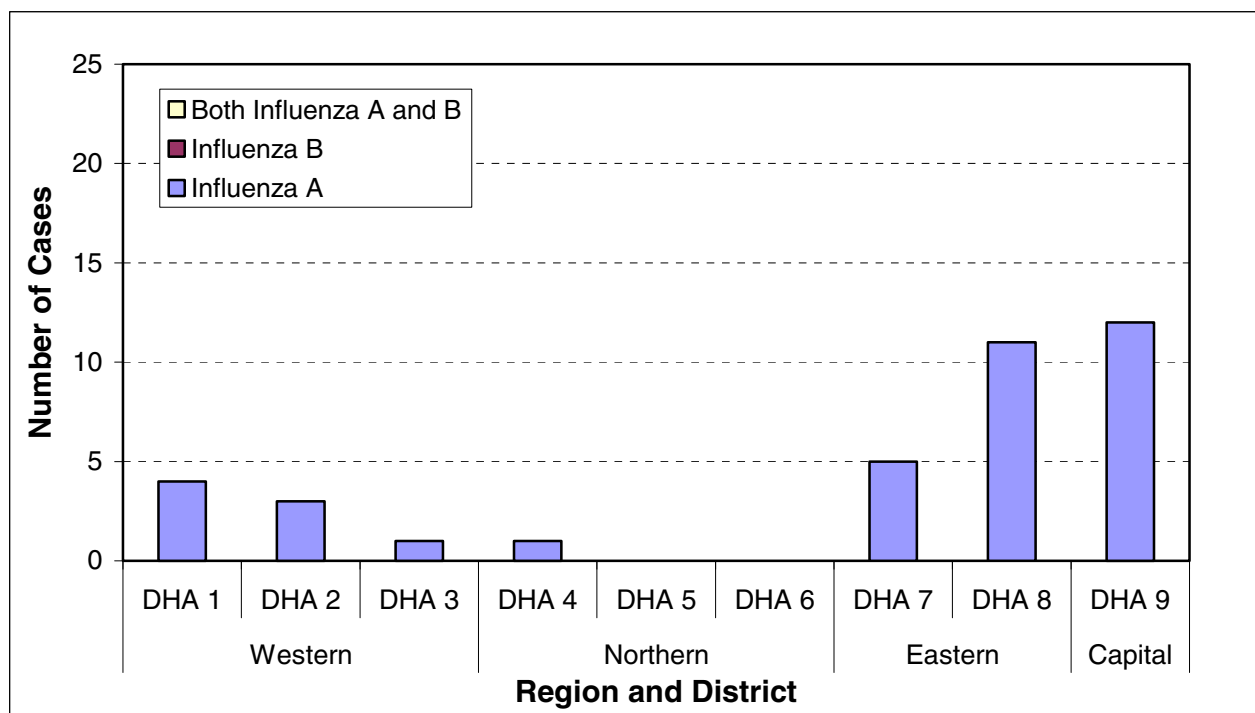


Table 2: Total number of long-term care facilities reporting outbreaks of influenza, Nova Scotia, 2004 – 2005

		Season to Date: Aug. 22, 2004 to Feb. 19, 2005			
Region	District	ILI only	Lab Confirmed Influenza	PHS Recommended Prophylaxis	
				Facility Administered: Amantadine	Facility Administered: Tamiflu
Western	DHA 1	0	5	0	0
	DHA 2	0	0	0	1
	DHA 3	0	3	0	2
Northern	DHA 4	0	4	0	0
	DHA 5	0		0	0
	DHA 6	0		0	0
Eastern	DHA 7	2	2	3	0
	DHA 8	4	10	10	1
Capital	DHA 9	3	11	1	9
Total		9	35	14	13

Figure 4a: Percent of patient visits due to ILI reported by sentinel physicians – 2004/05 season compared to the mean and 95% confidence interval (CI) for the previous five seasons (1999/00 to 2003/04)

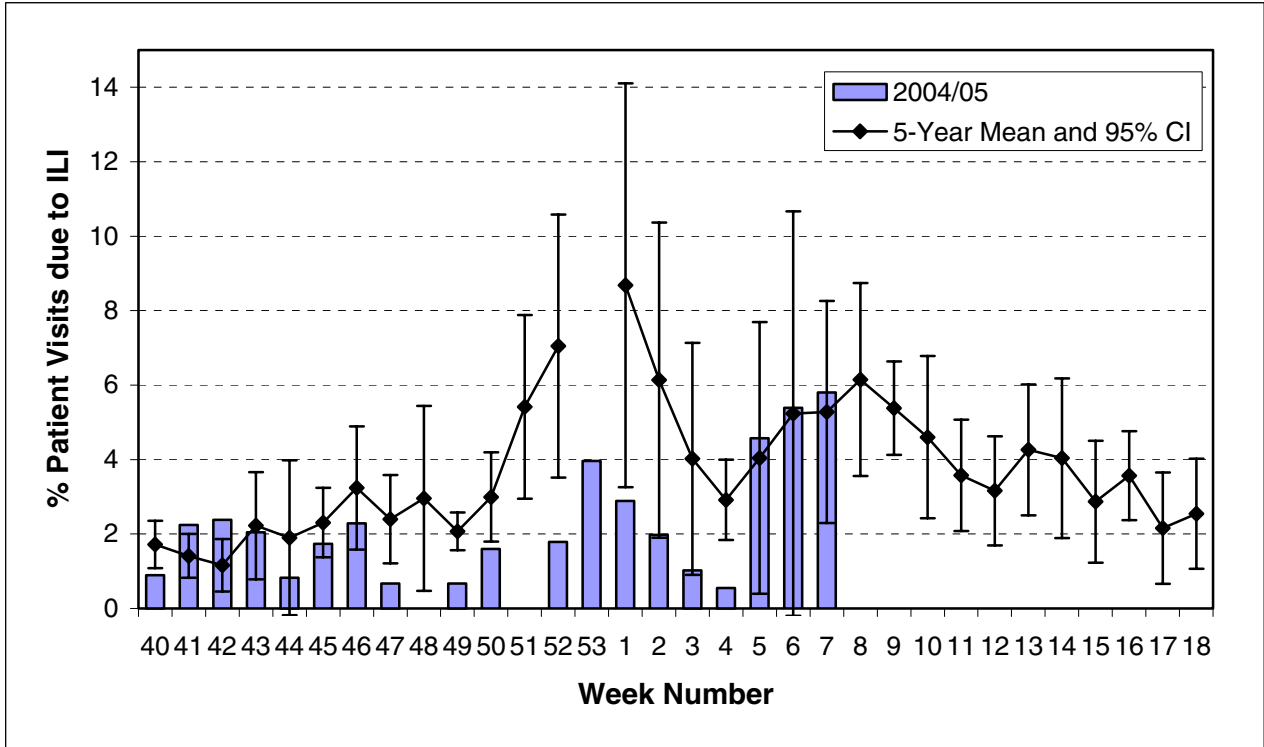
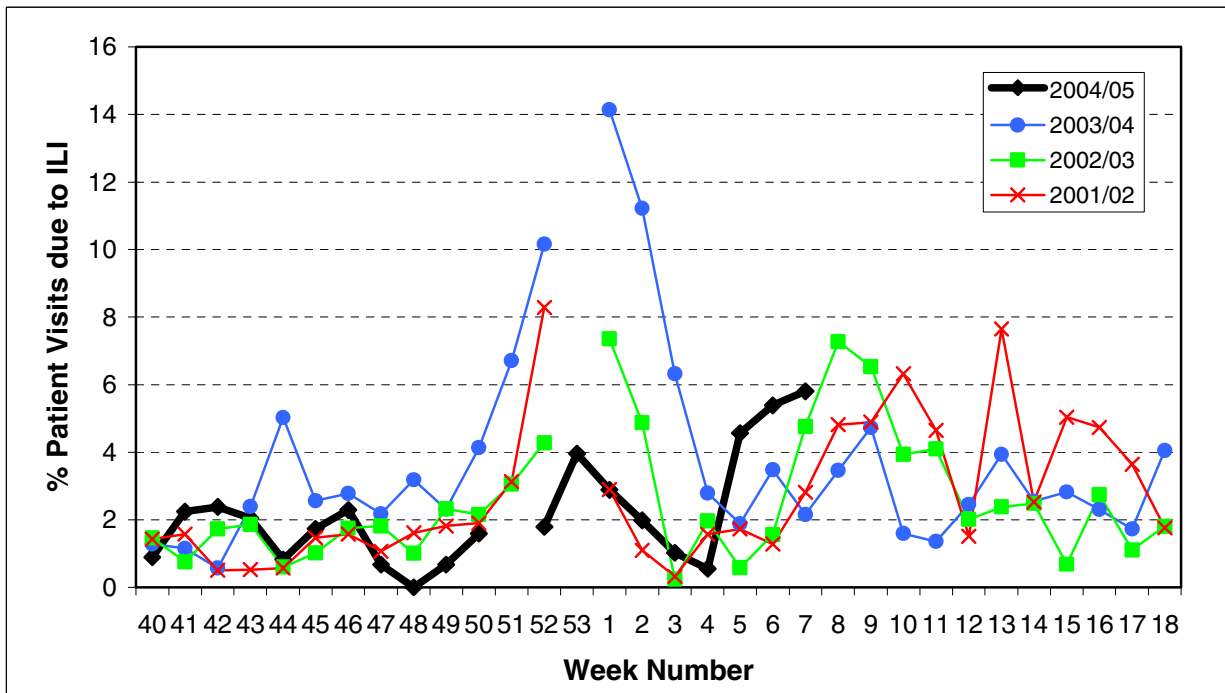


Figure 4b: Percent of patient visits due to ILI reported by sentinel physicians - 2004/05 season compared to each of the previous five seasons

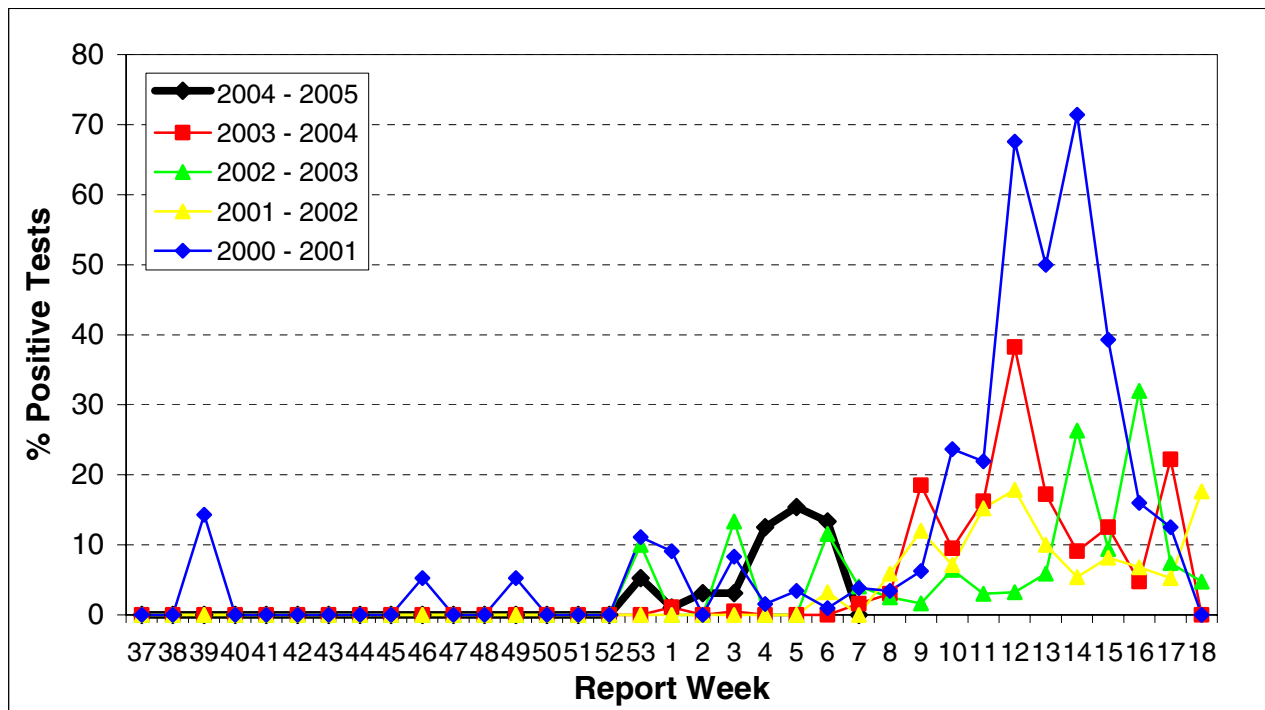


B. RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

Beginning in the fall of 2004, a laboratory-based surveillance system for RSV was initiated in Nova Scotia and includes seven participating sites across the province. In previous years data on RSV cases was collected only from the QEII HSC laboratory, therefore, the number of RSV cases reported in 2004/05 will not be comparable to past seasons.

As of February 19, 2005 (week 7) a total of 771 specimens had been submitted for testing and 29 (3.8%) were positive for RSV. Of these, 15 (51.7%) were less than one year of age and 12 (41.4%) were one year of age or older. Two (6.9%) cases were reported in adults over 18 years of age.

Figure 5: Percentage of submitted specimens positive for RSV by report week, 2000/01 through 2004/05



C. PARAINFLUENZA VIRUS (PIV)

This season to date, a total of 652 specimens have been submitted for testing and three (0.5%) were positive for PIV. Of these, two (66.6%) were typed as PIV 3 and one (33.3%) was PIV 1.

D. ADENOVIRUS

This season to date, a total of 652 specimens have been submitted for testing. Of these, 9 (1.4%) have been positive for adenovirus.

Figure 6: Percent of total specimens submitted for testing that were positive for parainfluenza and adenovirus, by report week, 2004-2005

