



September 10, 2006 to September 23, 2006 (Weeks 37 & 38)

Influenza A viruses detected in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario

During weeks 37 and 38, sporadic activity was reported in British Columbia and Alberta, while the rest of the country reported no activity (see map). From weeks 37 to 38, 5 (0.3%) of the 1,793 specimens tested for influenza virus were positive for influenza A: 2 in British Columbia, 2 in Alberta and 1 in Ontario (see table). To date, influenza B has not been detected this season. The ILI consultation rates remained low: 9 per 1,000 patient visits in week 37 and 7 per 1,000 patient visits in week 38 (see ILI graph). Sentinel participation for weeks 37 and 38 was low (~53%) making these rates unstable. However, participation is expected to increase to over 75% as the season progresses. One school outbreak was reported in British Columbia during week 37.

Antigenic Characterization:

The National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has not reported any influenza strain characterizations for the 2006-2007 influenza season. Strain characterization of the early season influenza isolates are pending. However, late 2005-2006 influenza isolates included A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like, A/New Caledonia/20/1999 (H1N1)-like, and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like strains.

Influenza-associated Pediatric Hospitalizations :

During weeks 37 and 38, one laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated pediatric hospitalization was reported in Edmonton through the Immunization Monitoring Program Active (IMPACT) network. This has been the first case reported through the IMPACT network this season.

International:

EISS: In weeks 36 and 37, one laboratory confirmed case of influenza A(H3N2) was reported in Europe. <http://www.eiss.org/cgi-files/bulletin_v2.cgi>

Human Avian Influenza: Since 16 September 2006, the WHO reported 4 new cases of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus: 3 in Indonesia and 1 in Thailand. All 4 cases were fatal. The WHO also reported one retrospective case in Iraq who became ill in March 2006 and has since fully recovered. <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/updates/en/index.html>



Antiviral Resistance

In January 2006, the Public Health Agency of Canada recommended that health care providers in Canada not prescribe amantadine to treat and prevent influenza during the 2005-2006 influenza season following testing showing viruses in circulation at the time in Canada and the US were resistant to the drug [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/advisories_avis/2006/statment060115.html]. Further information on resistance to antivirals (such as amantadine and oseltamivir) of influenza strains circulating in the current season will be reported in this season's FluWatch reports.

**Total number of influenza tests performed and number of positive tests
by province/territory of testing laboratory, Canada, 2006-2007**

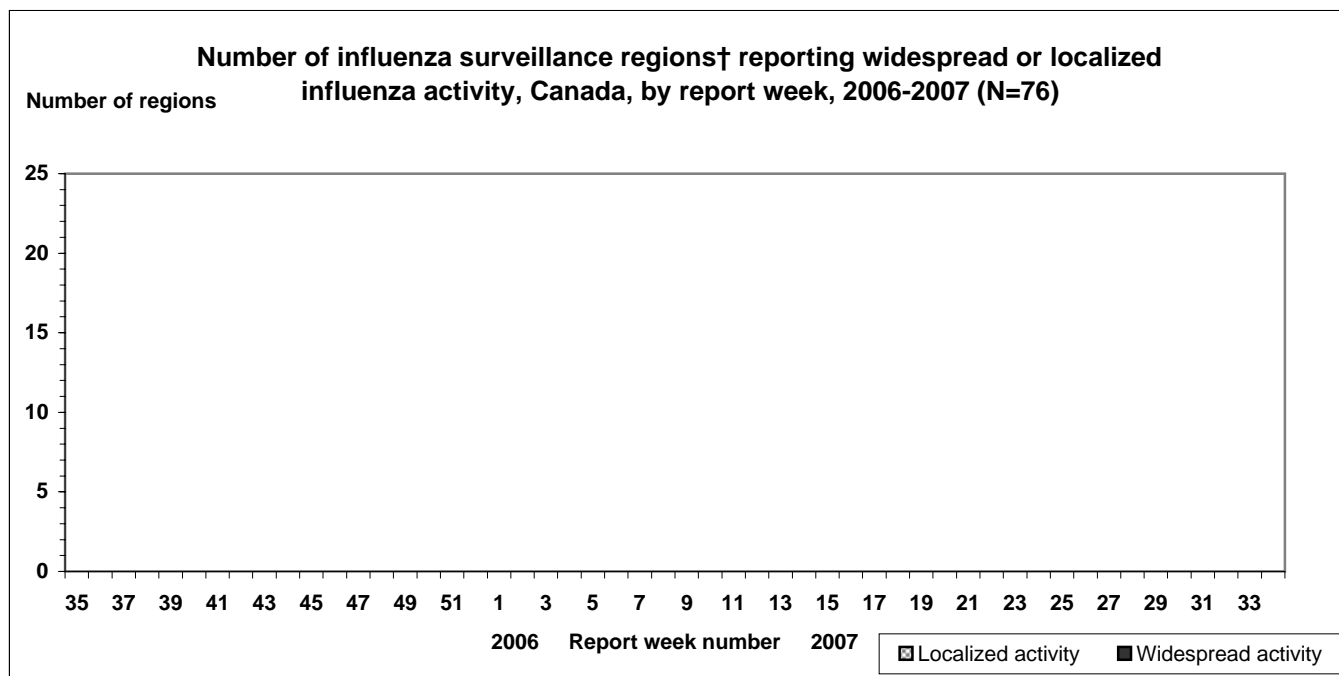
Province of reporting laboratories	Report Period: September 10, 2006 to September 23, 2006				Season to Date: August 27, 2006 to September 23, 2006			
	Total # of influenza tests	# of positive tests			Total # of influenza tests	# of positive tests		
		Influenza A	Influenza B	Total		Influenza A	Influenza B	Total
NL	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
PE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NS	15	0	0	0	34	0	0	0
NB	16	0	0	0	52	0	0	0
QC	324	0	0	0	550	0	0	0
ON	502	1	0	1	905	1	0	1
MB	57	0	0	0	109	0	0	0
SK	131	0	0	0	242	0	0	0
AB	662	2	0	2	1161	2	0	2
BC	83	2	0	2	131	2	0	2
Canada	1793	5	0	5	3190	5	0	5

Specimens from NT, YT, and NU are sent to reference laboratories in other provinces.

Note: Cumulative data includes updates to previous weeks; due to reporting delays, the sum of weekly report totals do not add up to cumulative totals.

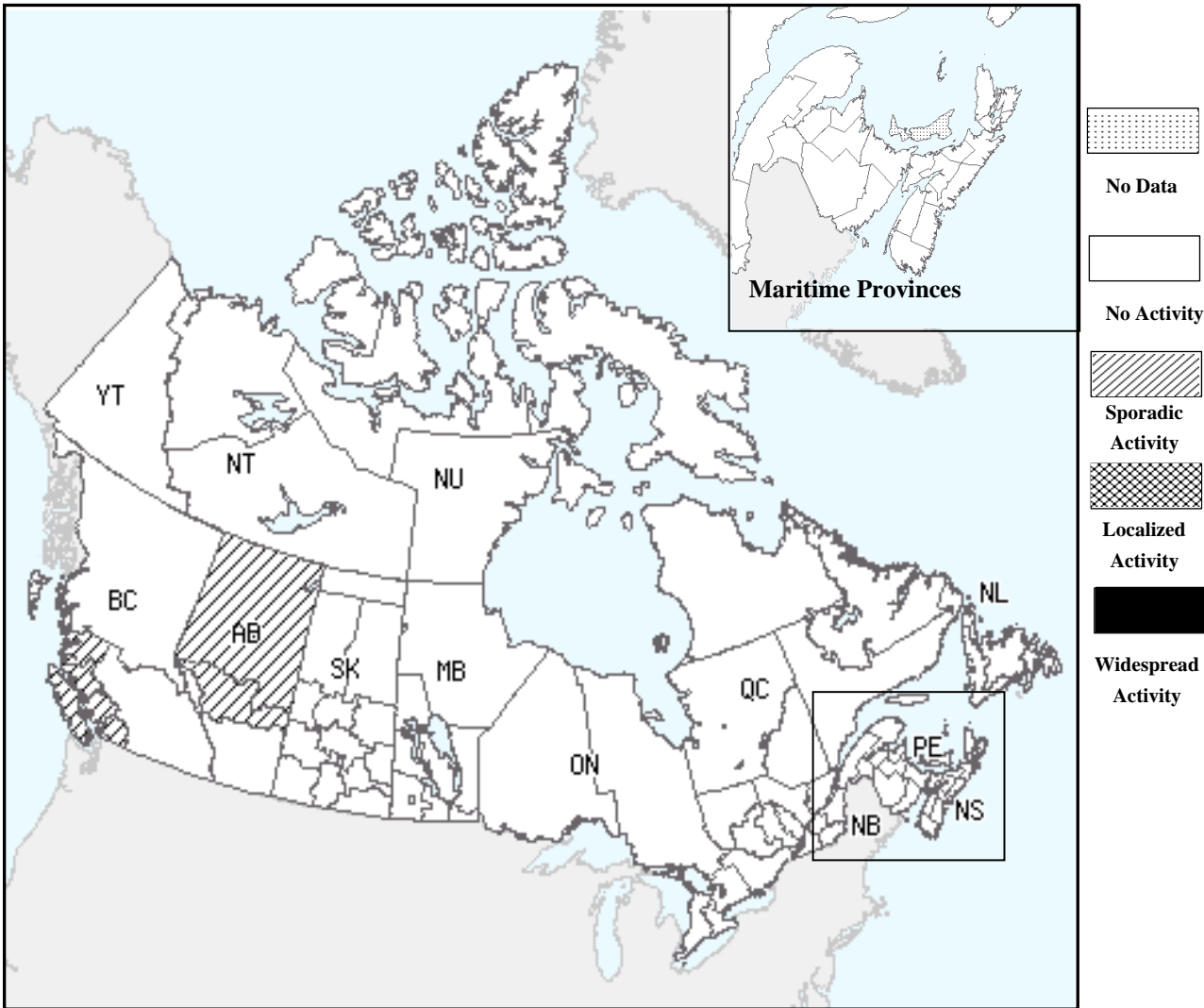
Abbreviations: Newfoundland/Labrador (NL), Prince Edward Island (PE), New Brunswick (NB), Nova Scotia (NS), Quebec (QC), Ontario (ON), Manitoba (MB), Saskatchewan (SK), Alberta (AB), British Columbia (BC), Yukon (YT), Northwest Territories (NT), Nunavut (NU)

Respiratory virus laboratory detections in Canada, by geographic regions, are available weekly on the following website:
<<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/bid-bmi/dsd-dsm/rvdi-divr/index.html>>

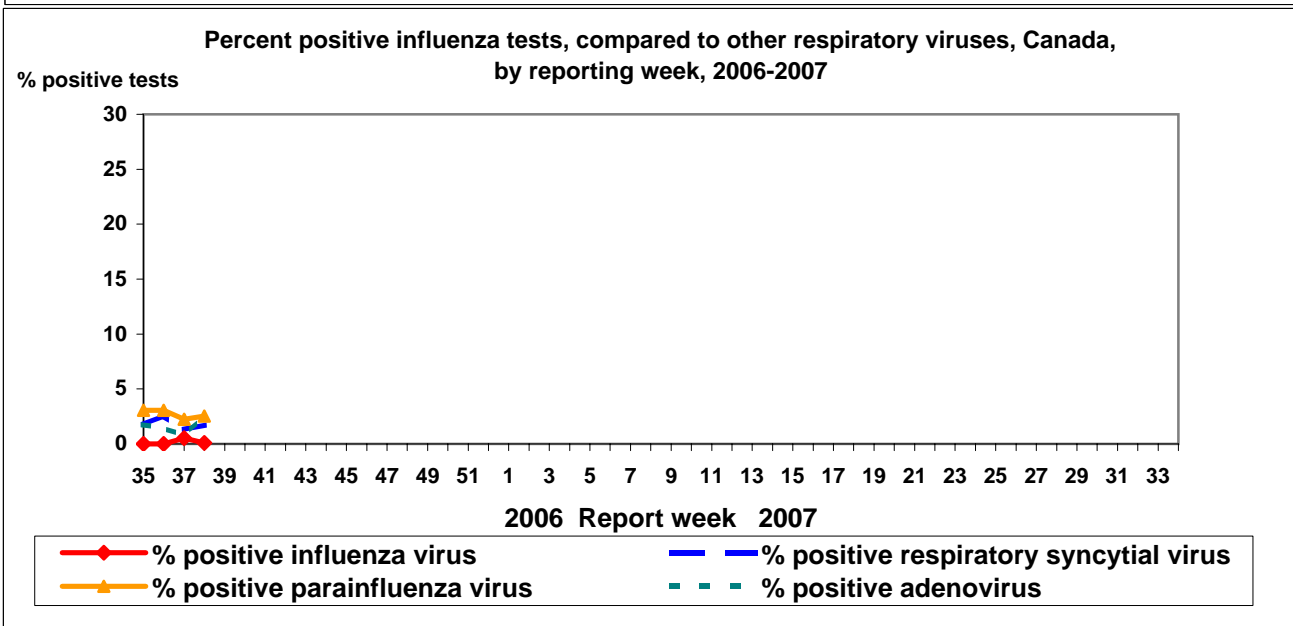
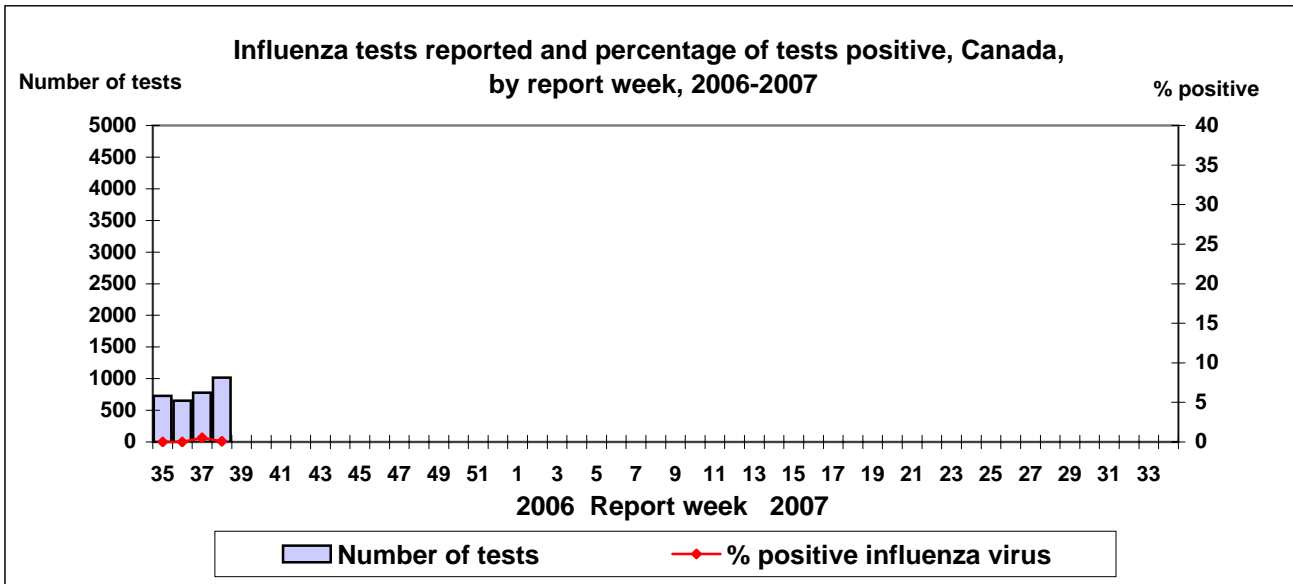


† sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist. Graph may change as late returns come in.

**Influenza Activity Level by Provincial and Territorial Influenza Surveillance Regions,
Canada; September 17, 2006 to September 23, 2006 (Week 38)**



Note: Influenza activity levels, as represented on this map, are assigned and reported by Provincial and Territorial Ministries of Health, **based on laboratory confirmations, sentinel ILI rates (see graphs and tables) and outbreaks**. Please refer to detailed definitions on the last page. For areas where no data is reported, late reports from these provinces and territories will appear on the FluWatch website. Select single maps by report week to get this updated information. <<http://dsol-smed.hc-sc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/fluwatch/fluwatch.phtml?lang=e>>



Influenza strain characterization, Canada, cumulative, 2006-2007 influenza season by the Respiratory Viruses Section at the National Microbiology Laboratory (N=0)

{ Strain characterization, number identified, per cent of total number }

NACI recommends that the trivalent vaccine for the 2006-2007 season in Canada contain A/New Caledonia/20/1999 (H1N1)-like, A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like, and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like virus antigens.

