



## Regional Update EW 41

Influenza  
(October 25, 2010 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

The information contained within this update is obtained from data provided by Ministries of Health of Member States and National Influenza Centers through reports sent to Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) or updates on their web pages.

### Epidemiologic influenza update

#### *North America*

In Canada<sup>1</sup>, in epidemiological week (EW) 41, influenza activity increased slightly but remained relatively low. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate remained similar to previous weeks and was still within expected levels for this time of year. The percentage of positive samples during EW 41 (less than 1%) increased compared to the previous weeks and was higher than what is usually observed during this time of the year but much lower than what was observed in 2009. Of the positive influenza specimens, approximately, one third were influenza A/H3N2 and two thirds were reported as untyped influenza A. Low levels of other respiratory viruses continued to be reported.

In Mexico, the predominant respiratory virus is the influenza A, especially the influenza A/H3.

In the United States,<sup>2</sup> in EW 41, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI continued to remain below the national baseline. All the sub-national surveillance regions reported the proportion of ILI to be below their region-specific baselines. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza remained below the epidemic threshold. No influenza -associated pediatric deaths were reported this week. During EW 41, influenza activity remained low — 3.6% of samples tested were positive for influenza (influenza A 2009 H1N1, influenza A/H3 and influenza B).

#### *Caribbean*

Cuba and Jamaica reported that the predominant respiratory virus circulating was the influenza A/H3.

In EW 41, nationally, Dominican Republic<sup>3</sup> reported fewer cases of acute respiratory infection (ARI) as compared with average values of the period 2004-2008; however, in the capital city, the number of ILI consultations increased in two sentinel hospitals. The most affected age group was the children less than 1 year old. The respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was the predominant virus during EW 41. No influenza viruses were isolated since EW 36.

#### *Central America*

During the EWs 40-41, the predominant circulating virus in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua was the influenza B. Panama reported exclusive circulation of RSV and parainfluenza virus in the last two EWs.

#### *South America – Andean*

Bolivia reported the circulation of influenza pandemic A (H1N1) 2009 (predominant in the west of Bolivia), influenza A/H3 (predominant in the east of Bolivia), with a less percentage of Influenza B.

#### *South America – Southern Cone*

In Argentina<sup>4</sup>, nationally, ILI activity decreased from EW 33 to EW 39, remaining below the epidemic threshold. However, at the regional level, the ILI activity remained high in the north-western region of the country, especially in the provinces of Jujuy and Salta, where ILI activity increased from EW 35-39, crossing above the epidemic threshold. The predominant virus in the north-western regions of Argentina was the influenza A/H3. Low levels of parainfluenza virus and adenovirus were also reported.

In Chile<sup>5</sup>, nationally, after 6 weeks of increasing, influenza-like illness (ILI) activity decreased during the last four epidemiological weeks (EW 38-41); however it still remained well above the epidemic threshold. At the regional level, ILI activity remained high in the central and southern part of the country (Maule, Bio Bio and Los Lagos), but decreased in all of them as compared to the previous weeks. This EW, the proportion of emergency services consultations for respiratory illness, out of the total number of consultations, decreased in children and adults, as compared to the last week. The number of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases, associated to influenza, kept on decreasing since the EW 33 to EW 41, most of them because of influenza A/H3 infection. During the EW 41, the predominant respiratory virus was the RSV, after an 8-week period of influenza A/H3 predominance.

In EW 40, Paraguay<sup>6</sup> reported a national decrease of 6.25% in ILI outpatient consultations as compared to the previous EW. Regionally, the southern regions of Misiones and Caazapa reported increasing ILI consultations (higher than 50% as compared to the previous week). SARI activity remained similar in the last 5 EW. Paraguay reported similar circulation of pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 and influenza B during the last 10 EW; however, influenza A/H3 has been increasing.

In Uruguay<sup>7</sup>, during the last seven EWs, the proportion of SARI cases, out of the total number of hospitalizations showed a decreasing trend, remaining in less than 2%. The proportion of SARI hospitalized in intensive care units among all ICU admissions decreased between EW 38 and EW 41 (from ~5% to 2,5%). The proportion of SARI deaths among all deaths remained low as compared to the winter season.

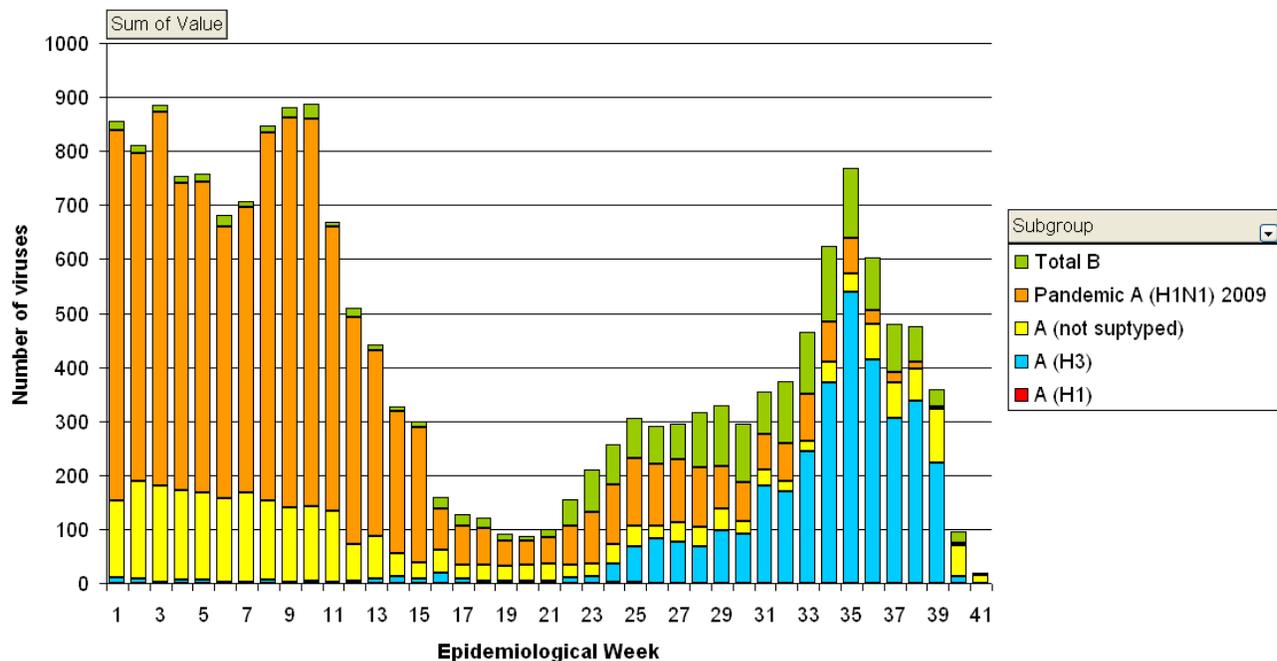
### Viral circulation

The information below is based on reports from National Influenza Centers and influenza laboratories from the Region.

#### Americas Region (FluNet data)

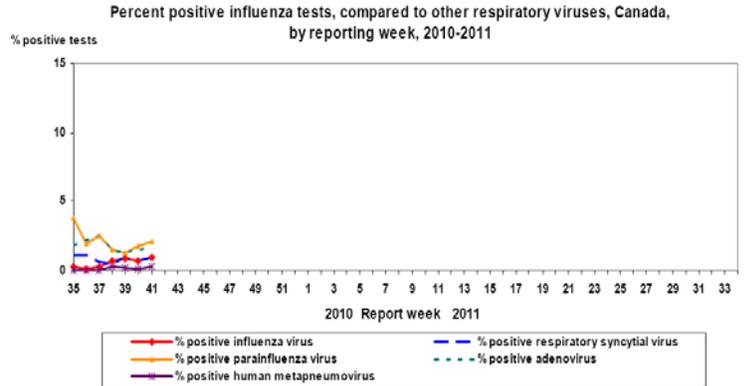
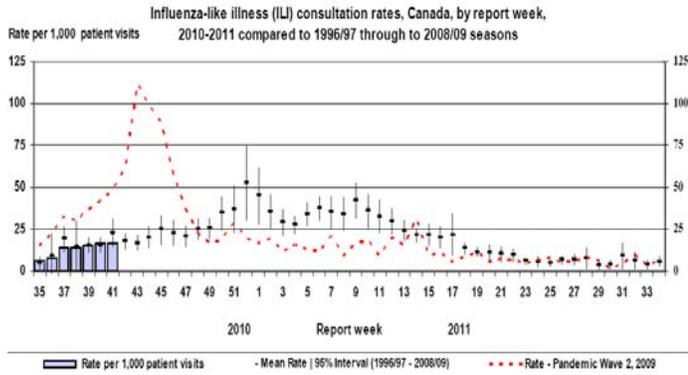
This graph includes data from countries who reported to FluNet: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and The United States.

Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010



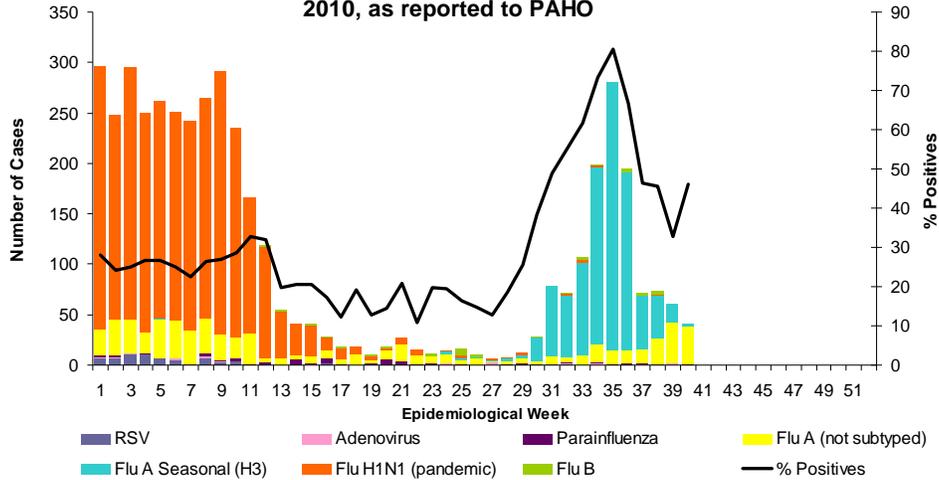
# North America

## Canada



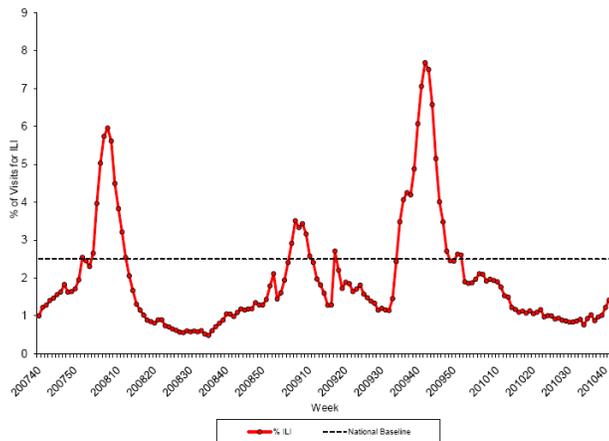
## Mexico

Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010, as reported to PAHO

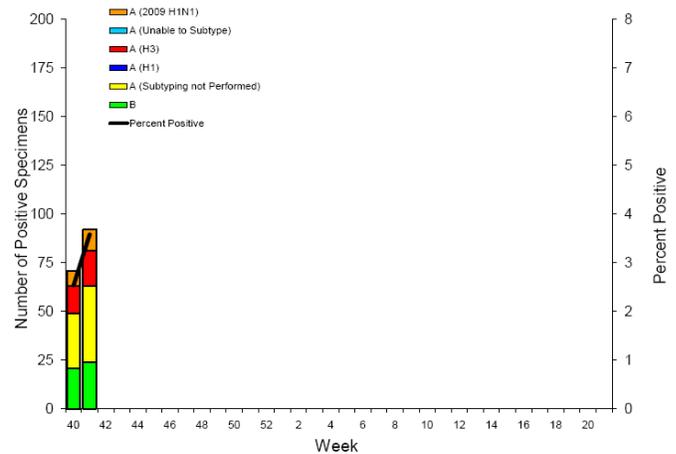


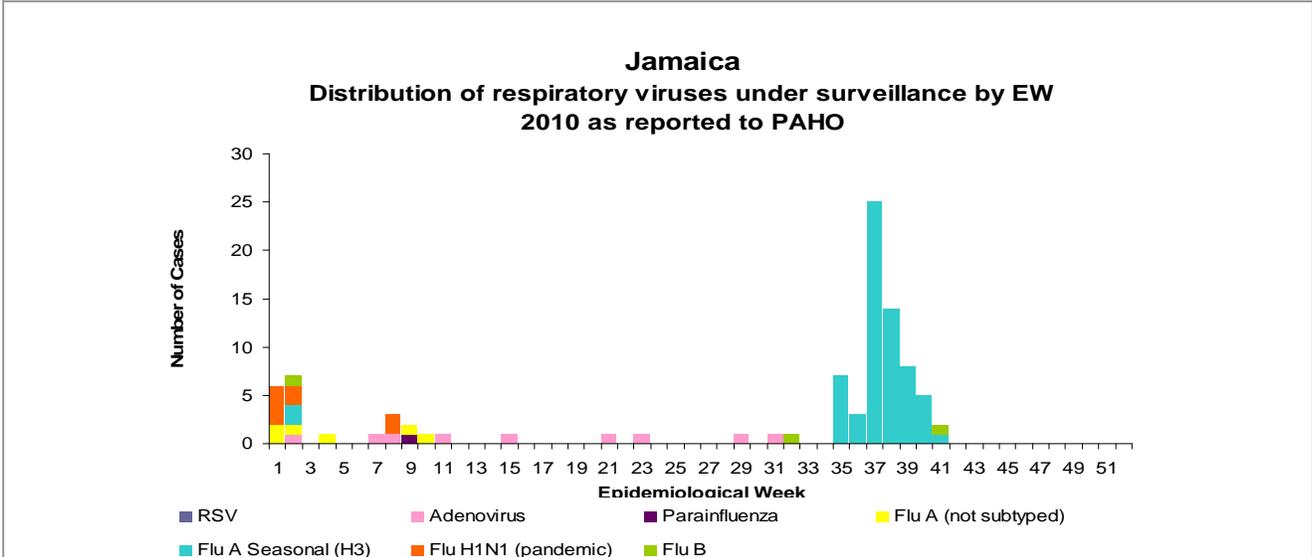
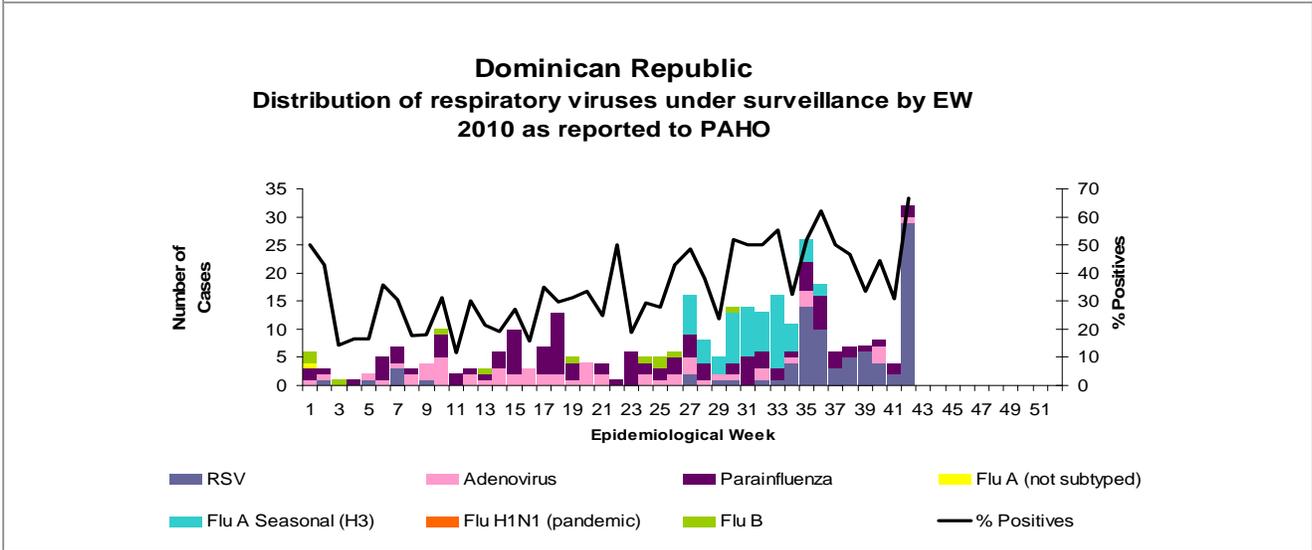
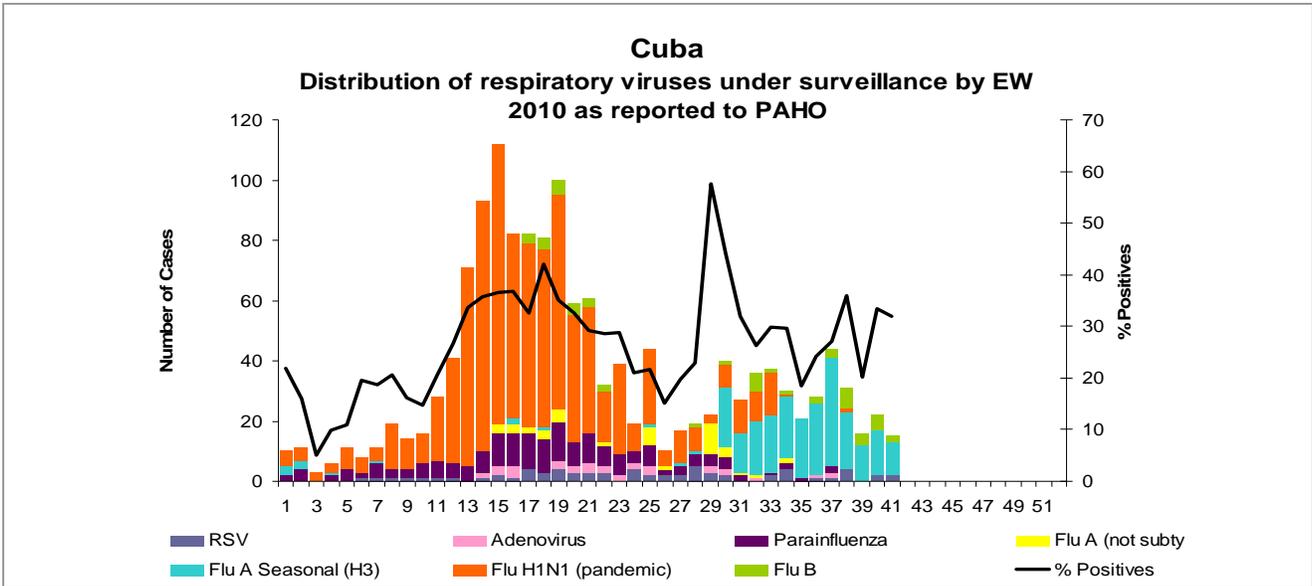
## United States

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, September 30, 2007 – October 16, 2010



Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2010-11 Season

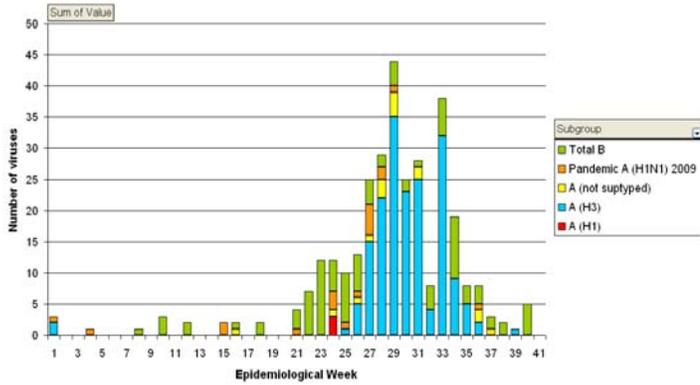




# Central America

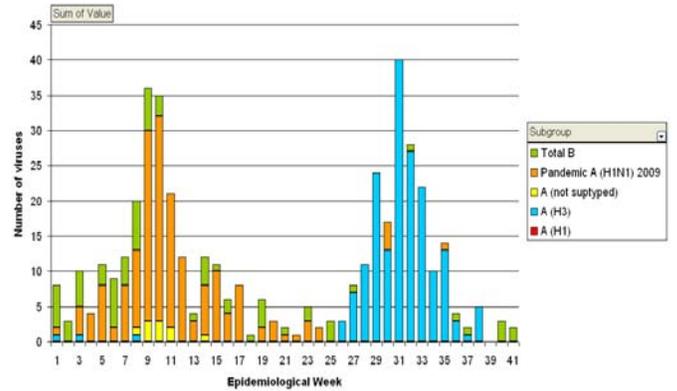
## El Salvador (FluNet data)

Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010



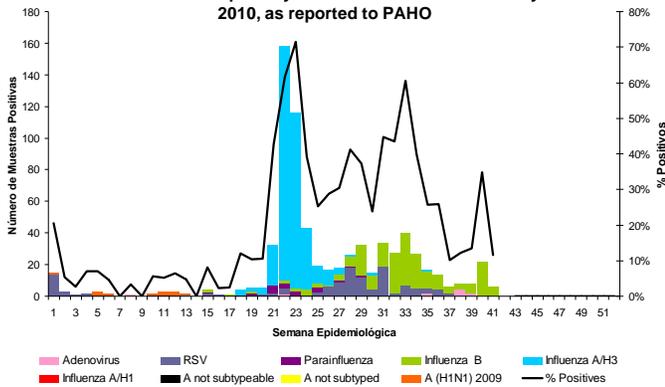
## Honduras (FluNet data)

Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010



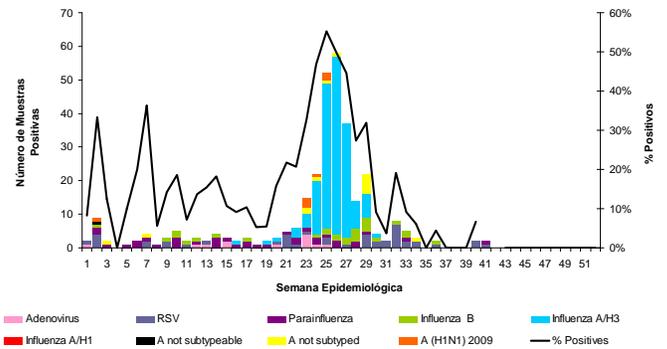
## Nicaragua

Nicaragua  
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010, as reported to PAHO



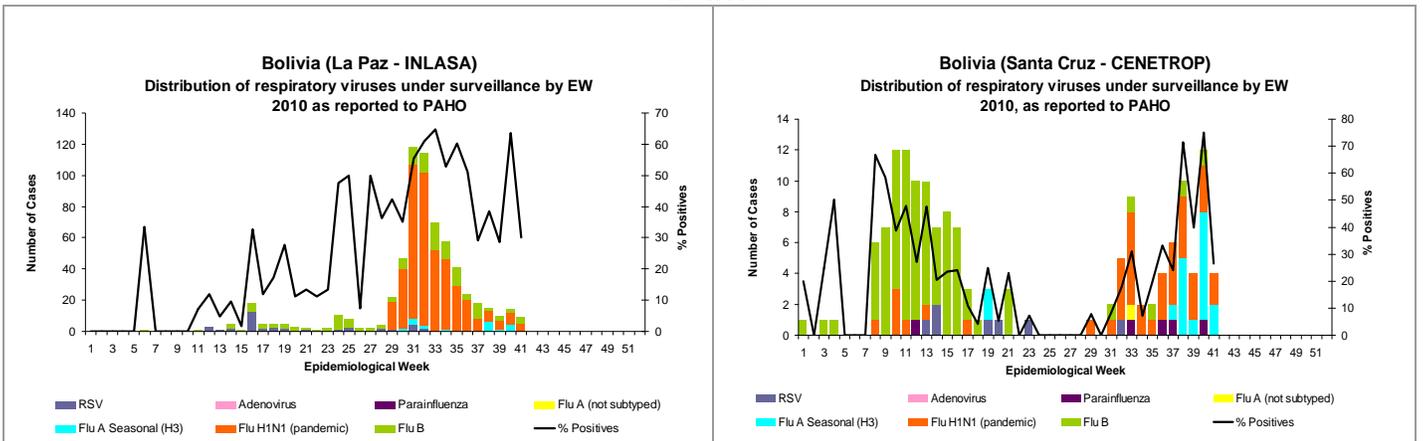
## Panama

Panama  
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010, as reported to PAHO



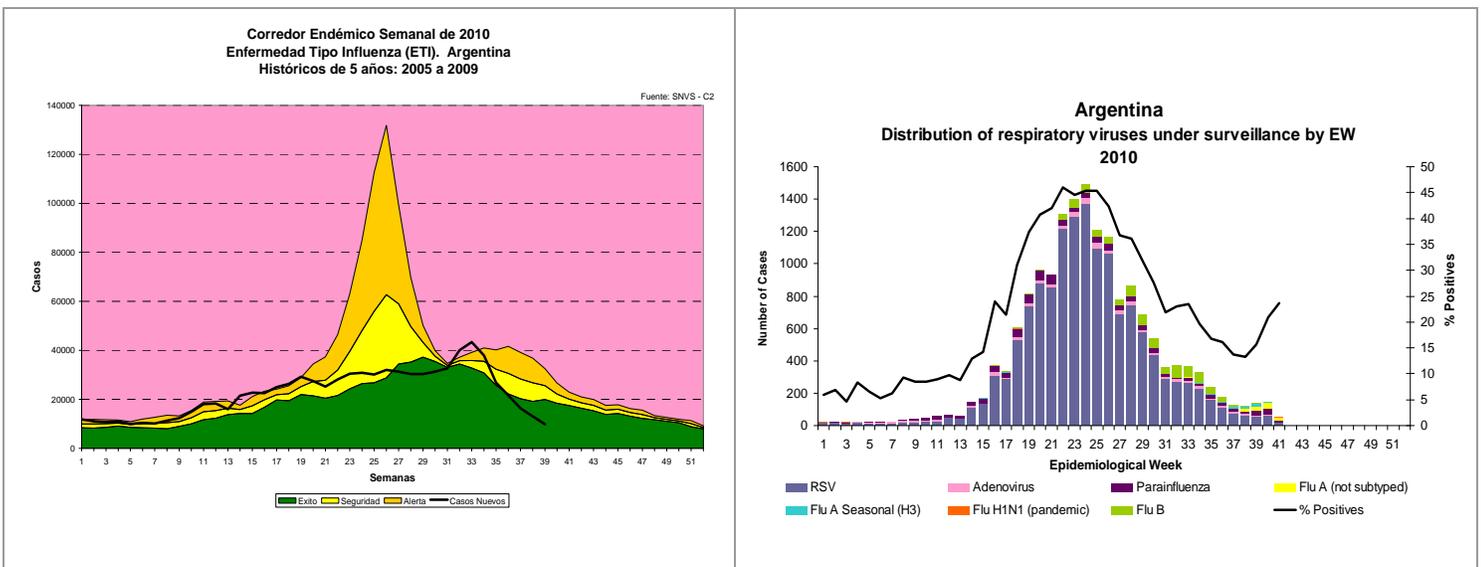
## South America - Andean

### Bolivia

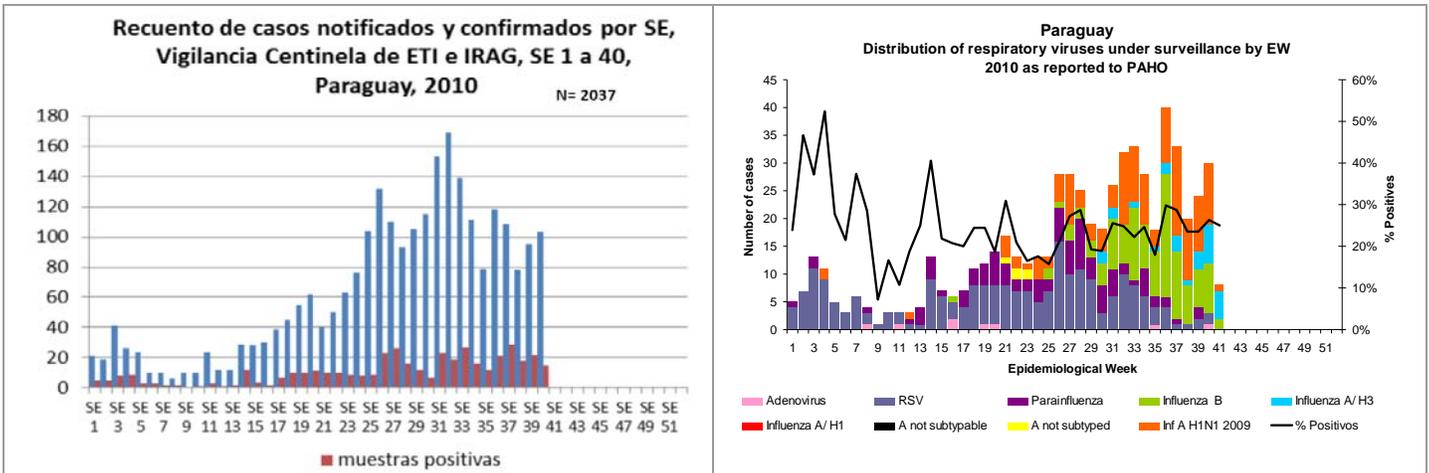


## South America – Southern Cone

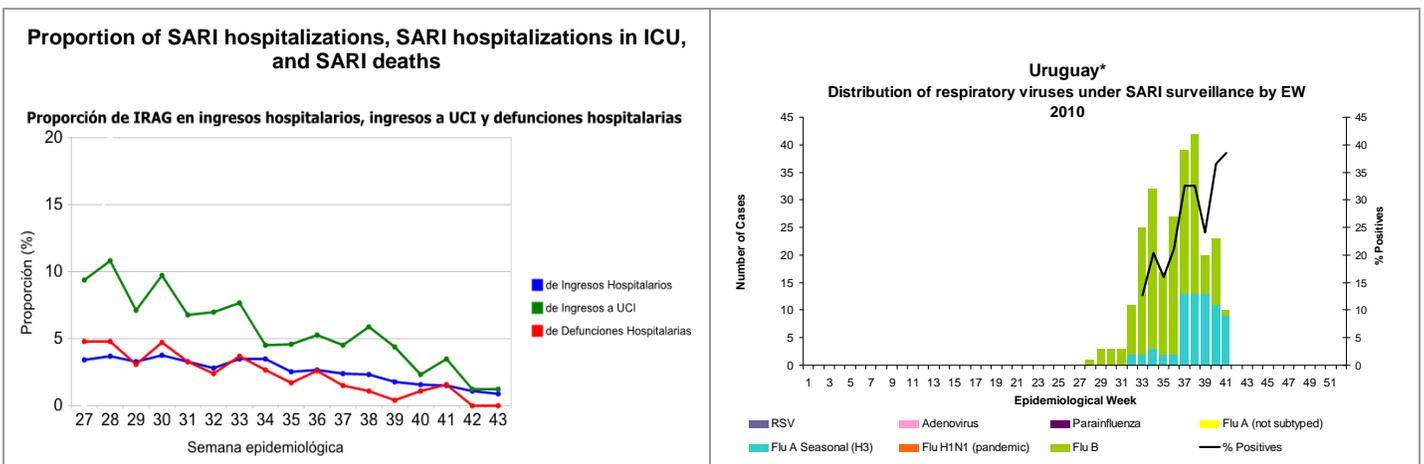
### Argentina



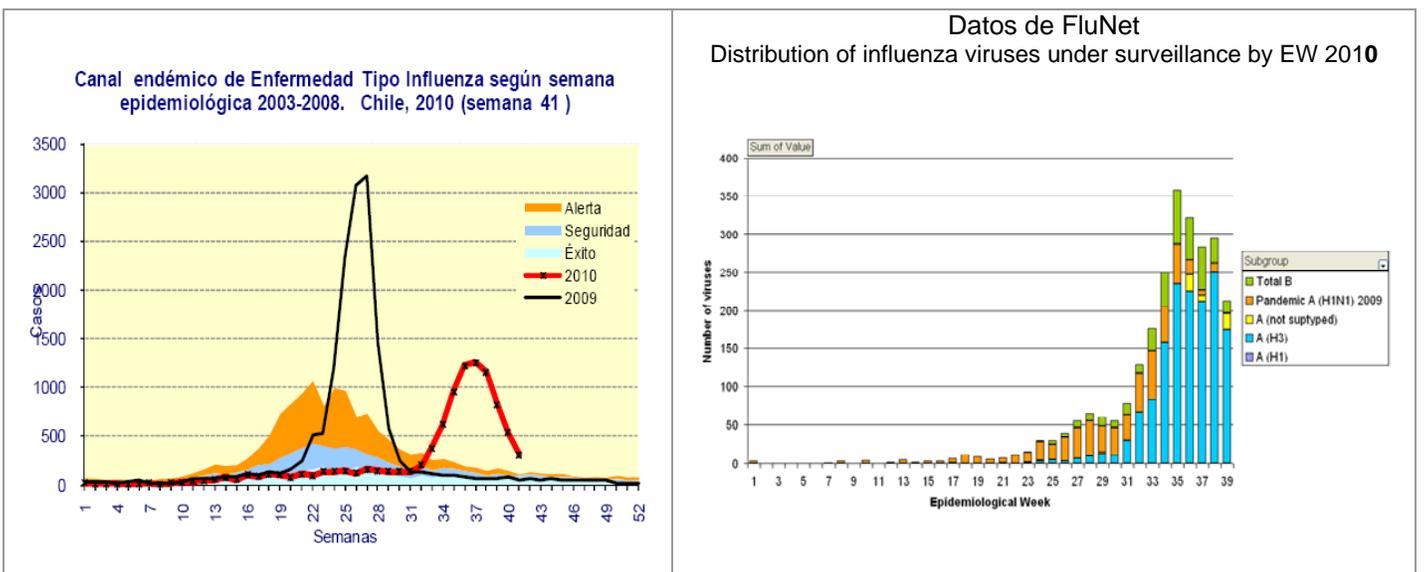
## Paraguay



## Uruguay



## Chile

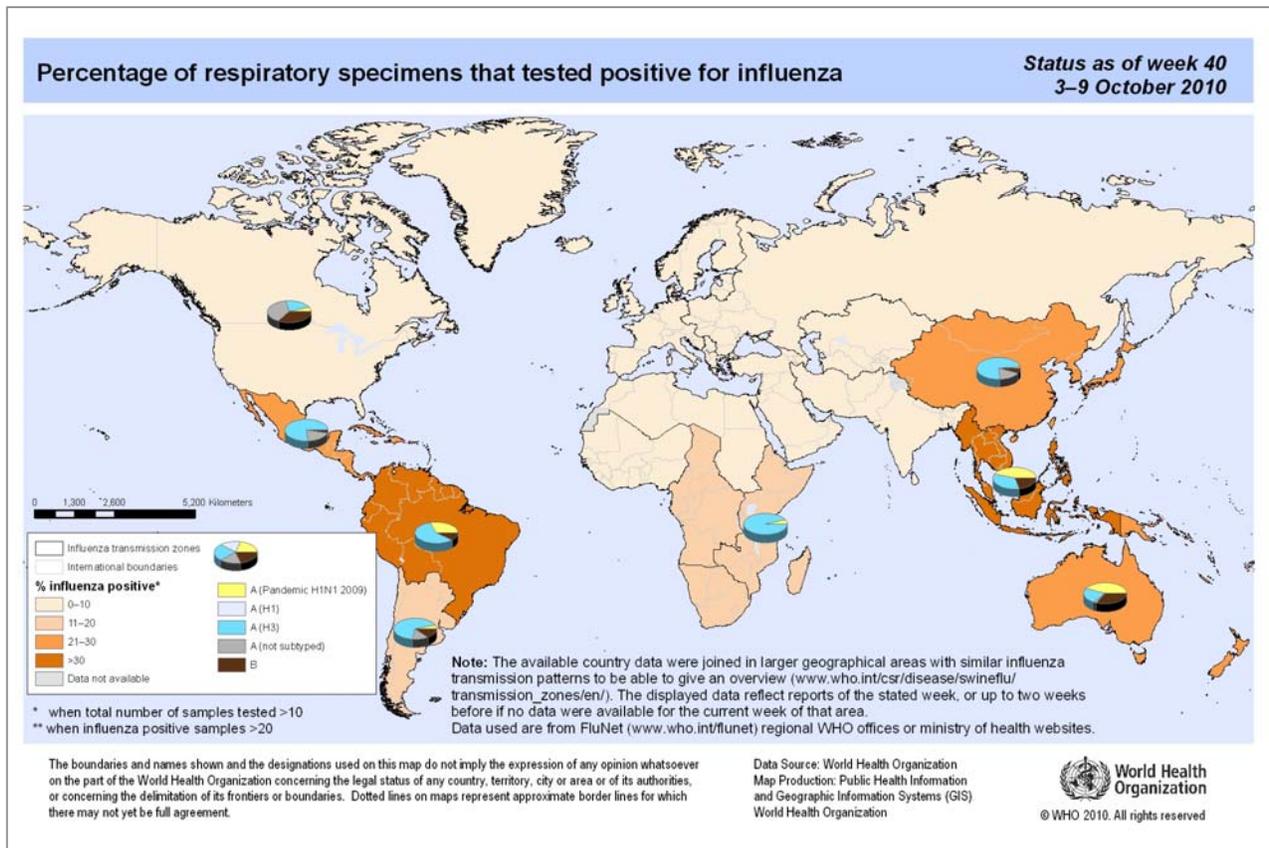


## WHO Influenza update - 20 October 2010

### 20 October 2010 - Summary:

Influenza activity in the temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere is continuing to decline. In most of the temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere the level of activity is still low. Influenza virus A(H3N2) continues to be the most frequently detected virus world wide. Most of the influenza A(H3N2) viruses are A/Perth/16/2009-like, which is the virus strain included in the seasonal vaccines for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/2010\\_10\\_20\\_GIP\\_surveillance/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/2010_10_20_GIP_surveillance/en/index.html)



<sup>1</sup> FluWatch Report. EW 41. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

<sup>2</sup> Surveillance Summary. Week 41. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>3</sup> Informe de Verificación de alerta de brote de IRA. 21 de octubre de 2010

<sup>4</sup> Argentina. Informe de vigilancia de enfermedad tipo influenza. 21 de octubre de 2010

<sup>5</sup> Chile. Informe de situación. SE 41. [www.pandemia.cl](http://www.pandemia.cl)

<sup>6</sup> Paraguay. Boletín Epidemiológico semanal SE 42

<sup>7</sup> Uruguay. Vigilancia de IRAG. <https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu>