



Regional Update EW 42

Influenza
(November 1, 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.

- In North America (Canada and United States), influenza activity increased slightly but remained within expected levels for this time of year
- Influenza activity in South America is continuing to decline
- Influenza virus A (H3N2) continues to be the most frequently detected virus in the Region. 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
- Influenza B was reported as the predominant circulating virus in some countries in Central America.

Epidemiologic influenza update

North America

In Canada¹, in epidemiological week (EW) 42, overall influenza activity increased slightly but remained within expected levels for this time of year. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was slightly higher than what was observed in the previous weeks, but was still within expected levels for this time of year. The percentage of influenza positive samples during EW 42 (~1%) increased compared to the previous weeks but much lower than what was observed in 2009. Among the positive influenza specimens, in EW 42 the predominant virus detected was unsubtype influenza A, while in EWs 35-42, influenza A H3N2 was predominant. Low levels of other respiratory viruses continued to be reported.

In Mexico, the predominant respiratory virus in the last 13 EWs was the influenza A/H3. There was an also low level of influenza B.

In the United States,² in EW 42, 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 42, influenza activity remained low — 3% of samples tested were positive for influenza (including influenza A (H1N1) 2009, influenza A/H3 and influenza B).

Caribbean

During EW 42-43, the Dominican Republic reported an increased number of positives respiratory samples, most of which were respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) as the predominant virus. No influenza viruses have been isolated since EW 36.

Central America

During the EWs 40-42, the predominant circulating virus in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua was influenza B. Costa Rica reported low levels of co-circulation of influenza B and influenza A/H3 among positive influenza viruses.

South America – Andean

Bolivia reported circulation of influenza A (H1N1) 2009 (predominant in the west of Bolivia during EWs 29-42), influenza A/H3 (predominant in the east of Bolivia during EWs 38-42) and influenza B.

South America – Southern Cone

In EWs 38-42, Paraguay reported increased influenza A/H3 circulation. Other influenza viruses (influenza B and influenza A (H1N1) 2009) have also been reported.

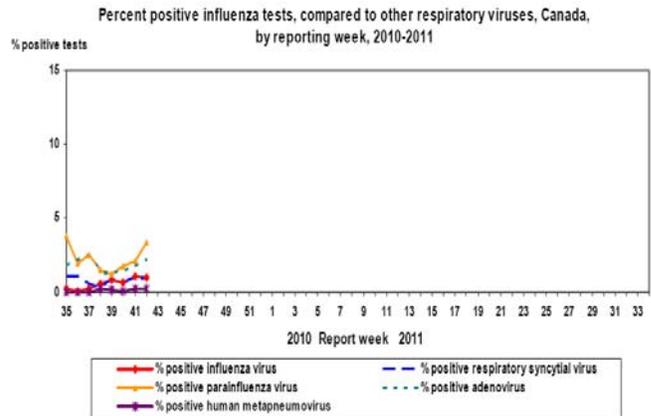
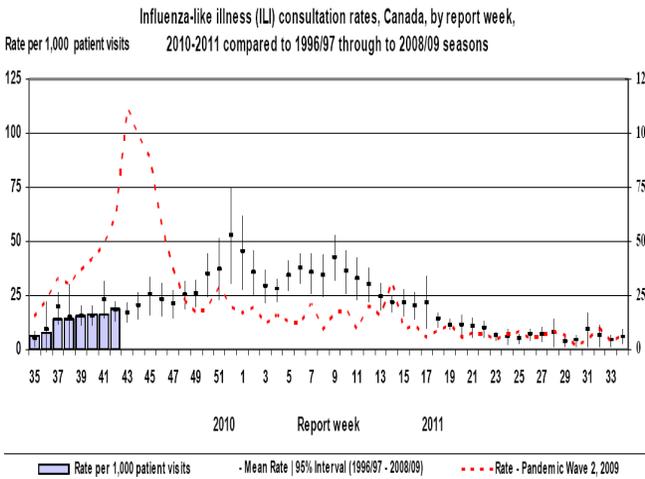
In Uruguay³, from EW 36 to EW 43, the proportion of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases, out of the total number of hospitalizations showed a decreasing trend, remaining in less than 2%. The proportion of SARI hospitalized cases in intensive care units (ICU) among all ICU admissions also showed a decreasing trend between EW 38 and EW 42 (from ~5% to 2.5%). The proportion of SARI deaths among all deaths remained low. The predominant virus among SARI cases was influenza A/H3 from EW 37-42. Influenza B has also been reported.

Viral circulation

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

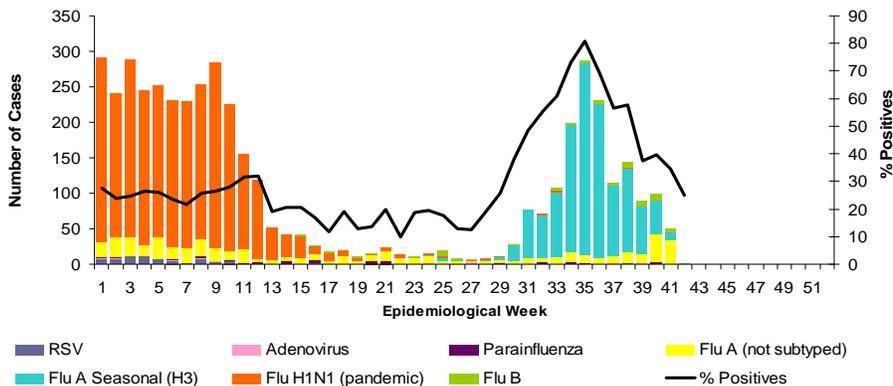
North America

Canada



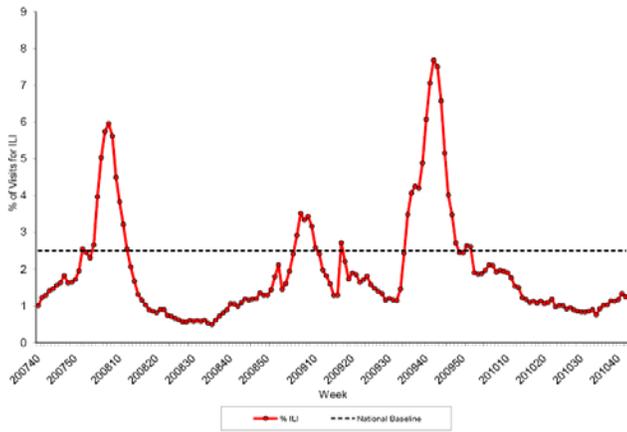
Mexico

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

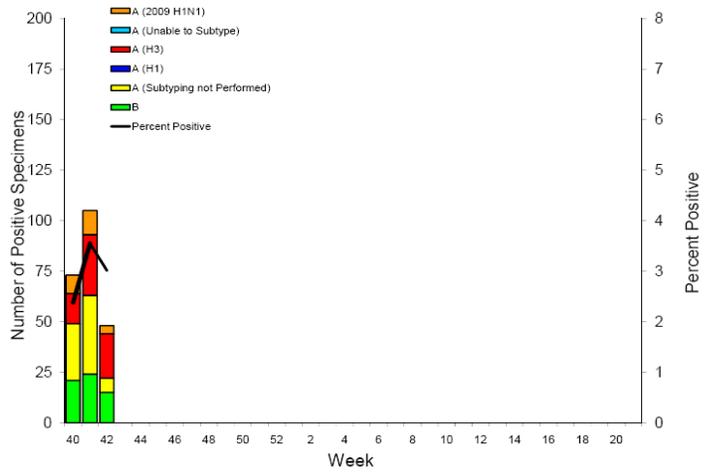


United States

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 23, 2010

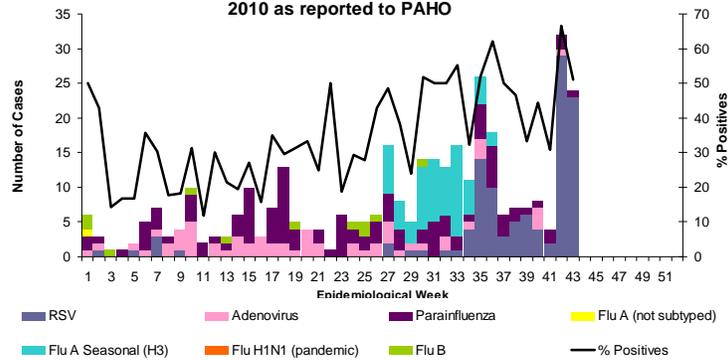


Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2010-11 Season



Caribbean

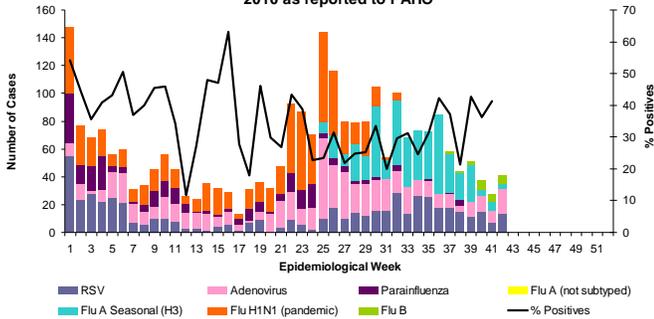
Dominican Republic
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010 as reported to PAHO



Central America

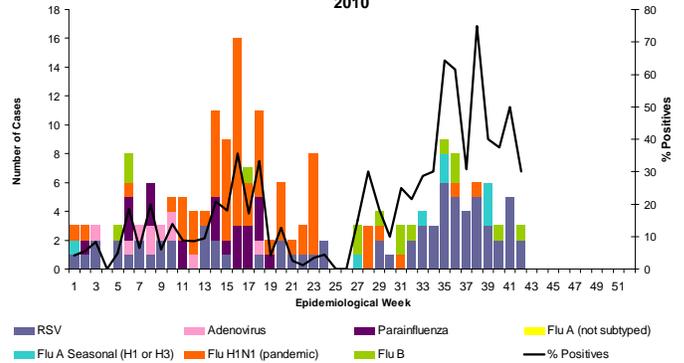
Costa Rica

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



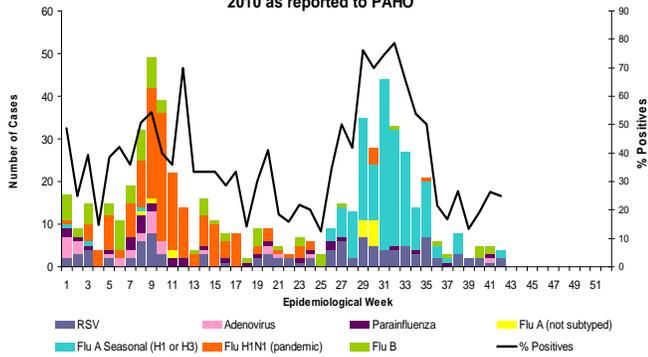
Guatemala

Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010



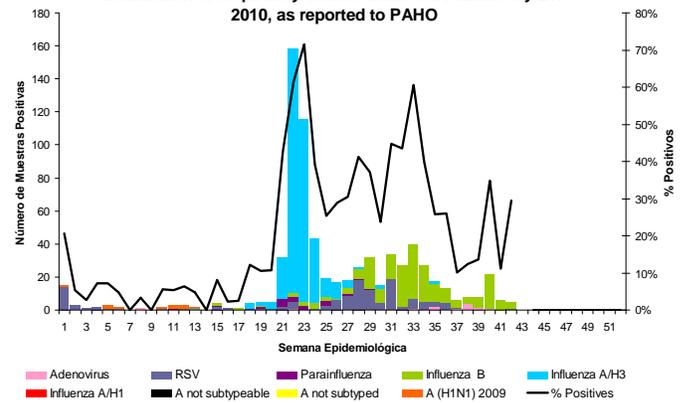
Honduras

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



Nicaragua

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

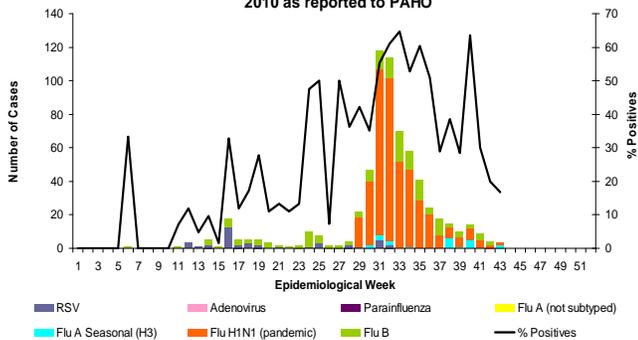


South America - Andean

Bolivia

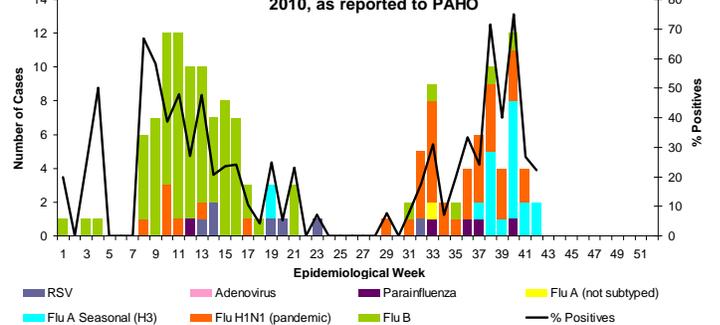
Bolivia (La Paz - INLASA)

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



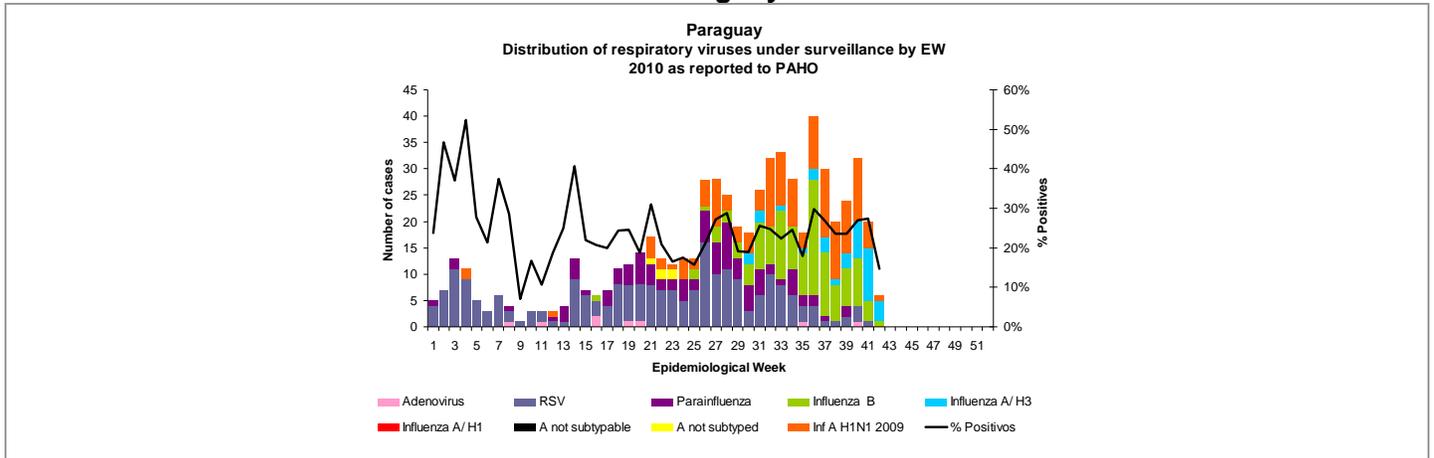
Bolivia (Santa Cruz - CENETROP)

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

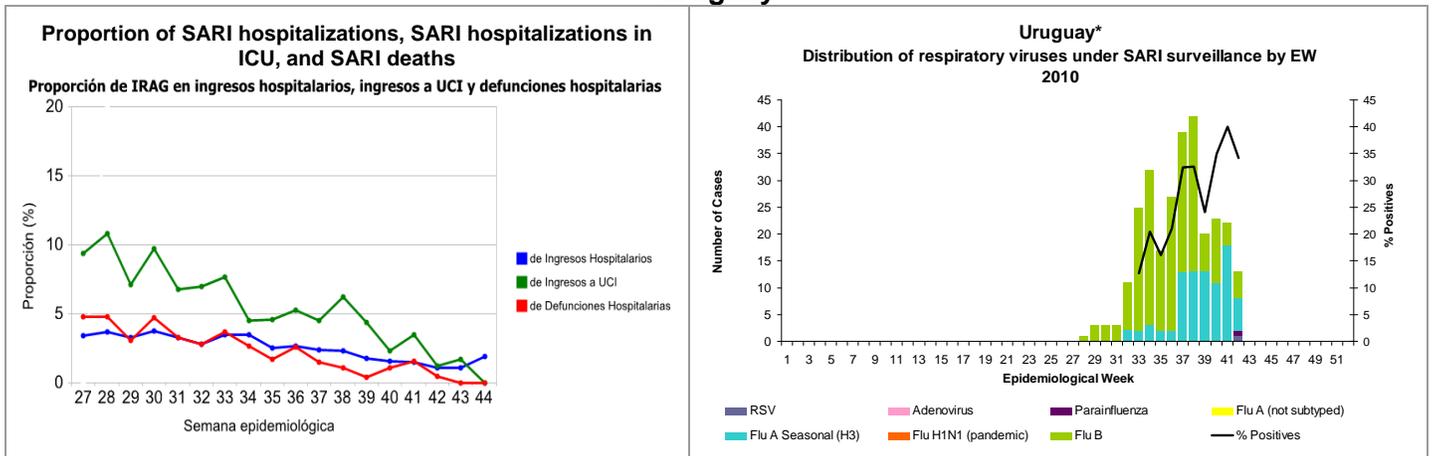


South America – Southern Cone

Paraguay



Uruguay



¹ FluWatch Report. EW 42. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

² Surveillance Summary. Week 42. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

³ Uruguay. Vigilancia de IRAG. <https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu>