



Regional Update EW 43

Influenza
(November 8, 2010 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

The information presented in this update is summarized based on data provided by Ministries of Health and National Influenza Centers of Member States to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) or from updates on the Member States' Ministry of Health web pages.

- In North America (Canada and United States), influenza activity remained low, within expected levels for this time of year
- Influenza activity in South America continued to decline
- Influenza A/H3N2 continued 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 influenza vaccines for the Northern (2010–2011) and Southern (2010) Hemispheres.

Epidemiologic and virologic update

North America

In Canada¹, in epidemiological week (EW) 43, overall influenza activity remained low, with most of the surveillance regions reporting no influenza activity (n=43) and few regions (n=10) reporting sporadic activity. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was higher than what was observed in the previous weeks and slightly above the expected levels for this time of year. Children under 5 years of age had the highest consultation rates (26.5 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of influenza positive samples during EW 43 (<1%) increased compared to the previous weeks but was much lower than what was observed in 2009. Since the beginning of the influenza season, A/H3N2 has been the predominant strain circulating in Canada. Low levels of other respiratory viruses continued to be reported.

In Mexico, the percentage of positive samples for respiratory viruses among the tested samples, decreased from EW 35 (81%) to EW 42 (35%). The predominant respiratory virus in the last 13 EWs was influenza A/H3. There were also low levels of influenza B circulating.

In the United States,² in EW 43, 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. One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported, but occurred during the 2009-10 season. During EW 43, influenza activity remained low—1.4% of samples tested were positive for influenza (including influenza A (H1N1) 2009, influenza A/H3 and influenza B).

Caribbean

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

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

Central America

During EWs 40-43, Costa Rica and Honduras reported low-level co-circulation of influenza B and influenza A/H3 among influenza viruses.

South America – Andean

Bolivia reported co-circulation of influenza A (H1N1) 2009, influenza A/H3 (predominant in the east of Bolivia during EWs 38-43) and influenza B.

In EW 42, Colombia reported the predominance of influenza A (H1N1) 2009.

South America – Southern Cone

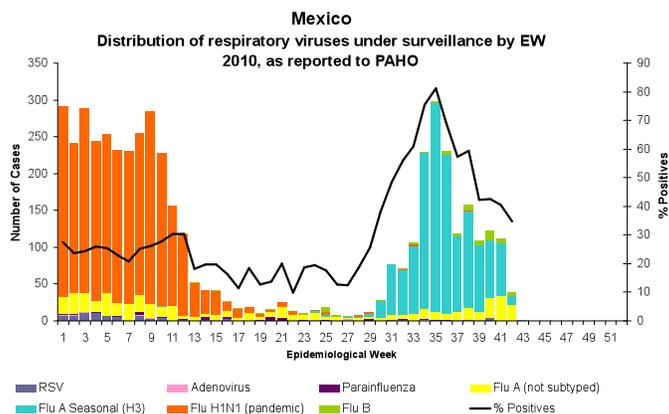
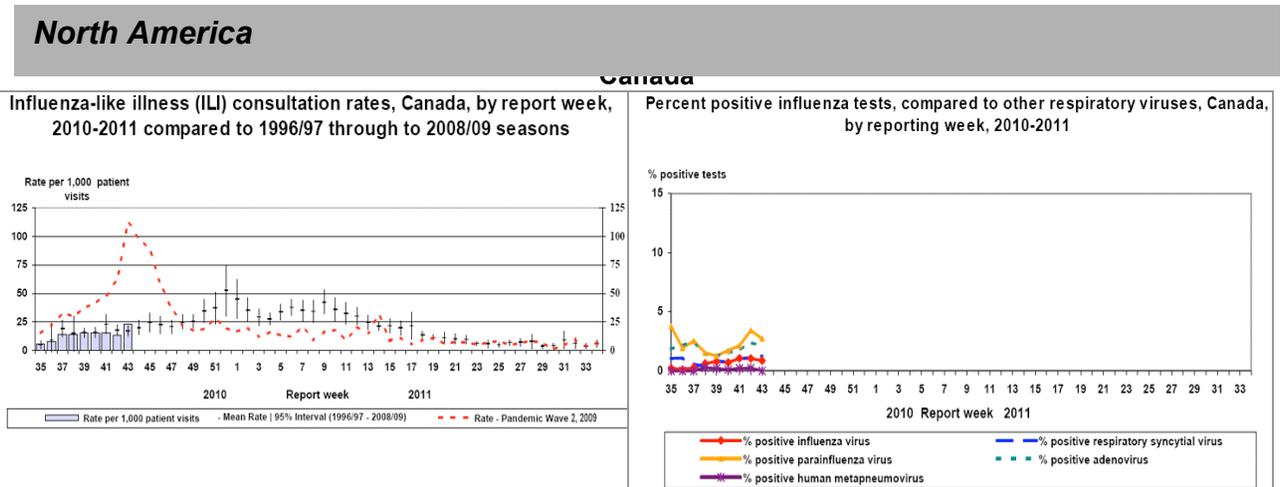
In Argentina³, nationally, ILI activity decreased from EW 33 to EW 41, remaining below the epidemic threshold since EW 37. However, at the regional level, ILI activity remained high in the north-western region of the country, especially in the provinces of Tucumán and Catamarca, where ILI activity has been increasing since EW 39, crossing the epidemic threshold in EW 41. The predominant virus in the north-western regions of Argentina was influenza A/H3 and influenza A untyped. In the province of Catamarca, influenza B was also reported.

In Chile⁴, nationally, influenza-like illness (ILI) activity decreased from EW 37 to EW 43; remaining low. In the current EW, the proportion of emergency services consultations for respiratory illness, out of the total number of consultations, decreased in all age groups as compared to the previous week. The number of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases associated with influenza, has been decreasing since EW 35, and of the majority of these cases are influenza A/H3. The predominant respiratory virus circulating in EW 43 was RSV.

In Uruguay⁵, during EWs 42-44, the proportion of SARI cases among the total hospitalizations, the proportion of SARI hospitalized cases in intensive care units, and the proportion of SARI deaths among all deaths, remained low (~2%). The predominant virus detected among SARI cases was influenza A/H3 from EW 37-43. Recently, influenza B has also been reported.

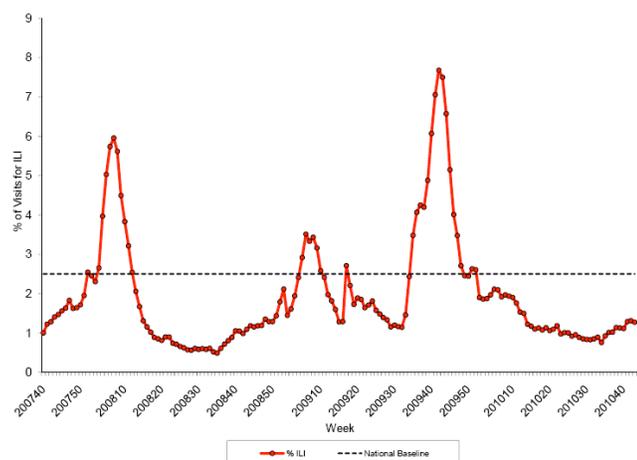
Graphics

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

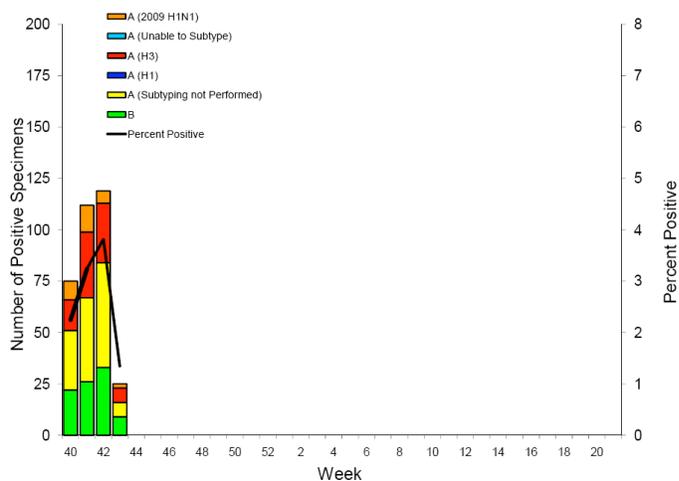


United States

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 30, 2010



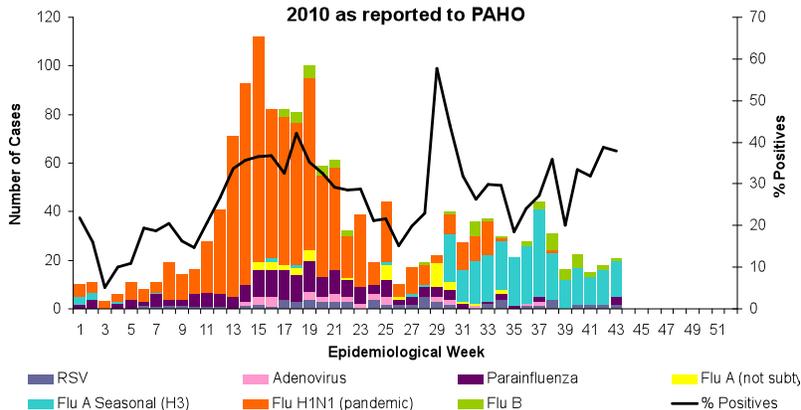
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2010-11 Season



Caribbean

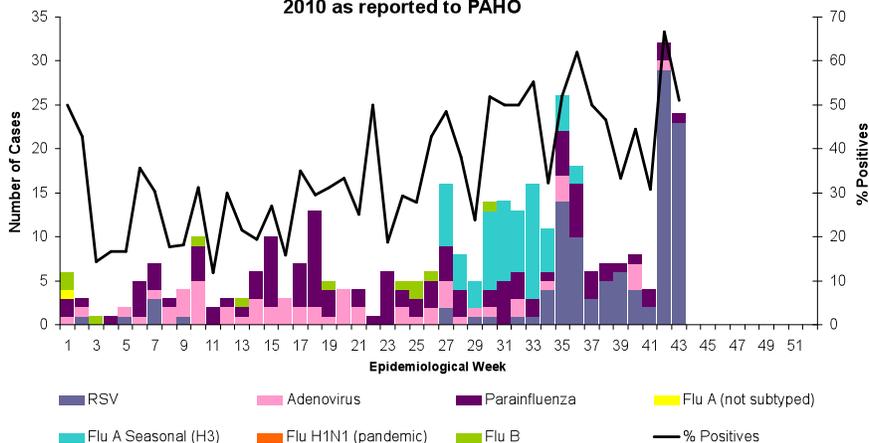
Cuba

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



Dominican Republic

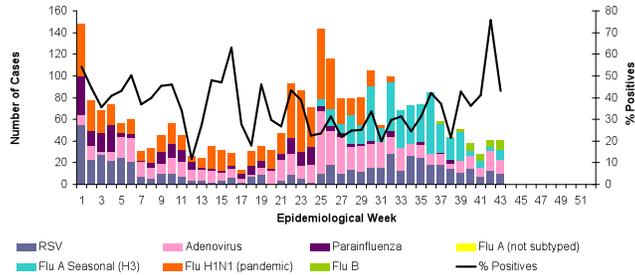
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010 as reported to PAHO



Central America

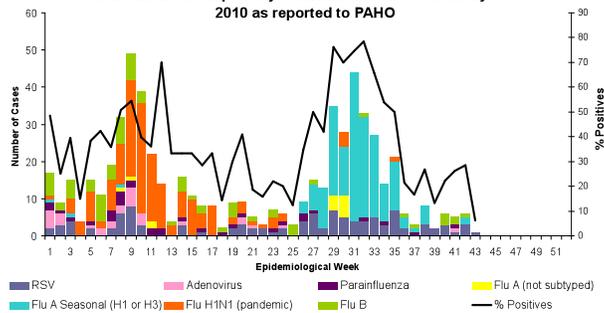
Costa Rica

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



Honduras

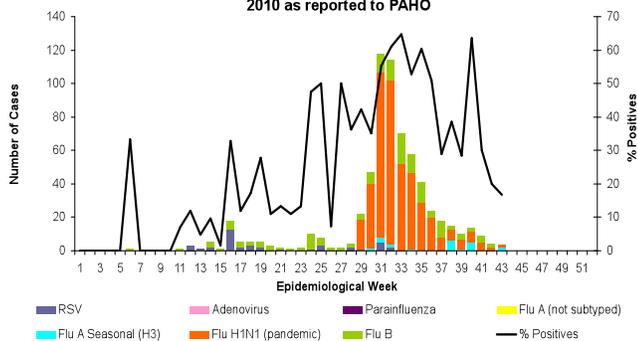
Honduras
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010 as reported to PAHO



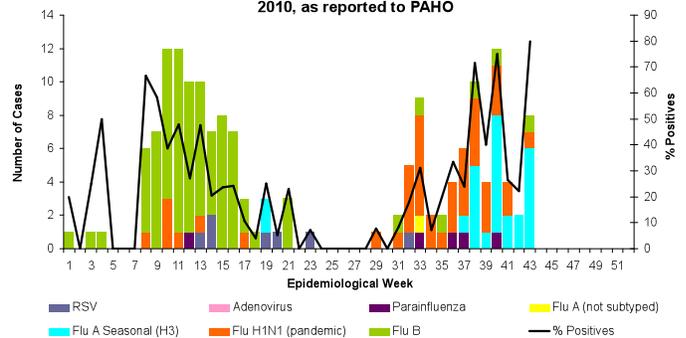
South America - Andean

Bolivia

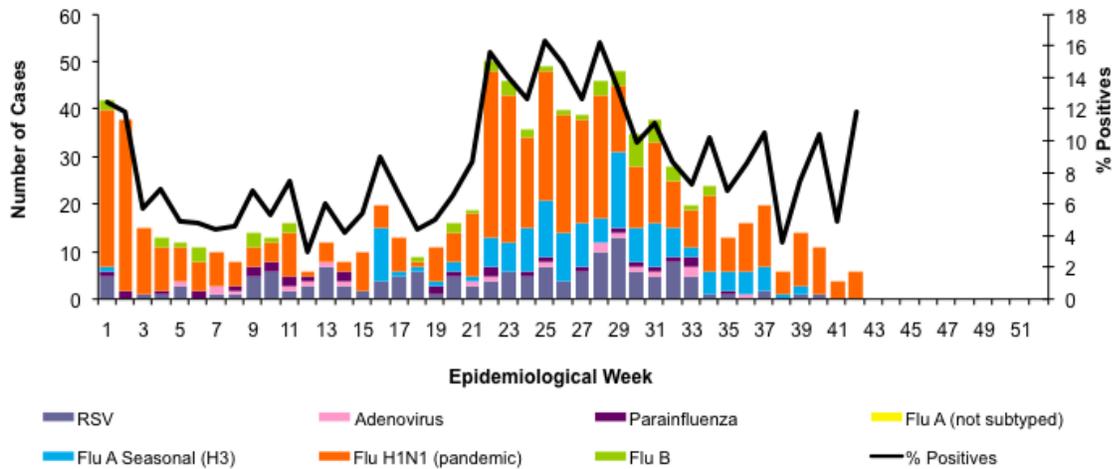
Bolivia (La Paz - INLASA)
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010 as reported to PAHO



Bolivia (Santa Cruz - CENETROP)
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010, as reported to PAHO



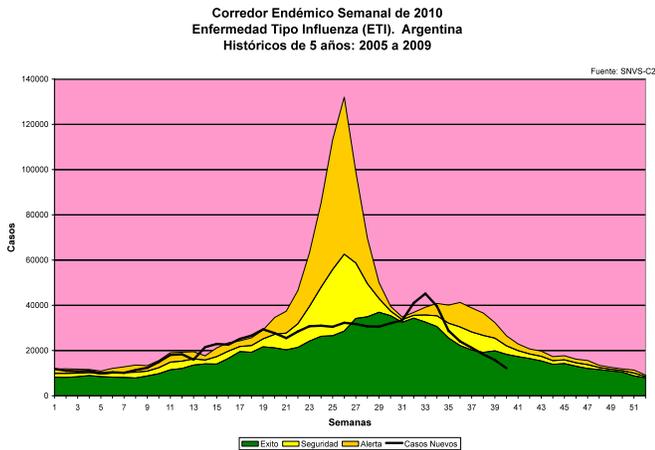
Colombia Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010 as reported to PAHO



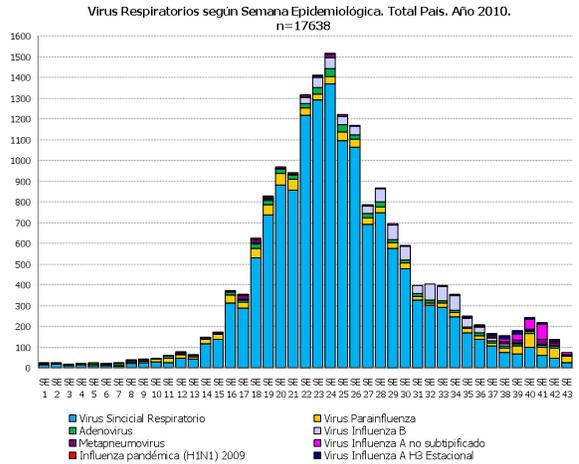
South America – Southern Cone

Argentina

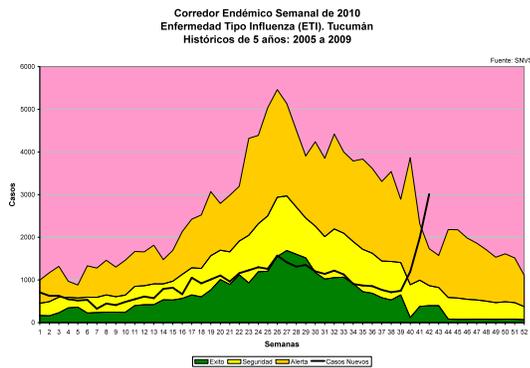
Argentina. ILI endemic channel by EW. 2005-2009



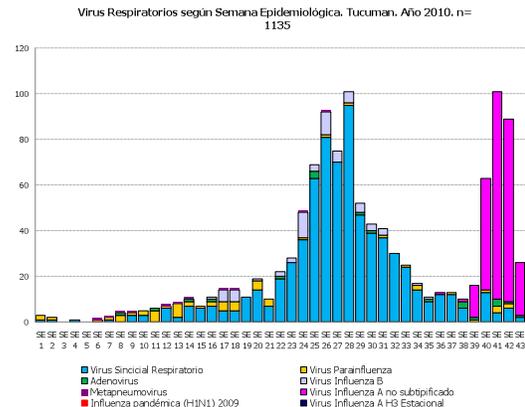
Argentina. Distribution of respiratory viruses by EW. 2010



Tucuman (North-east of Argentina). ILI endemic channel by EW. 2005-2009



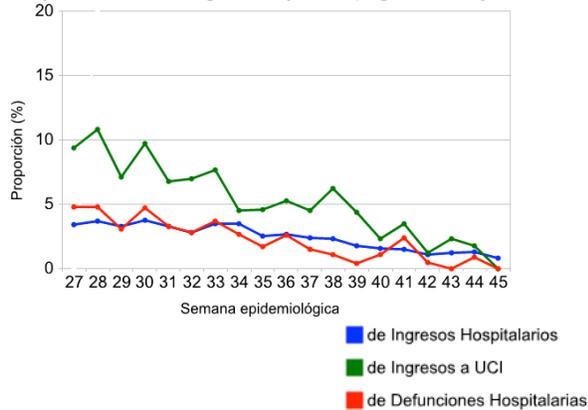
Tucuman (North-east of Argentina). Distribution of respiratory viruses by EW. 2010



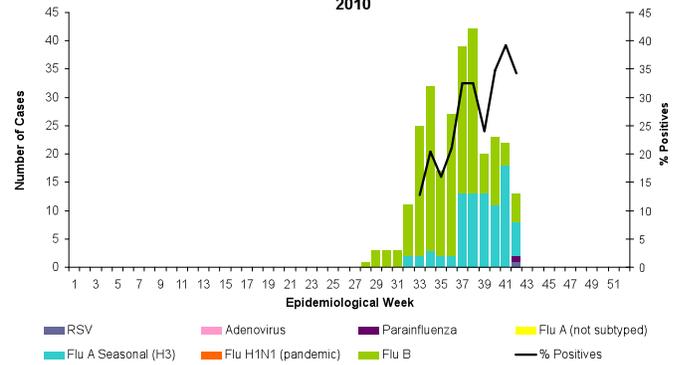
Uruguay

Proportion of SARI hospitalizations, SARI hospitalizations in ICU, and SARI deaths

Proporción de IRAG en ingresos hospitalarios, ingresos a UCI y defunciones hospitalarias



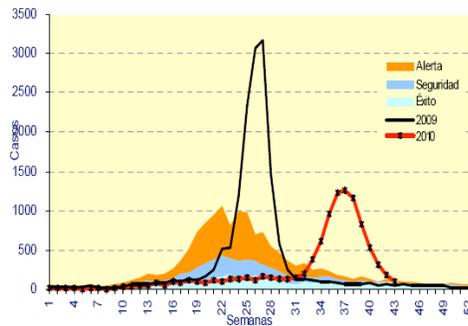
Uruguay* Distribution of respiratory viruses under SARI surveillance by EW 2010



Chile

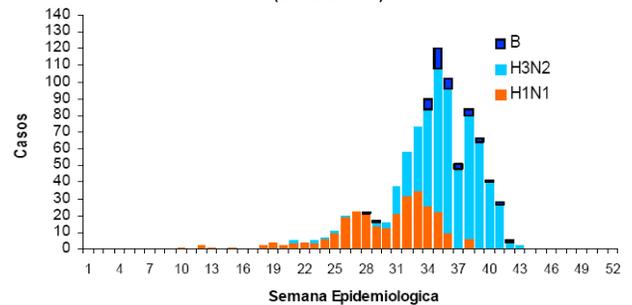
ILI endemic channel by EW. 2003-2008. Chile, 2010 (EW43)

Canal endémico de Enfermedad Tipo Influenza según semana epidemiológica 2003-2008. Chile, 2010 (semana 43)



Distribution of influenza viruses among SARI cases. Chile, 2010 (EW 1-43)

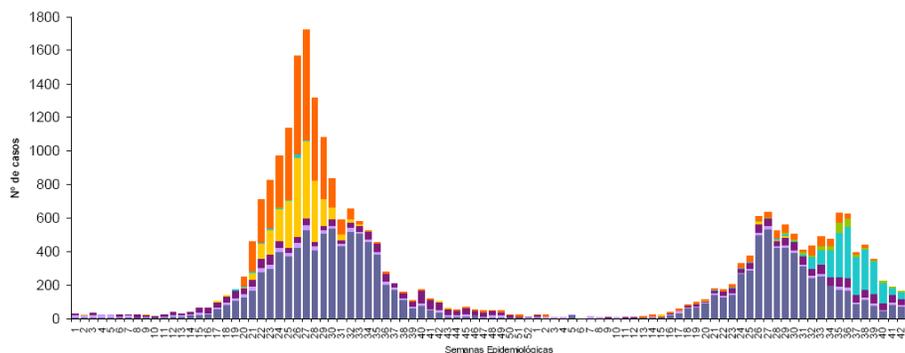
Gráfico: Casos de Ira Grave confirmados por influenza H1N1 (2009), A(H3N2) e Influenza B, según semana epidemiológica. Chile 2010 (Semana 1-43*)



* Información semana 43 es preliminar

Distribution of respiratory viruses by EW. Chile. (2009 - 2010)

Distribución virus respiratorios por semana epidemiológica, vigilancia ISP. Chile, sem 1 a 52 de 2009 y 1 a 43 de 2010.



¹ FluWatch Report. EW 43. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

² Surveillance Summary. Week 43. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

³ Argentina. Informe de vigilancia de enfermedad tipo influenza. 4 de noviembre de 2010

⁴ Chile. Informe de situación. SE 43. www.pandemia.cl

⁵ Uruguay. Vigilancia de IRAG. <https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrfmenu>