



Regional Update EW 48

Influenza
(December 13, 2010 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

The information presented in this update is 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), at the national level, influenza activity remained low. In Canada and Mexico, influenza A/H3 predominated this week, while in the United States, there has been a co-circulation of influenza A and B.
- Influenza activity in Central America and South America continued to remain low
- Influenza virus A/H3 and influenza B are co-circulating in the Americas Region

Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

North America

In Canada¹, in epidemiological week (EW) 48, overall influenza activity has slightly increased, with most of the surveillance regions reporting no activity (n=39), 13 regions reporting sporadic activity, and 4 regions reporting localized activity. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate (18.7 consultations per 1,000 patients) was within expected levels for this time of year and similar to what was observed in previous weeks. Children under 5 years of age had the highest ILI consultation rates (63.9 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of samples positive for influenza (EW 48: 8.25%) doubled as compared to the previous week. Since the beginning of the influenza season, A/H3N2 has been the predominant influenza strain circulating in Canada.

In Mexico, in EW 47, of all samples tested, the percentage of samples positive for influenza was 52%. Influenza A/H3 has predominated since EW 36.

In the United States,² in EW 48, at the national level, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI remained below the baseline and was slightly lower than what was observed in the previous week. At the regional level, all 10 regions reported ILI activity below the region-specific baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the epidemic threshold. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported this week. During EW 48, 10.8% of samples tested were positive for influenza (influenza type B, followed by influenza A unsubtype).

Caribbean

CAREC* reported a decreasing trend in the severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) admission proportion (SARI admissions among 100 hospital medical admissions) from 7.9% (EW 34) to 1% (EW 47). Children between 6-48 months had the highest proportion of hospitalizations for SARI (2.4%). No SARI deaths were reported during EW 47. Influenza A/H3 was the predominant influenza virus circulating during EWs 35-45 (especially in Jamaica); however, during EW 47, only 1 sample was positive (influenza B).

In the Dominican Republic, RSV predominated during EWs 35-48. In the EW 49, only influenza B was detected among the influenza viruses.

Central America

In Costa Rica, from EW 42-49, influenza type B was the predominant influenza virus circulating. Small numbers of adenovirus, parainfluenza and RSV continued to be detected.

* Participating CAREC member countries, which include, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, were assessed together

In Honduras, regionally (San Pedro de Sula), the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI showed a decreasing trend from EW 44 to EW 48, and lower compared to the respective week in 2009, with few positives samples of influenza (influenza B). The SARI admission proportion (SARI admissions among 100 hospital medical admissions) in Tegucigalpa showed a decreasing trend, since EW 44. The predominant influenza virus in SARI cases is influenza B. Low levels of adenovirus were also reported.

In Nicaragua, no influenza viruses have been detected since EW 44.

South America – Andean

In Bolivia, the predominant influenza virus circulating is influenza A/H3, especially in the eastern part of the country, where the percentage of samples positive for influenza, among all samples tested, was 67% (EWs 47-48).

In Colombia, over the last month, low levels of respiratory viruses have been detected, and pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 continued to be the predominant respiratory virus detected.

South America – Southern Cone

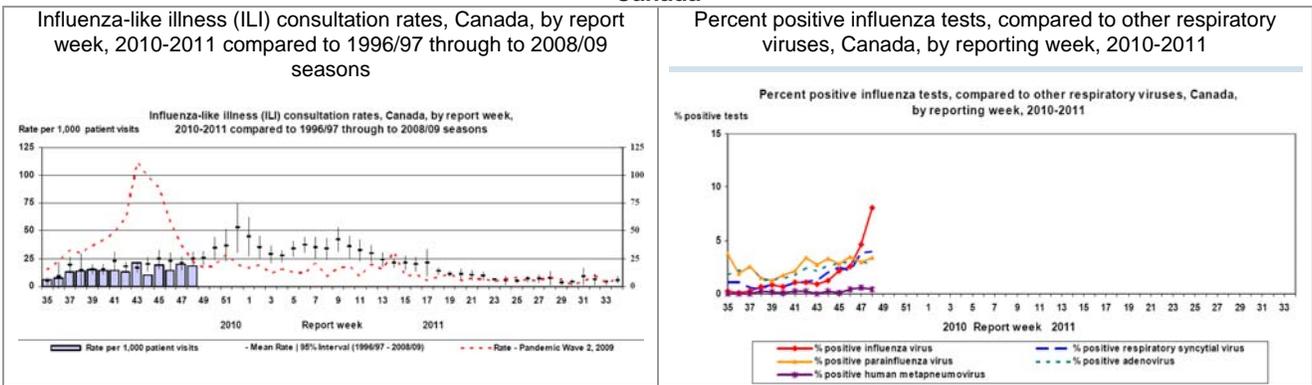
In Paraguay³, in the EW 47, nationally, the number of ILI consultations decreased slightly (~1.6%) as compared to the previous week. The percentage of SARI admissions among all the hospitalizations remained under 3%. Among the SARI cases, influenza A/H3 predominated over other circulating respiratory viruses from EW 41–47.

In Uruguay⁴, since EW 43, the proportion of SARI cases among the total number of hospitalizations, intensive care units (ICU) admissions, and deaths has remained less than 4%. From EW 41–47, the predominant virus circulating among sampled SARI cases was influenza A/H3.

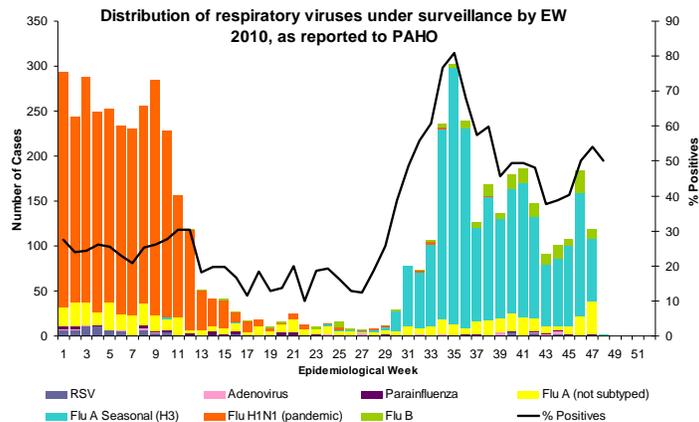
Graphs

North America

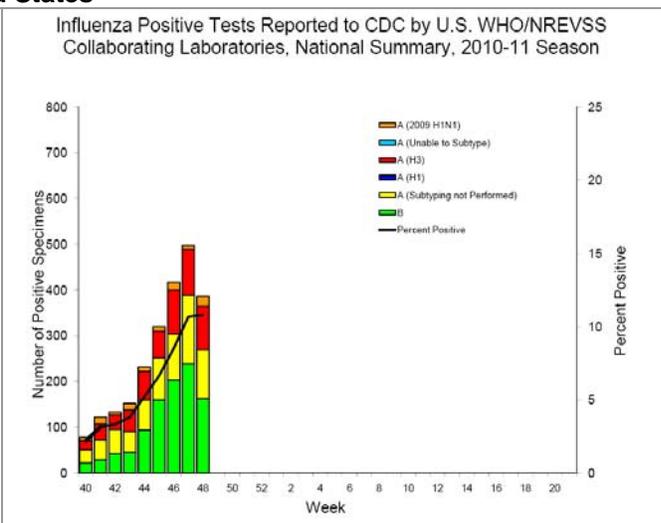
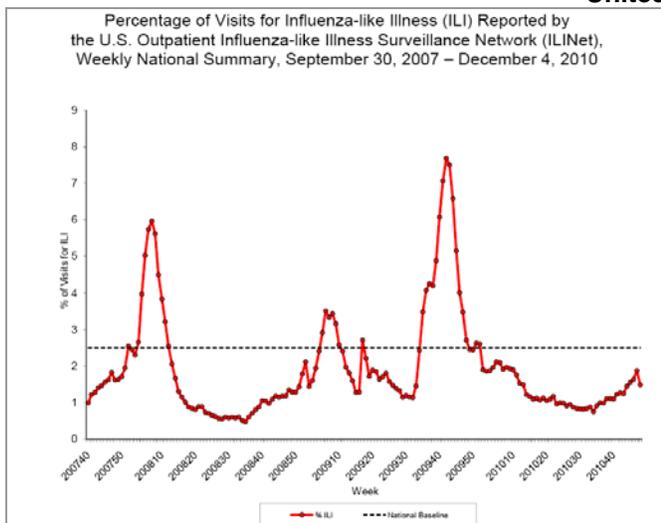
Canada



Mexico

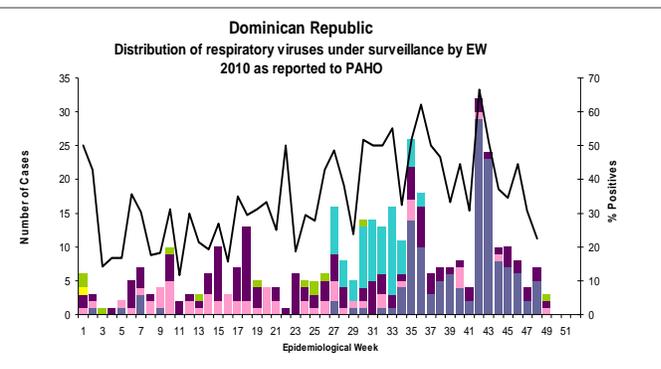
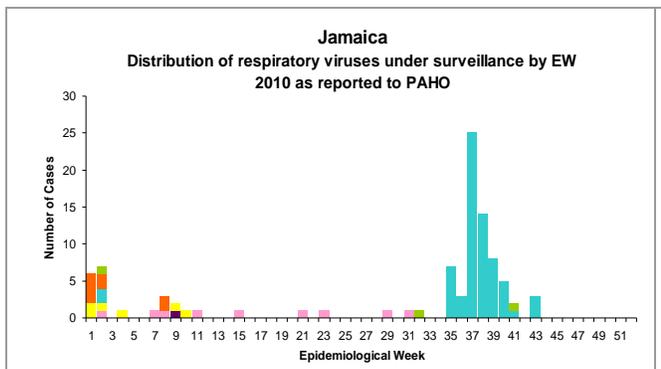
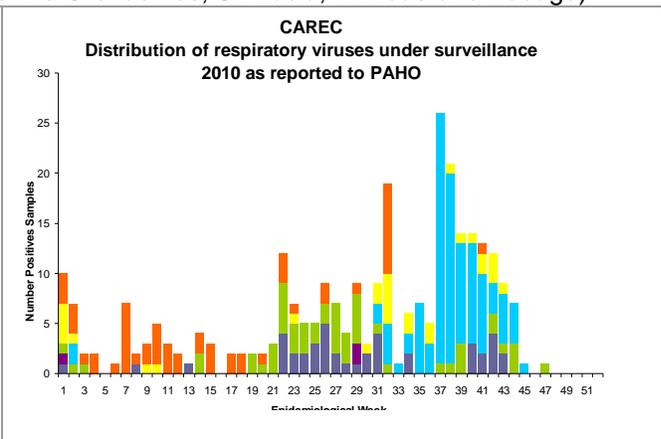
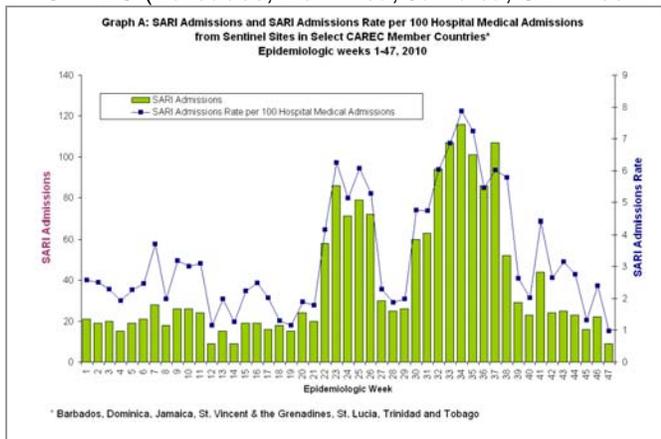


United States



Caribbean

CAREC (Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago)

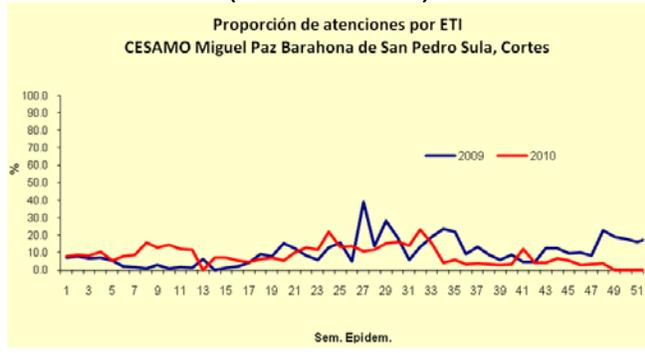


- RSV
- Adenovirus
- Parainfluenza
- Flu A (not subtyped)
- Flu A Seasonal (H3)
- Flu H1N1 (pandemic)
- Flu B
- % Positives

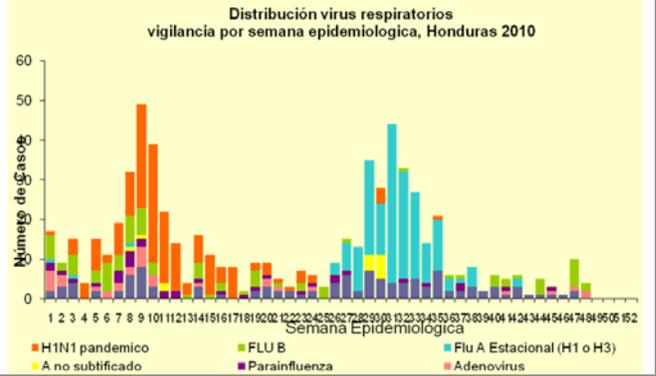
Central America

Honduras

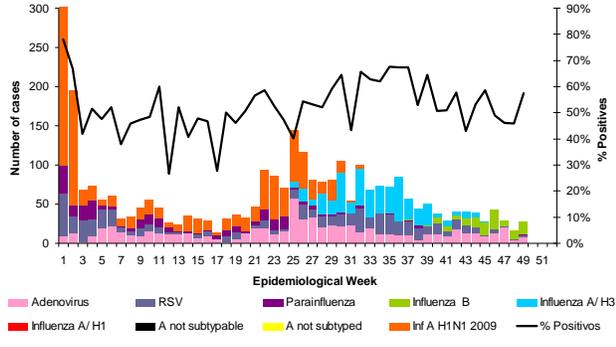
Proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI. (San Pedro de Sula)



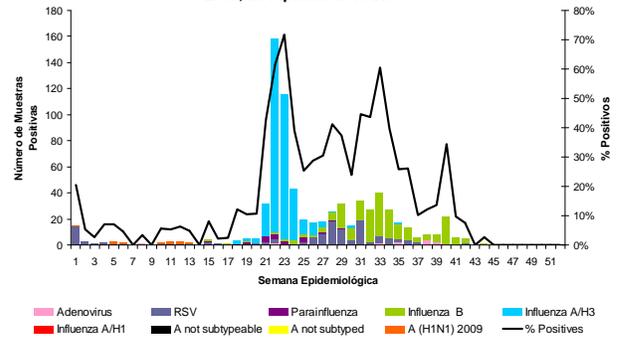
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW



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



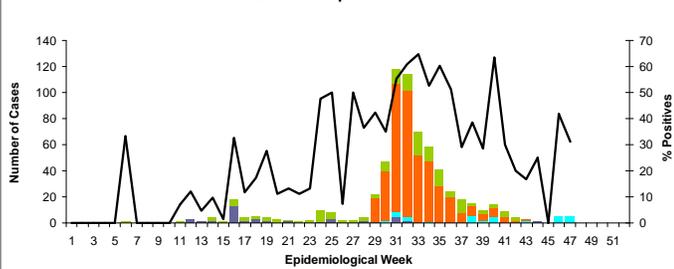
Nicaragua
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010, as reported to PAHO



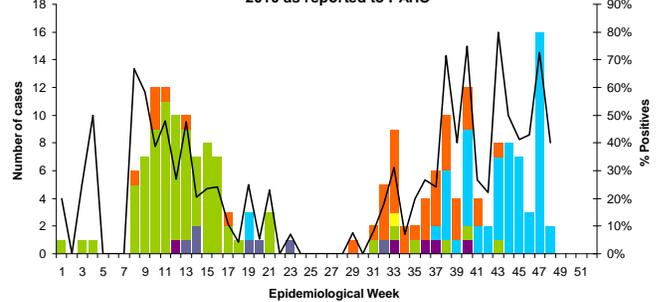
South America - Andean

Bolivia

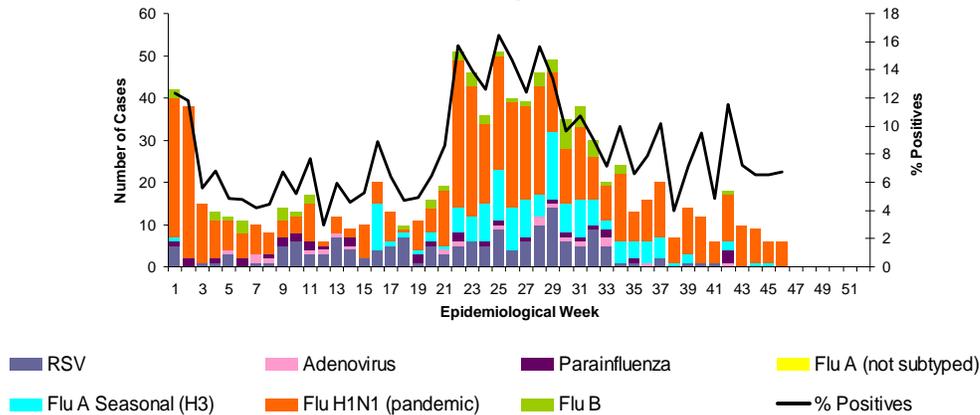
Bolivia (La Paz - INLASA)
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010 as reported to PAHO



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

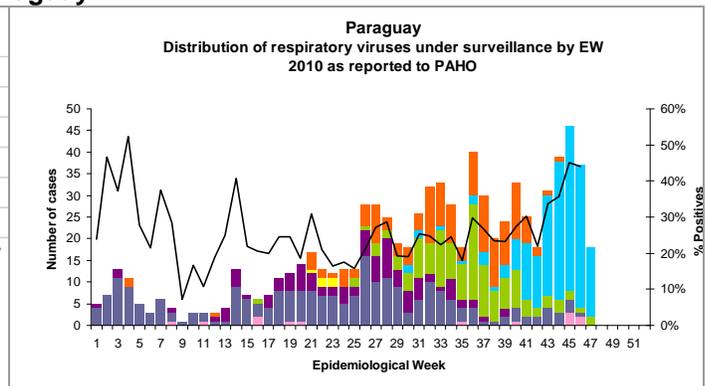
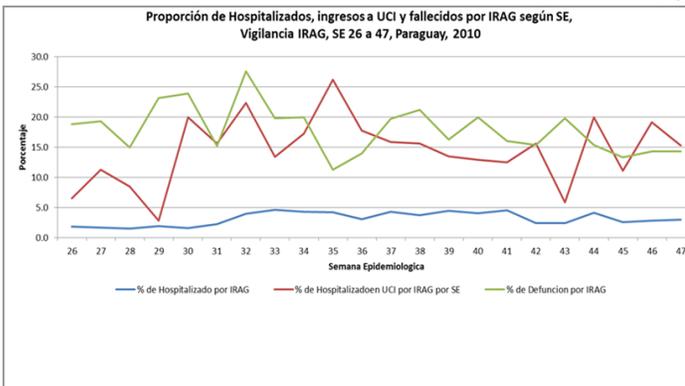


Colombia
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010 as reported to PAHO

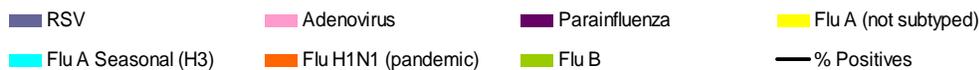
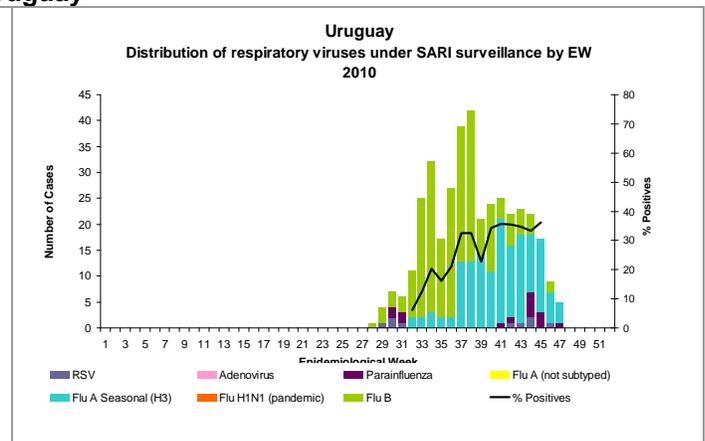
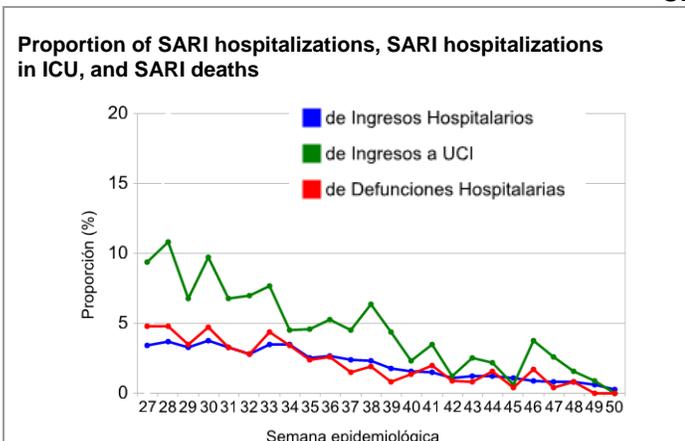


South America – Southern Cone

Paraguay



Uruguay



¹ Canada. FluWatch Report. EW 48. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>
² USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 48. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
³ Paraguay. Boletín epidemiológico semanal. SE 49. Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social
⁴ Uruguay. Vigilancia de IRAG. <https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu>