



Regional Update EW 44

Influenza
(November 16, 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
- Influenza activity in South America is continuing to decline
- Influenza virus A (H3N2) continues to be the most frequently detected virus in the Region.

Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

North America

In Canada¹, in epidemiological week (EW) 44, overall influenza activity remained low, with most of the surveillance regions reporting no activity (n=45 regions) and 5 regions reporting sporadic activity. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was below the expected levels for this time of year. Adults 20–64 years of age had the highest consultation rates (13.6 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of influenza positive samples during EW 44 (1.23%) increased compared to the previous weeks but much lower than what was observed during EW 44 in 2009. Since the beginning of the season, A/H3N2 has been the predominant influenza strain circulating in Canada. Parainfluenza virus is currently the most prevalent respiratory virus circulating.

In Mexico, the percentage of positive samples for respiratory viruses has decreased over the last 10 weeks. The predominant respiratory virus over the last 14 EWs was influenza A/H3.

In the United States,² in EW 44, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI remained 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 and was attributed to an unsubtyped influenza A virus. During EW 44, influenza activity increased as compared to EW 43—6.8% of samples tested were positive for influenza (including influenza A/H3, influenza type B, and influenza A/unsubtyped). Two unrelated cases of human infection with swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) viruses were reported. One case reported contact with pigs in the week prior to symptom onset. Both patients fully recovered from their illnesses and in neither situation was there evidence of person-person transmission of the virus. The two viruses identified are genetically different, indicating that they did not come from the same source.

Caribbean

In Cuba, influenza A/H3 continued to be the predominant virus circulating.

In the Dominican Republic respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continues to predominate and no influenza viruses have been isolated since EW 36.

In Jamaica, influenza A/H3 has predominated for the last two months.

Central America

In Costa Rica, co-circulation of influenza B, influenza A/H3, adenovirus, and RSV continued. In Honduras, very low levels of respiratory viruses have been detected over the last few weeks. In Nicaragua, for the last 15 EWs, influenza type B has been the predominant influenza virus in circulation.

South America – Andean

In the eastern part of Bolivia influenza A/H3 has predominated for the last five EWs.

Colombia continues to report the predominance of influenza A (H1N1) 2009.

South America – Southern Cone

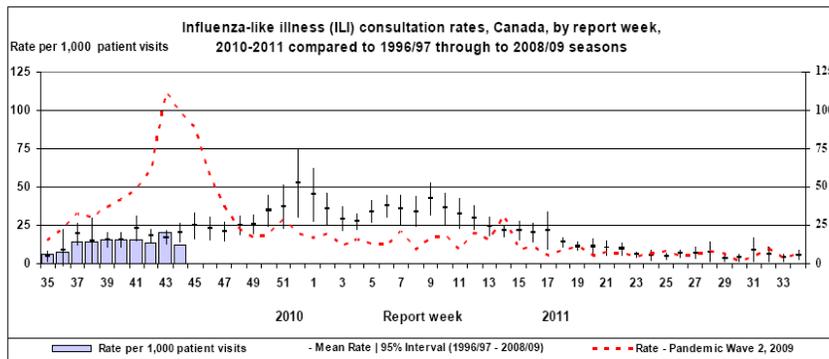
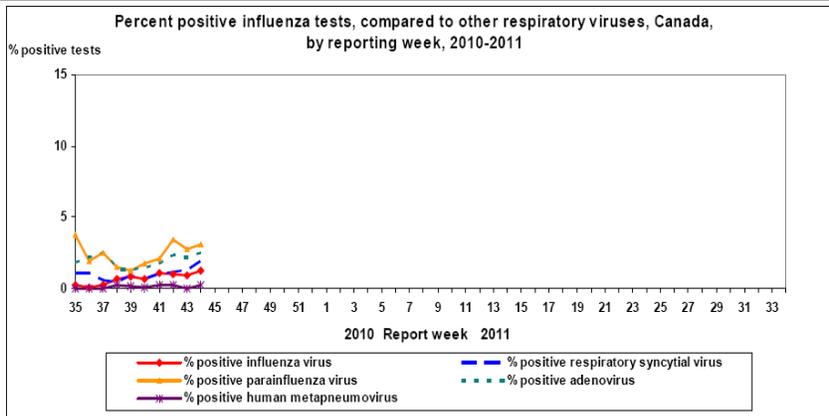
In Uruguay³, during EW 45, the proportion of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases among the total number of hospitalizations, the proportion of SARI hospitalized cases in intensive care units (ICU) and the proportion of SARI deaths among all deaths, remained low (~2%). The predominant virus among SARI cases was influenza A/H3, followed by parainfluenza, and influenza type B.

Graphics

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

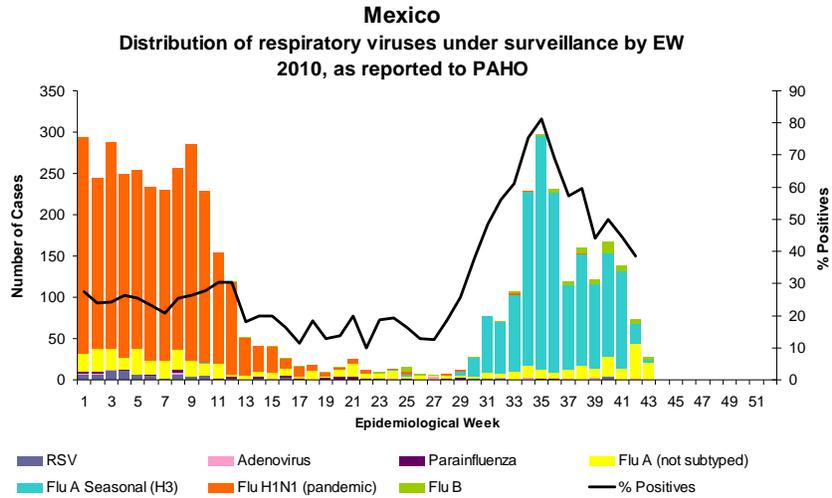
North America

Canada



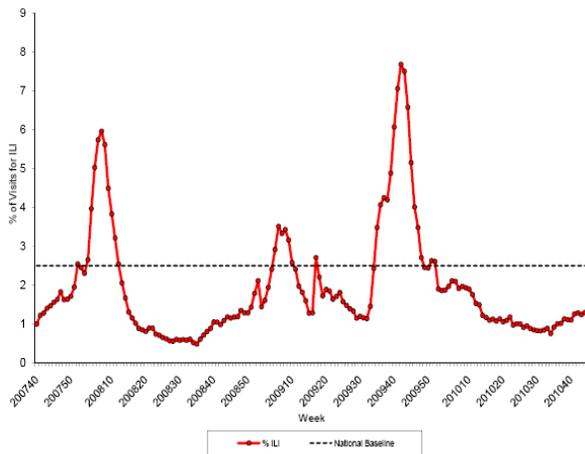
Note: No data available for mean rate in previous years for weeks 19 to 39 (1996-1997 through 2002-2003 seasons). Delays in the reporting of data may cause data to change retrospectively.

Mexico

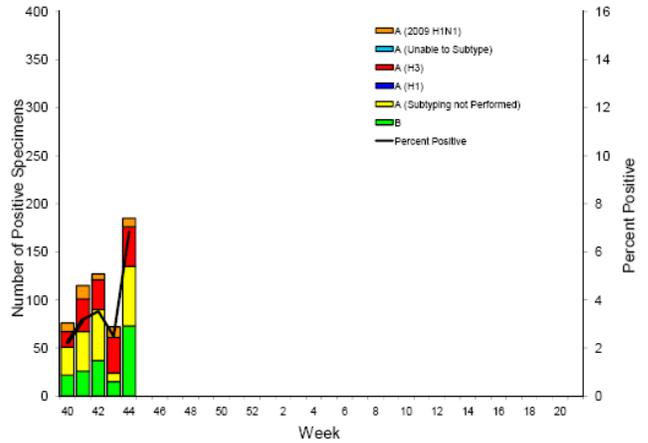


United States

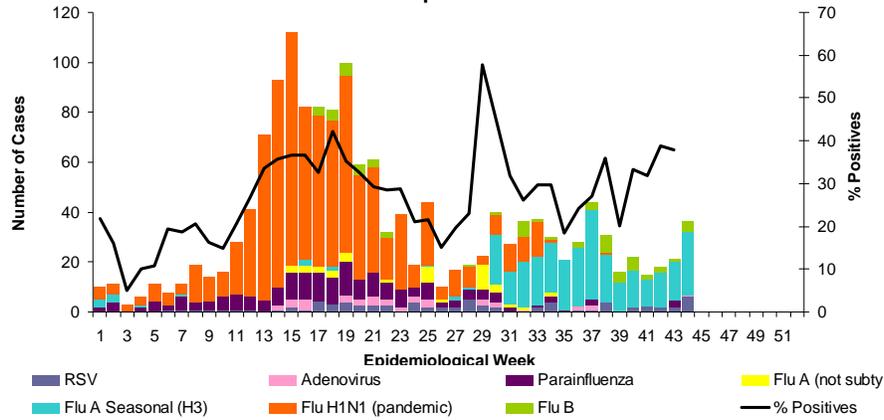
Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, September 30, 2007 – November 6, 2010



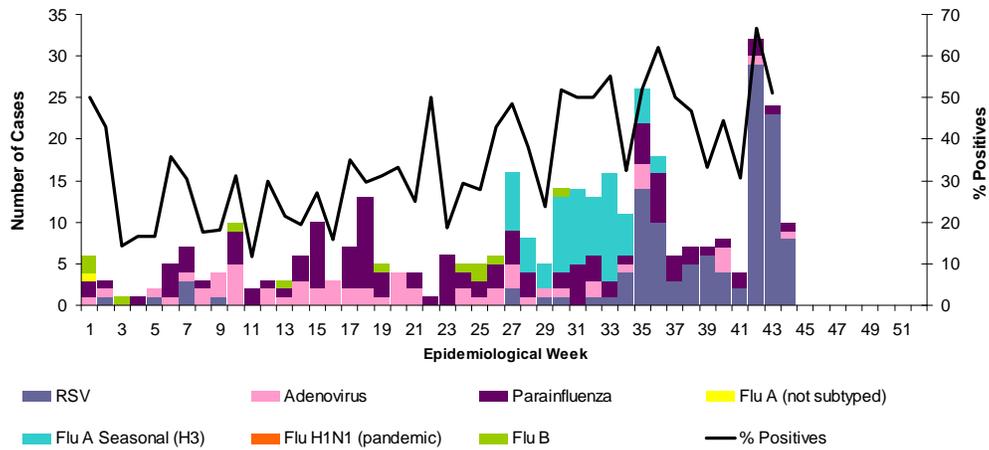
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2010-11 Season



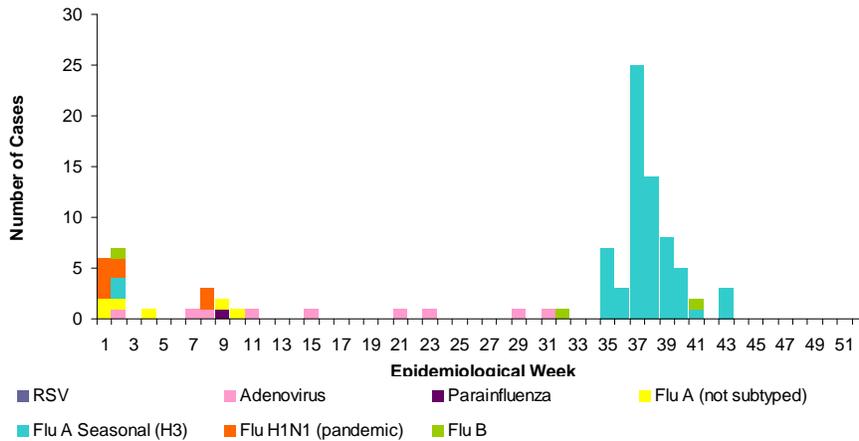
Cuba
 Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
 2010 as reported to PAHO



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

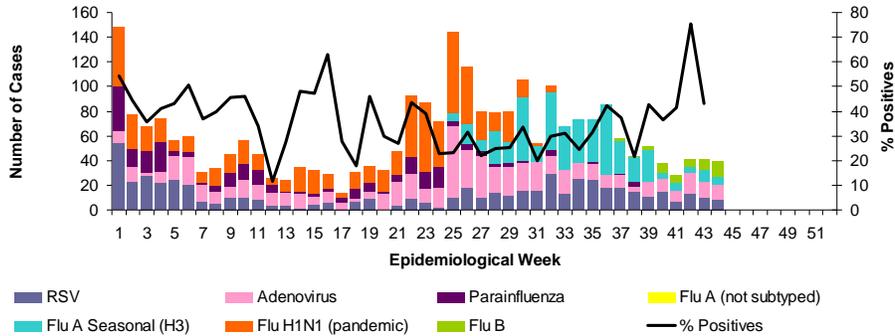


Jamaica
 Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
 2010 as reported to PAHO

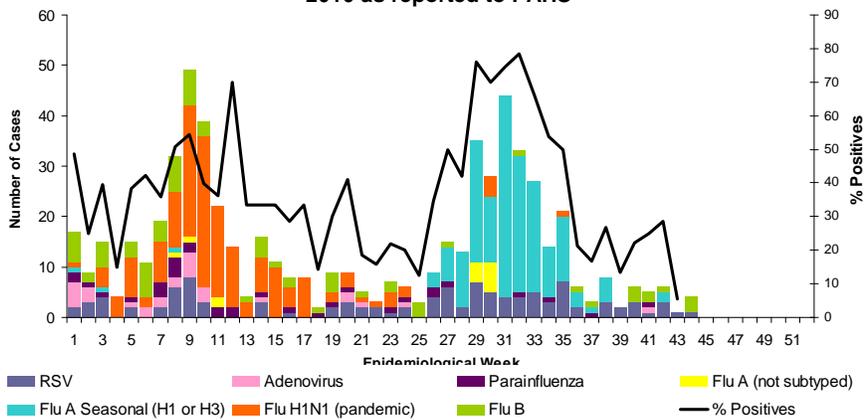


Central America

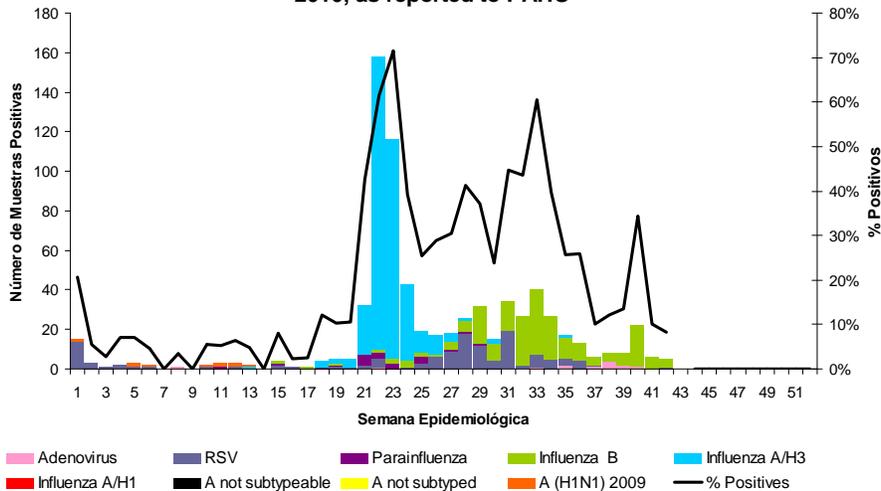
Costa Rica
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
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Honduras
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010 as reported to PAHO

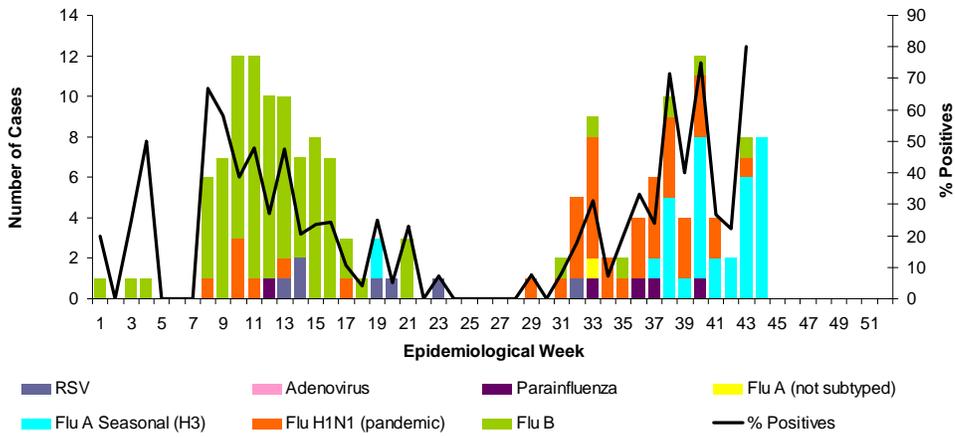


Nicaragua
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW
2010, as reported to PAHO

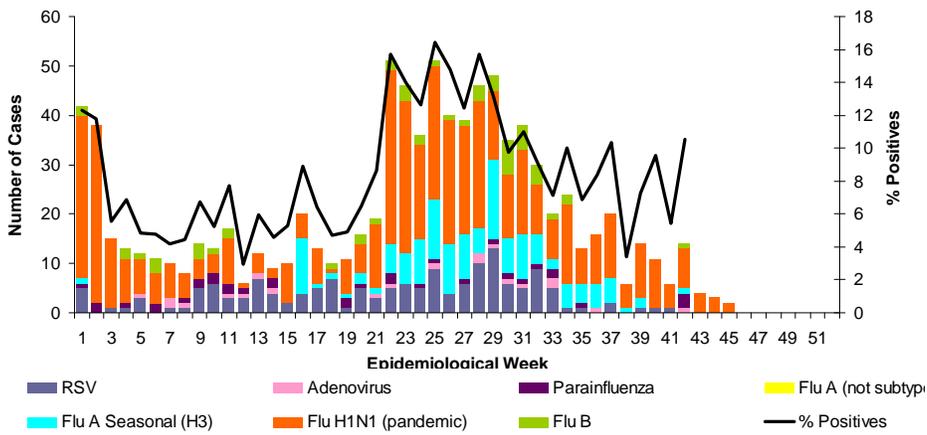


South America - Andean

Bolivia (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

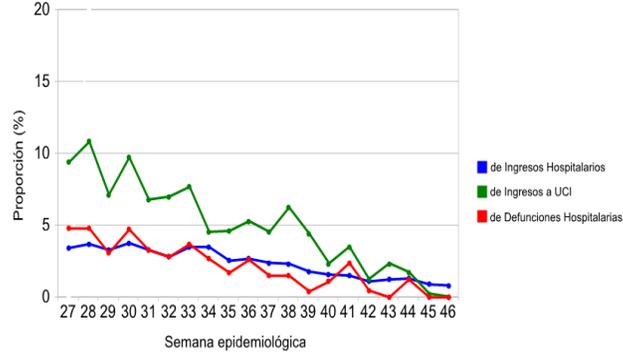


South America – Southern Cone

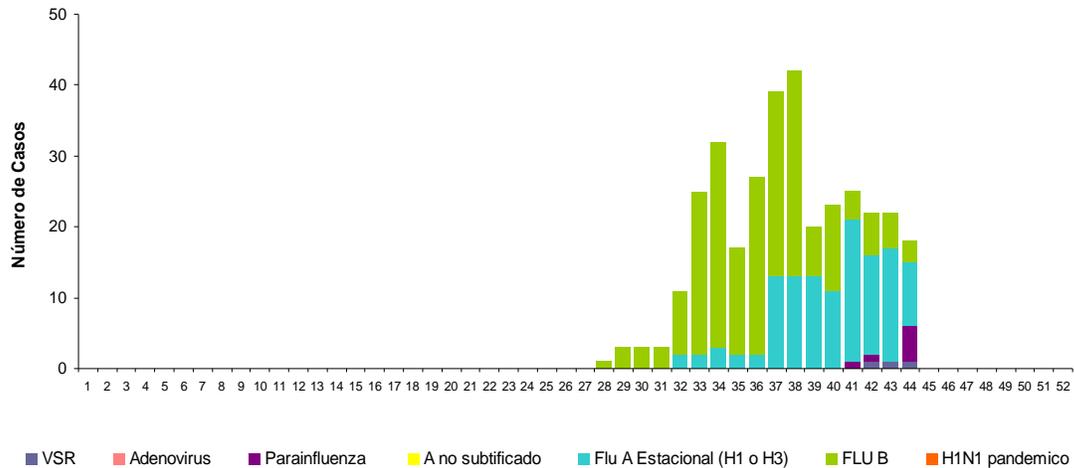
Uruguay

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

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



Distribución virus respiratorios en vigilancia por semana epidemiológica



¹ FluWatch Report. EW 44. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

² Surveillance Summary. Week 44. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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