



## Regional Update EW 45

Influenza  
(November 22, 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 has increased; however it remained within low levels
- Influenza activity in Central America and South America remain low
- Influenza virus A (H3N2) continues to be the most frequently detected virus in most countries of the Region

### Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

#### *North America*

In Canada<sup>1</sup>, in epidemiological week (EW) 45, overall influenza activity has slightly increased, with most of the surveillance regions (n=46 regions) reporting no activity, 9 regions reporting sporadic activity and 1 region reporting localized activity. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was within the expected levels for this time of year. Children <5 years of age had the highest consultation rates (47.1 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of influenza positive samples during EW 45 (2.15%) increased compared to the previous weeks, this proportion was higher than what was usually observed at this time of the year but much lower than what was observed during EW 45 in 2009. Since the beginning of the season, A/H3N2 has been the predominant influenza strain circulating in Canada.

In Mexico, the percentage of positive samples for respiratory viruses has decreased over the last 11 weeks. The predominant respiratory virus over the last 16 EWs was influenza A/H3.

In the United States,<sup>2</sup> in EW 45, 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 increased compared to the previous week, being located at the epidemic threshold. No influenza-associated pediatric death was reported this week. During EW 45, influenza activity increased as compared to EW 44—7.7% of samples tested were positive for influenza (including influenza A/H3, influenza type B, and influenza A/untyped).

#### *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 and French Guiana, influenza A/H3 has predominated for the last two months.

#### *Central America*

In Costa Rica, the predominant influenza virus circulating during EW 44-45 was influenza B. Besides, influenza A/H3, adenovirus and RSV have also been detected.

In El Salvador and Honduras, very low levels of respiratory viruses have been detected over the last few weeks.

## South America – Andean

In the eastern part of Bolivia influenza A/H3 has predominated for the last seven EWs (EWs 40-46).

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

In Peru<sup>3</sup>, the number of acute respiratory infection (non-pneumonia) cases in children under 5 years of age and the number of pneumonia cases in children under 5 years of age showed a decreasing trend between EW 41-43, remaining under the epidemiological threshold. The percentage of positive samples among the tested cases has decreased in the last 5 EW (EW 40-44). The most predominant circulating virus was influenza A/H3N2 since EW 38.

## South America – Southern Cone

In Uruguay<sup>4</sup>, during EW 46, 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 (~3%). The predominant virus among SARI cases was influenza A/H3 in the last 7 EWs, followed by influenza type B. Other respiratory viruses (parainfluenza and RSV) also have been detected.

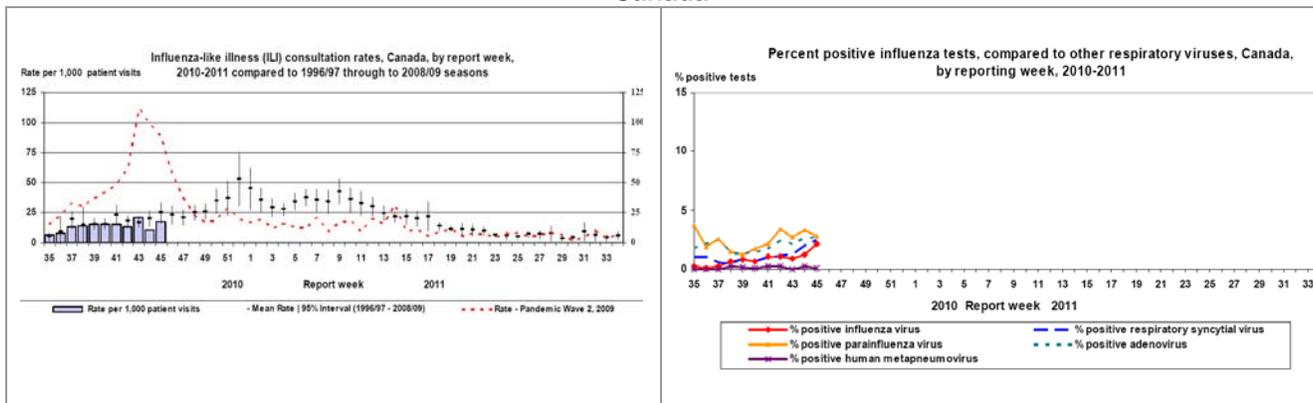
In Chile and Brazil (mostly Sao Paulo), low levels of influenza positive samples have been detected (influenza B, influenza A/H3 and influenza A (H1N1) 2009).

## Graphics

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

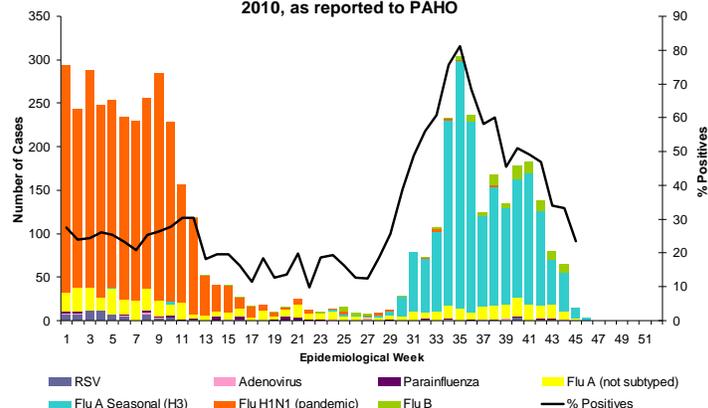
### North America

#### Canada

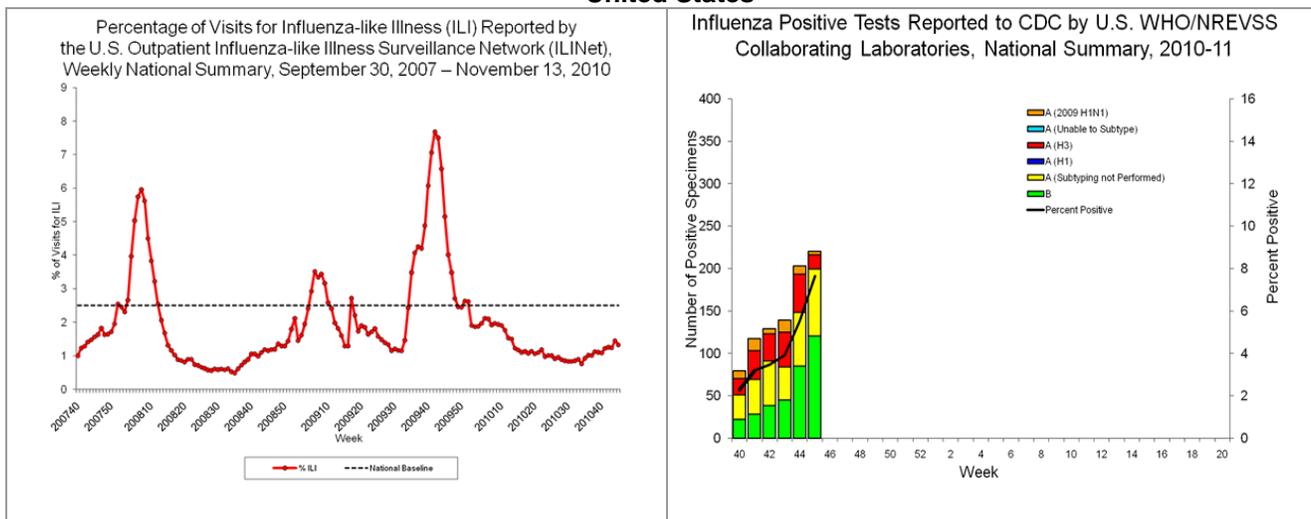


#### Mexico

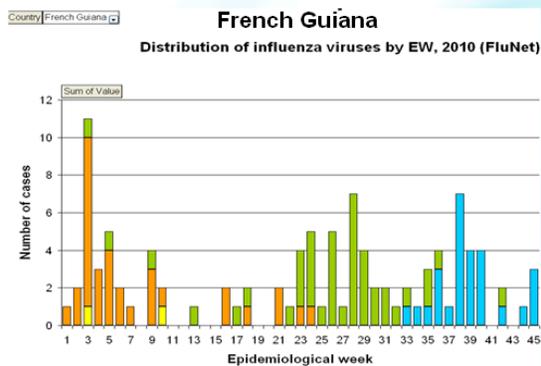
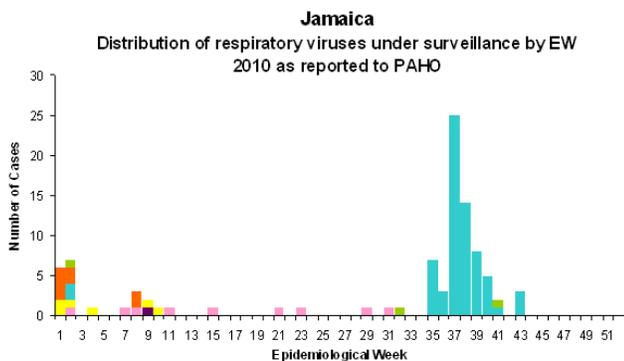
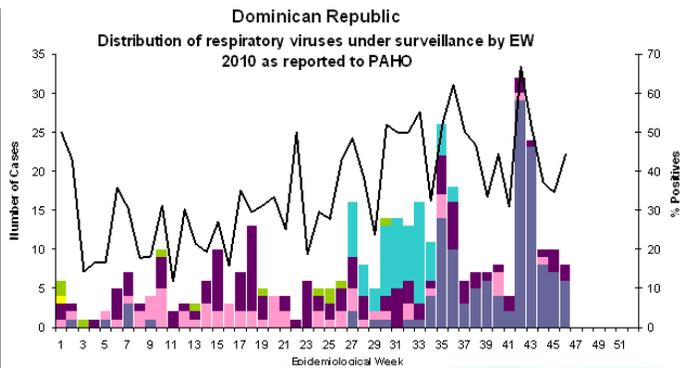
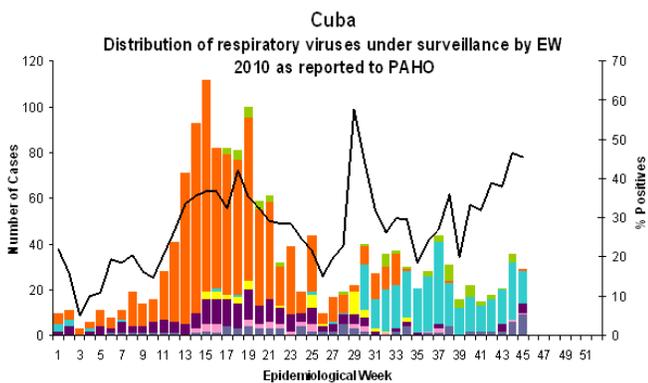
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010, as reported to PAHO



## United States

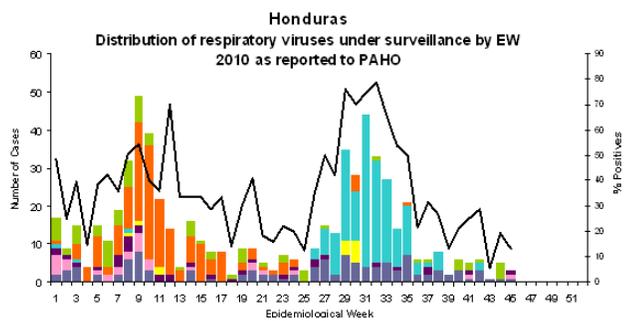
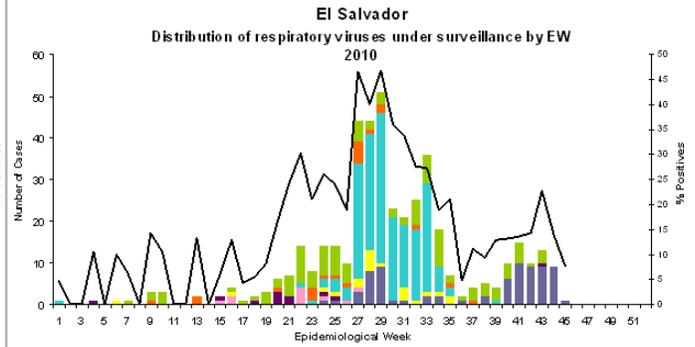
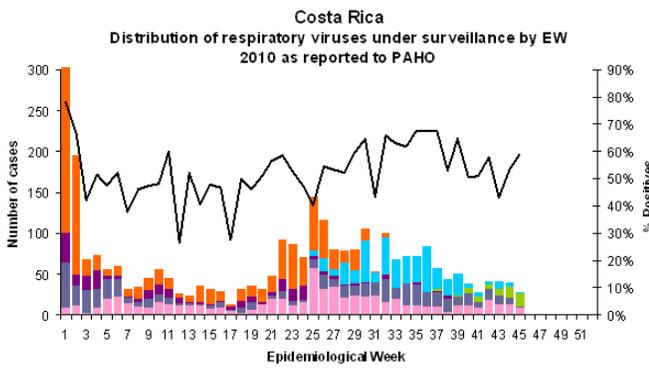


## Caribbean

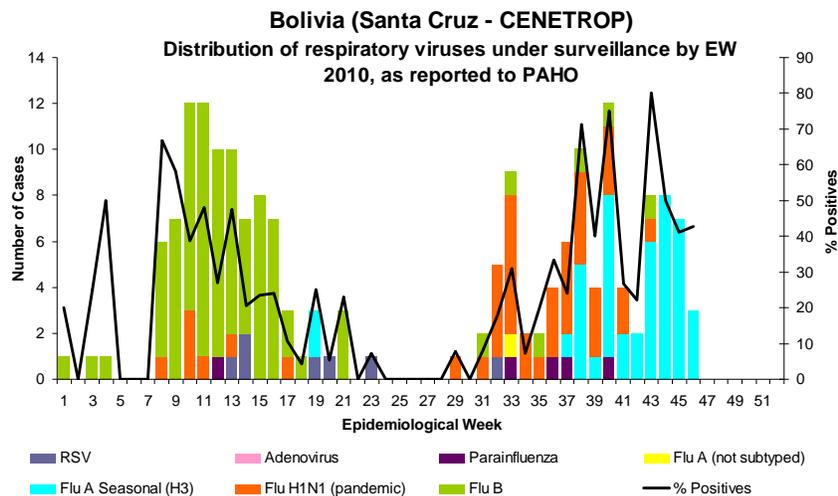


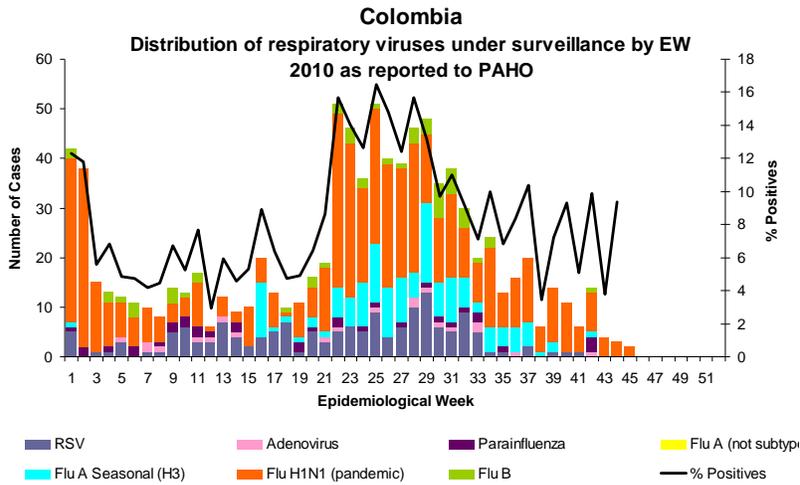
- |                       |                       |                 |                        |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| ■ RSV                 | ■ Adenovirus          | ■ Parainfluenza | ■ Flu A (not subtyped) |
| ■ Flu A Seasonal (H3)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

## Central America

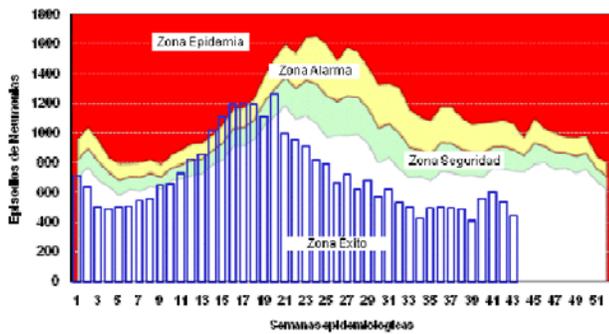


## South America - Andean





Pneumonia endemic channel in children under 5 years old, by EW. Peru 2010. EW 43



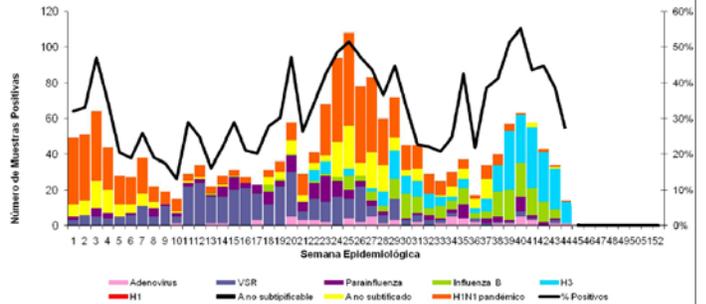
FUENTE: Registros de Notificación Colectiva. Neumonía 2010 - MINSA - Dirección General de Epidemiología (DGE) - Red Nacional de Epidemiología (RENACE).

**Figura 3: Canal endémico de las neumonías en menores de 5 años, por SE, Perú 2010 - SE 28**

### Peru

Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW, 2010

Gráfico 1. Distribución de aislamientos de virus respiratorios por SE, Perú 2010\*

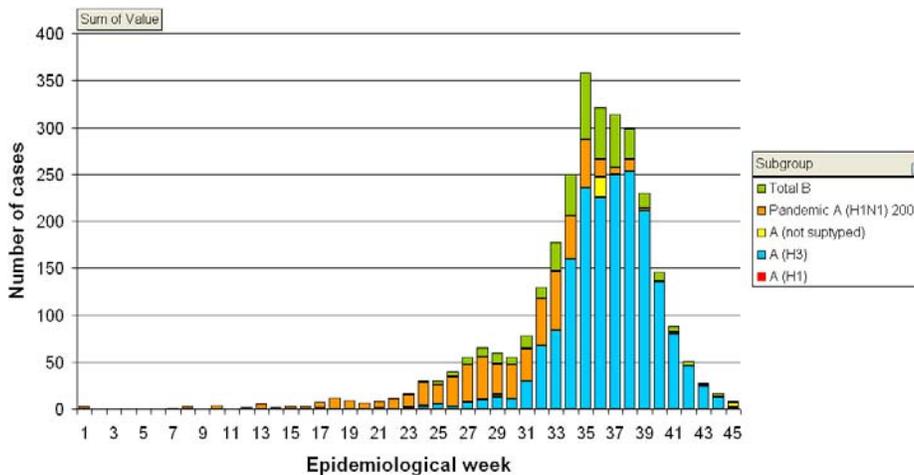


(\* Hasta la SE 44)

## South America – Southern Cone

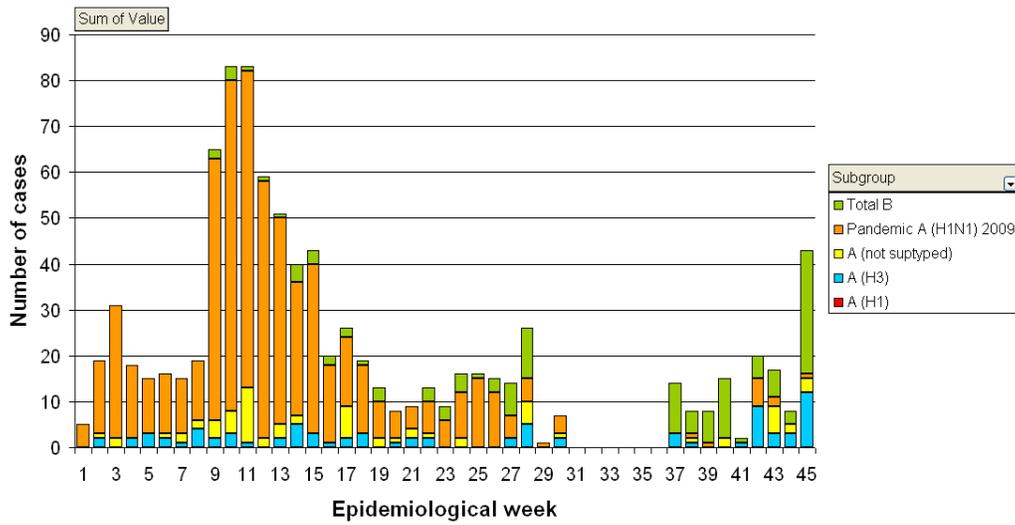
### Chile

Distribution of influenza viruses by EW, 2010 (FluNet)

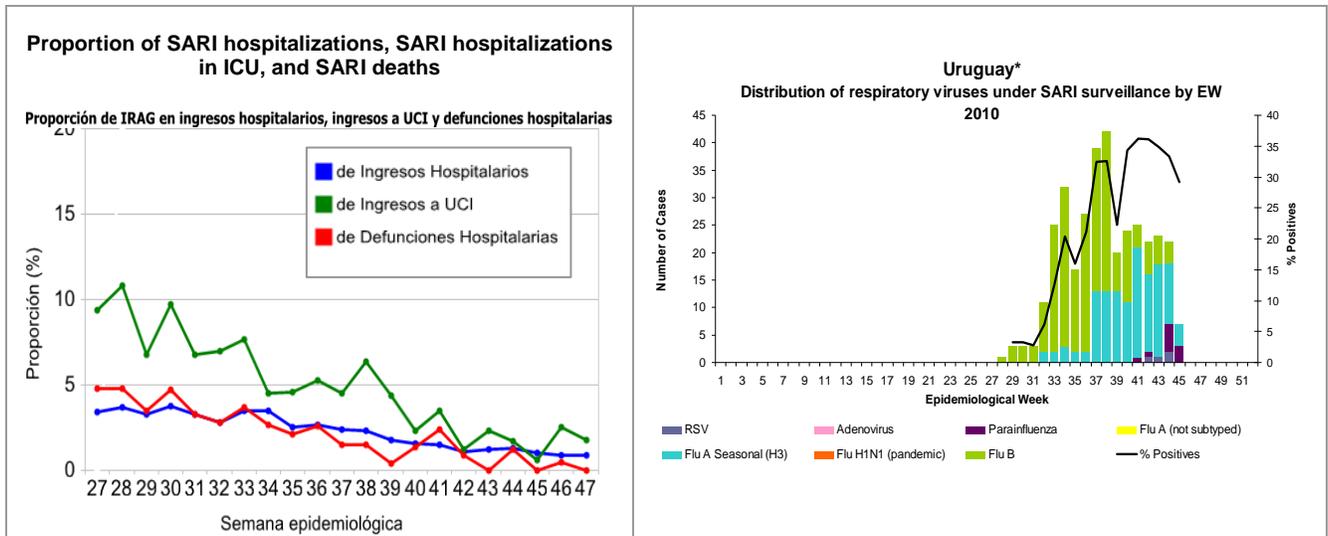


## Brazil

Distribution of influenza viruses by EW, 2010 (FluNet)



## Uruguay



<sup>1</sup> Canada. FluWatch Report. EW 45. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

<sup>2</sup> USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 45. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>3</sup> Peru. Boletín epidemiológico. Semana 43. Dirección General de Epidemiología.

<sup>4</sup> Uruguay. Vigilancia de IRAG. <https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu>