

IN SUMMARY...

Activity levels**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All zones have localized activity. There are 3 influenza outbreaks being reported this week and 2 schools reported an increased absenteeism rate.
Laboratory-confirmed cases***
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 34 influenza A and 1 influenza B cases reported this week. There have been 679 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A and 12 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza B reported during the 2018-2019 influenza season. Positive test results were received for Mycoplasma Pneumoniae, Parainfluenza and RSV.
Severity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been 61 ICU admissions in adults and 5 ICU admission in children (age group 0-19 years). There have been 44 deaths*** of laboratory confirmed influenza during the 2018-2019 influenza season. All deaths have been in adults.
Syndromic surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average ILI rate for Nova Scotia during this reporting period was 1.0. 95% of emergency rooms reported ILI data during this reporting period. Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital and St Anne's did not report this week.

Notes: *Reporting weeks run from Sunday to Saturday. The 2018-2019 influenza season is defined using PHAC's influenza surveillance weeks. This year runs from August 26, 2018 (Week 35) to August 28, 2019 (Week 34);

**Activity level data is obtained from CNPHI, see appendix for definitions;

***Deaths include individuals with a positive influenza test result, influenza may not have been the major contributing cause of death or hospitalization.

LABORATORY-CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES

Figure 1: Number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases by report week, 2018-2019 season, with trend-line comparison to 2017-2018 season, Nova Scotia

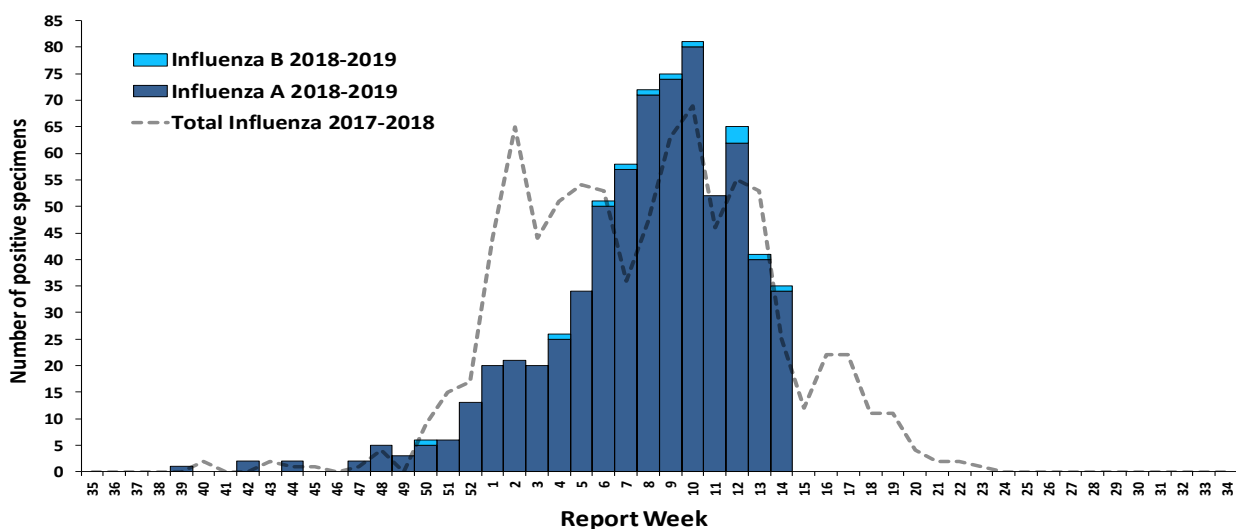


Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by zone, current week and cumulative 2018-2019 season in Nova Scotia

ZONE	CURRENT WEEK			CUMULATIVE 2018-2019		
	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B
Western	1	1	0	124	124	0
Northern	9	9	0	112	111	1
Eastern	9	9	0	120	119	1
Central	16	15	1	335	325	10
Nova Scotia Total	35	34	1	691	679	12

Table 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by age group, current week and cumulative 2018-2019 season in Nova Scotia

AGE	CURRENT WEEK			CUMULATIVE 2018-2019		
	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B
0-4	2	2	0	68	66	2
5-19	4	4	0	65	65	0
20-44	2	1	1	98	93	5
45-64	9	9	0	167	166	1
65+	18	18	0	293	289	4
Nova Scotia Total	35	34	1	691	679	12

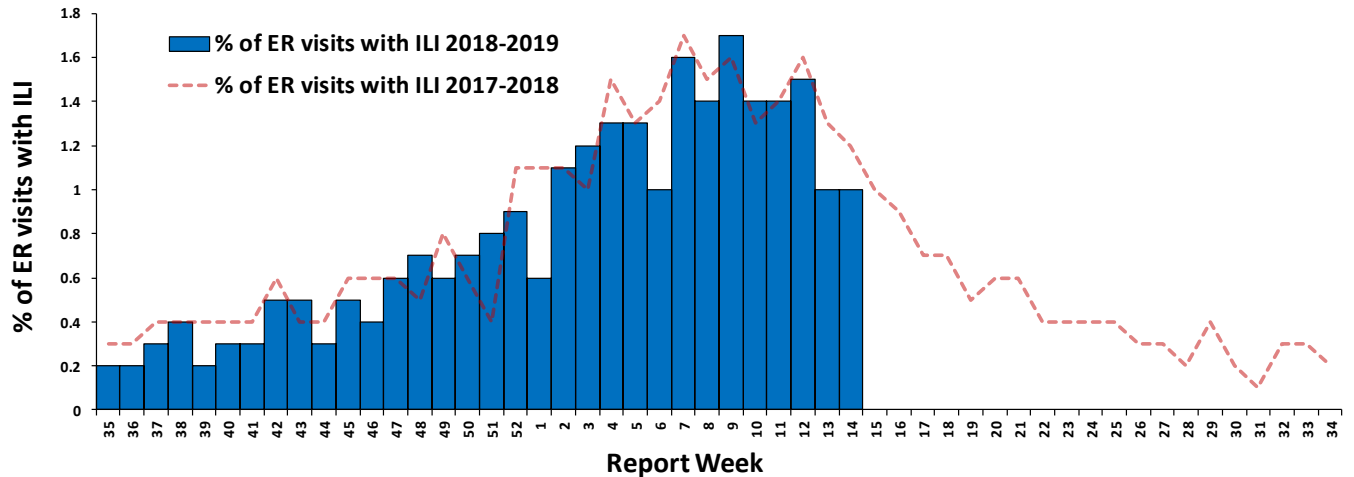
Table 3: Hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths for influenza positive patients, current week and cumulative, 2018-2019 season, Nova Scotia

	CURRENT WEEK			CUMULATIVE 2018-2019		
	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B
Hospitalized	14	14	0	322	316	6
Hospitalized - ICU	6	6	0	66	66	0
Deceased*	2	2	0	44	43	1
Nova Scotia Total	22	22	0	432	425	7

*Deaths include individuals with a positive influenza test result, influenza may not have been the major contributing cause of death or hospitalization.

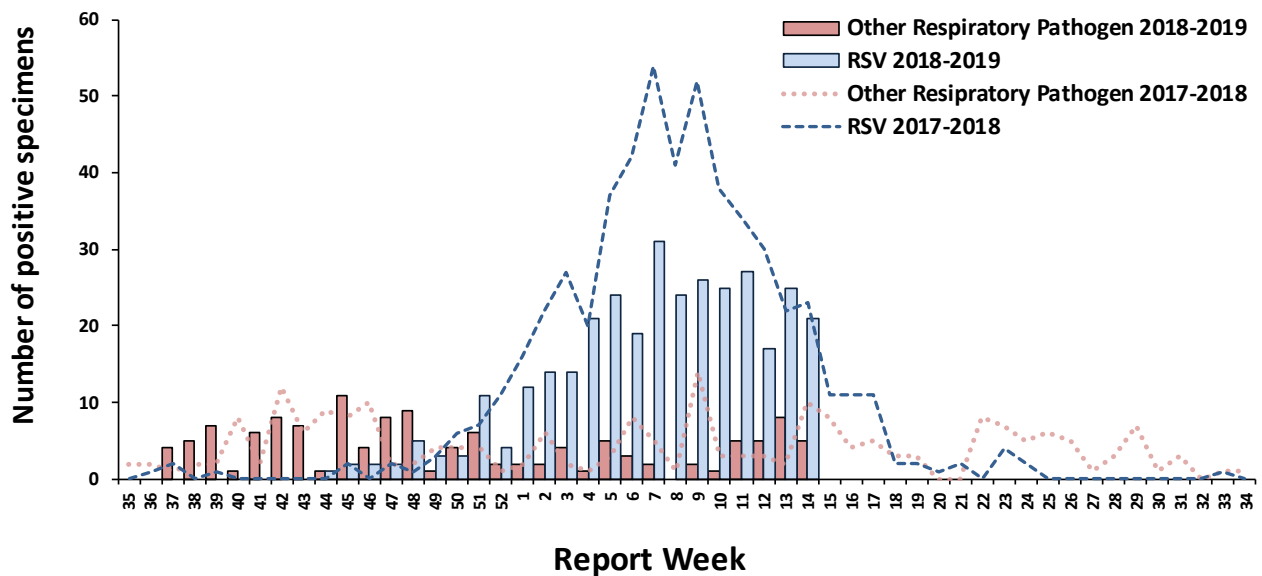
SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Figure 2: Percentage of emergency room visits due to ILI by report week, 2018-2019 season, with trend-line comparison to 2017-2018 season, Nova Scotia



OTHER RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS

Figure 3: Number of positive specimens tested for other respiratory pathogens* and RSV by report week, 2018-2019 season, with trend-line comparison to 2017-2018 season, Nova Scotia



* Other respiratory pathogen includes Adenovirus, Bocavirus, Chlamydomphila pneumonia, Coronavirus, Enterovirus, Metapneumovirus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Parainfluenza, Pertussis, Rhinovirus.

Note that data for this figure is obtained from provincial laboratories.

Table 4: Number of positive RSV specimens by age group, 2018-2019 season, Nova Scotia

AGE GROUP	2018-2019
0-5 months	91
6-11 months	32
12-23 months	41
2-5 years	48
6-15 years	10
16-65 years	40
65+ years	71
Nova Scotia Total	333

Table 5: Number of positive specimens tested for other respiratory pathogens, current report week and cumulative season, Nova Scotia, 2018–2019

Pathogen	CURRENT WEEK (n positive)	CUMULATIVE 2018-2019
Adenovirus	0	0
Bocavirus	0	0
Chlamydophila pneumoniae	0	4
Coronavirus	0	9
Enterovirus	0	1
Metapneumovirus	0	7
Mycoplasma pneumoniae	1	19
Parainfluenza	4	26
Pertussis	0	3
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	21	333
Rhinovirus	0	60

APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS USED IN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE, AND USEFUL LINKS, 2018-2019

ACRONYM LIST

- CNPHI** Canadian Network for Public Health Intelligence
ICU Intensive care unit
ILI Influenza-like illness
RSV Respiratory syncytial virus

ILI CASE DEFINITION

Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following – sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia or prostration which is likely due to influenza. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent.

NATIONAL FLUWATCH DEFINITIONS FOR INFLUENZA ACTIVITY LEVELS

No activity	No laboratory-confirmed influenza detections in the reporting week, however, sporadically occurring ILI* may be reported
Sporadic	Sporadically occurring ILI* and lab confirmed influenza detection(s) with no outbreaks detected within the influenza surveillance region
Localized	(1) Evidence of increased ILI* and (2) lab confirmed influenza detection(s) together with (3) outbreaks occurring in schools, hospitals, residential institutions and/or other types of facilities occurring in less than 50% of the influenza surveillance region
Widespread	(1) Evidence of increased ILI* and (2) lab confirmed influenza detection(s) together with (3) outbreaks occurring in schools, hospitals, residential institutions and/or other types of facilities occurring in greater than or equal to 50% of the influenza surveillance region

LINKS TO OTHER WEEKLY INFLUENZA REPORTING BODIES

Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>
World: https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/index.html
US: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly