

IN SUMMARY...

Activity levels** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central and Eastern Zone had sporadic activity during this 5 week period. Northern and Western Zones had no activity. There are no influenza outbreaks.
Laboratory-confirmed cases*** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 2 influenza A and 4 influenza B cases reported. There have been 751 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A and 22 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza B reported during the 2018-2019 influenza season. Positive test results were received for Adenovirus, Chlamydomphila pneumonia, Metapneumovirus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Parainfluenza, Rhinovirus and RSV.
Severity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been 69 ICU admissions in adults and 6 ICU admission in children (age group 0-19 years). There have been 55 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 between 0.3 and 0.5. 99% of emergency rooms reported ILI data during weeks 21 to 24. However, only 75% of emergency rooms reported ILI data during week 25. Reports were not received from Annapolis Community Health Centre, Digby General Hospital, Fisherman’s Memorial Hospital, Glace Bay Health Care Facility, Queens General Hospital, Roseway Hospital, Soldiers Memorial Hospital, South Shore Regional Hospital, Valley Regional Hospital and Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

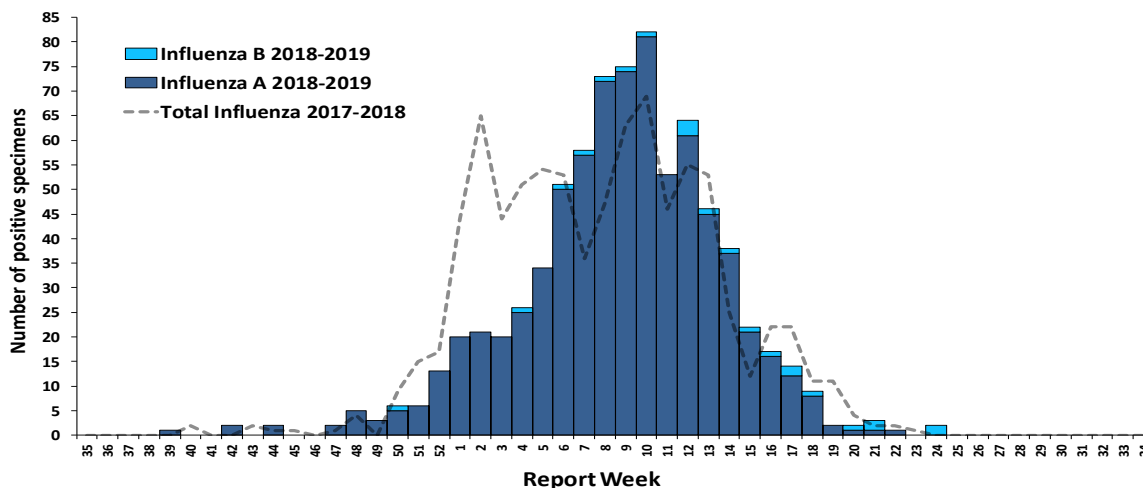
Notes: *Reporting weeks run from Sunday to Saturday. The 2018-2019 influenza season is defined using PHAC’s influenza surveillance weeks. This year runs from August 26, 2018 (Week 35) to August 28, 2019 (Week 34);

**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.

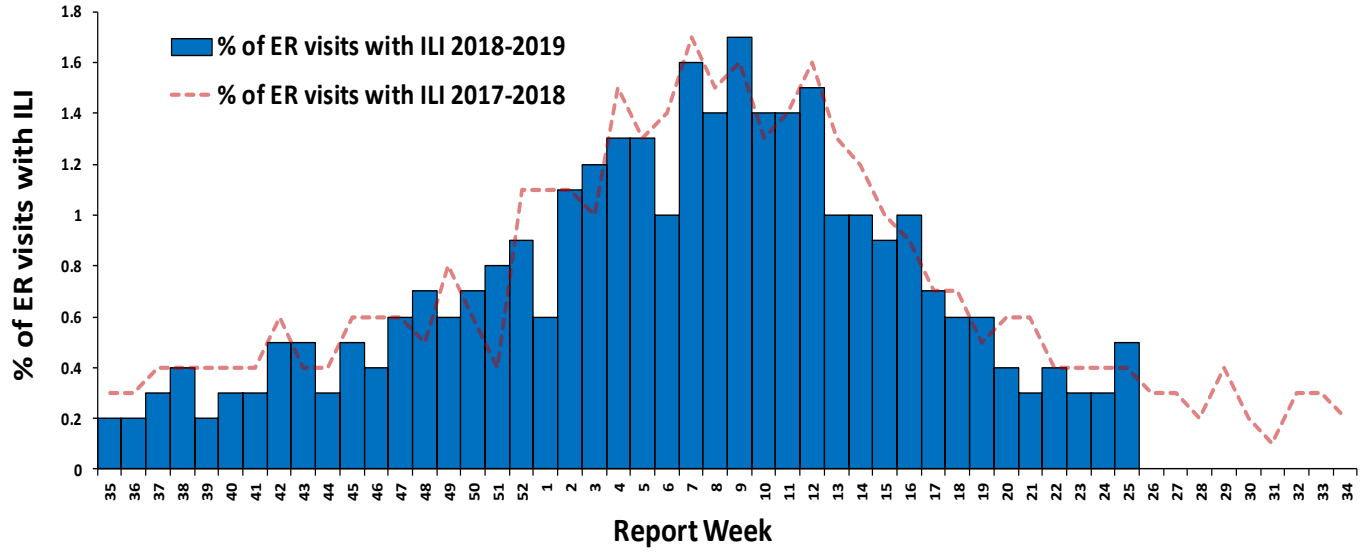
LABORATORY-CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES

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



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



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