RESPIRATORY WATCH

Week 35-38 (August 23, 2020 to September 19, 2020)

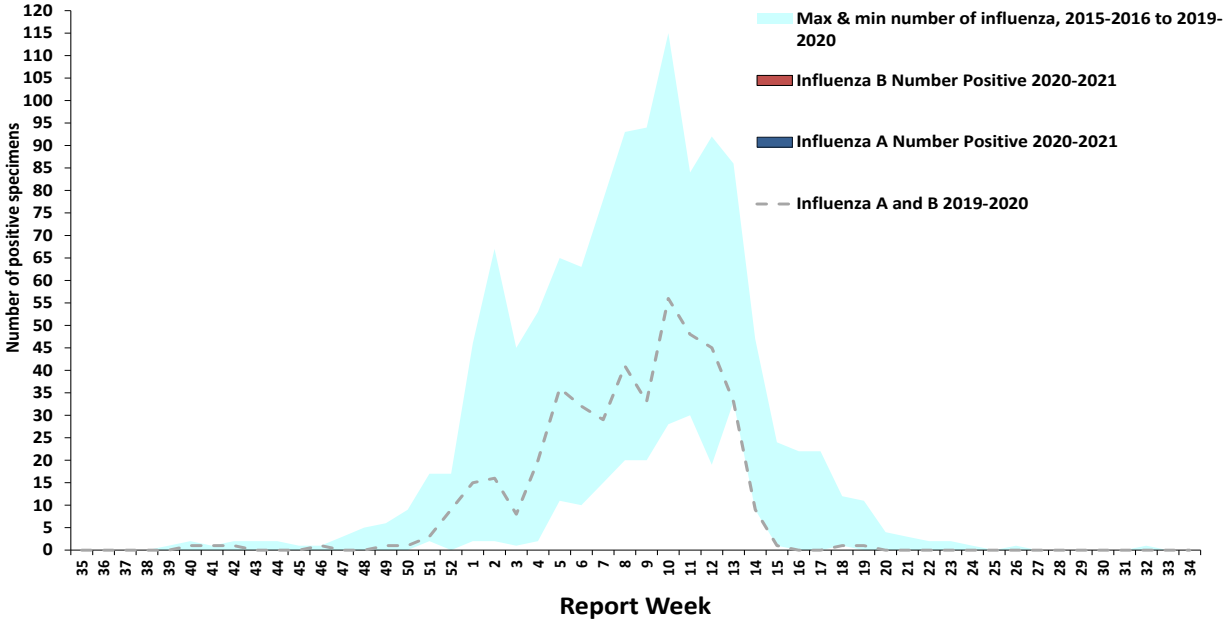
In Summary…

Activity levels**
• There is no activity in the province.
Laboratory-confirmed cases*
• There were no new cases of Influenza during this reporting period. There have been 0 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A and 0 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza B reported during the 2020-2021 influenza season. • Positive results were received for Enterovirus/Rhinovirus.
Severity
• There have been 0 ICU admissions in adults and 0 ICU admissions in children (age group 0-19 years). • There have been 0 deaths*** of laboratory confirmed influenza during the 2020-2021 influenza season in adults. There have been 0 deaths*** of laboratory confirmed influenza in children (age group 0-19 years).
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
• For the most recent numbers for COVID-19 please refer to https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#cases
Syndromic surveillance
• The average ILI rate for Nova Scotia during this reporting period ranged from 0.1 - 0.4.

Notes: **Reporting weeks run from Sunday to Saturday. The 2020-2021 influenza season is defined using PHAC's influenza surveillance weeks. This year runs from August 23, 2020 (Week 35) to August 21, 2021 (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.*

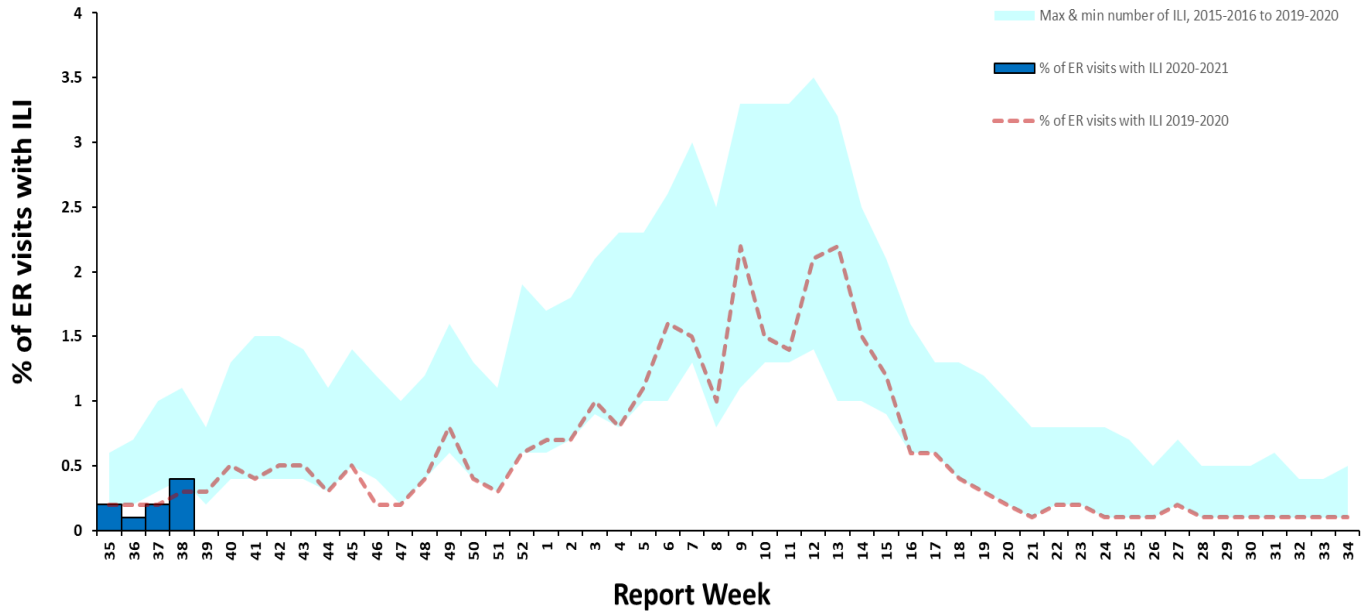
LABORATORY-CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES

Figure 1: Number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases by report week, 2020-2021 season, with trend-line comparison to 2019-2020 season, Nova Scotia



SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Figure 2: Percentage of emergency room visits due to ILI by report week, 2020-2021 season, with trend-line comparison to 2019-2020 season, Nova Scotia



APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS USED IN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE, AND USEFUL LINKS, 2020-2021

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