

In Summary...

Activity levels**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localized activity was reported in the Eastern Zone. Sporadic Activity was reported in Northern, Western and Central Zone during week 52.
Laboratory-confirmed cases*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 140 new cases of Influenza A, and 0 new cases of Influenza B reported during Week 52. There have been 3,250 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A and 1 laboratory confirmed case of Influenza B reported during the 2022-2023 influenza season. There were also 2 Coronavirus****, 1 Enterovirus/Rhinovirus, 3 Parainfluenza, and 165 Respiratory Syncytial Virus cases identified during this reporting period.
Severity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 30 cases hospitalized (non-ICU), 1 ICU admissions and 3 deaths with Influenza A during this reporting period. During the 2022-2023 influenza season there have been: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 484 hospitalizations (non-ICU) 33 ICU admissions 45 deaths*** of laboratory confirmed influenza
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For current epidemiology of COVID-19 please refer to: https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/alerts-notices/#epidemiologic-summaries
Syndromic surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of visits for influenza like illness (ILI) was 3.7% during this reporting period.

Notes: A reporting week runs from Sunday to Saturday. The 2022-2023 influenza season is defined using PHAC's influenza surveillance weeks. This year runs from August 28, 2022 (Week 35) to August 26, 2023 (Week 34).

Due to lag in notifications, some influenza cases, and outcomes (hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths) are reported to the Department of Health and Wellness outside the reporting period they occurred in; these cases will be included in cumulative counts.

Outcome categories (hospitalized, hospitalized-ICU, Deceased) are mutually exclusive, and the most severe outcome will be reported for an individual. If a case experiences a more severe outcome in a later reporting period, it is possible for case counts to decrease in a less severe outcome (e.g., move from ICU to death)

*There has been a change in testing methods with the implementation of multiplex respiratory virus PCR for 2019-nCoV. This may increase the number of cases detected through the flu season.

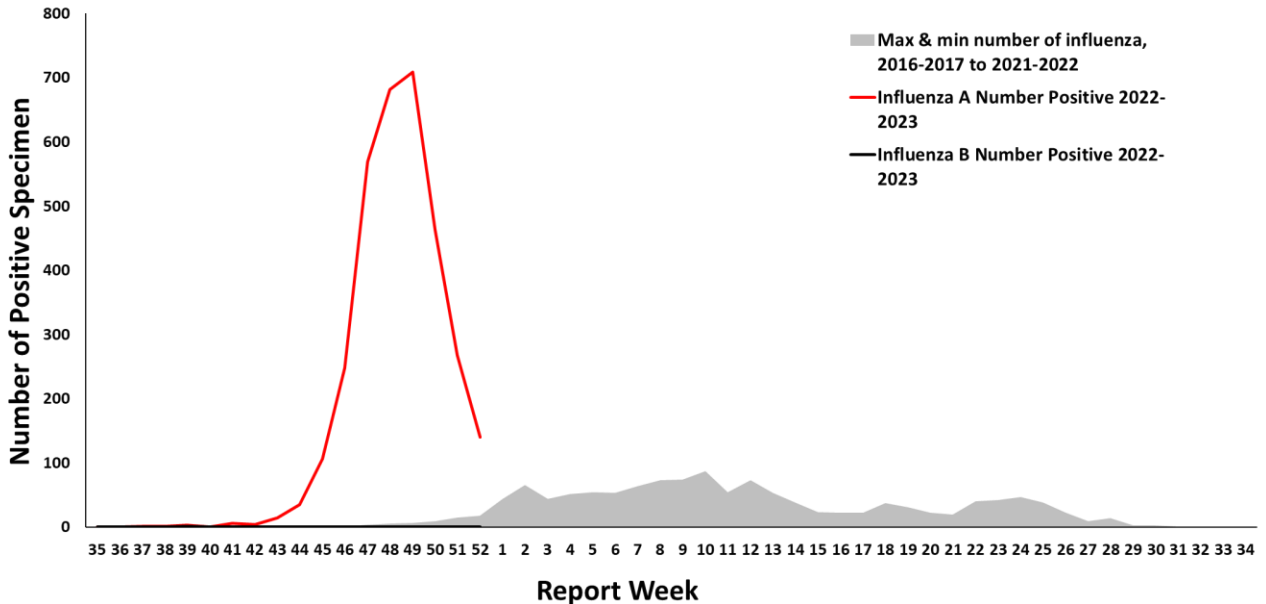
**Activity level is obtained from CNPHI, see appendix for definitions.

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

****Excludes novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

LABORATORY-CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES

Figure 1: Number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases by report week, 2022-2023 season, Nova Scotia



Notes: There has been a change in testing methods with the implementation of multiplex respiratory virus PCR for 2019-nCoV. This may increase the number of cases detected through the flu season.

Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by zone, current week and cumulative 2022-2023 season in Nova Scotia

ZONE	WEEK 52			CUMULATIVE 2022-2023		
	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B
Western	23	23	0	866	866	0
Northern	50	50	0	1040	1040	0
Eastern	48	48	0	578	578	0
Central	19	19	0	767	766	1
Nova Scotia Total	140	140	0	3251	3250	1

Notes: Due to lag in notifications, some influenza cases and outcomes (hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths) are reported to the Department of Health and Wellness outside the reporting period they occurred in, ; these cases will be included in cumulative counts.

Table 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by age group (years), current week and cumulative 2022-2023 season in Nova Scotia

AGE (YEARS)	WEEK 52			CUMULATIVE 2022-2023		
	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B
0-4	18	18	0	377	376	1
5-19	6	6	0	677	677	0
20-44	37	37	0	757	757	0
45-64	23	23	0	528	528	0
65+	56	56	0	912	912	0
Nova Scotia Total	140	140	0	3251	3250	1

Notes: Due to lag in notifications, some influenza cases and outcomes (hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths) are reported to the Department of Health and Wellness outside the reporting period they occurred in, ; these cases will be included in cumulative counts.

Table 3: Hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths for influenza positive patients, current week and cumulative, 2022-2023 season, Nova Scotia

AGE (YEARS)	WEEK 52			Cumulative		
	Hospitalized	Hospitalized - ICU	Deceased*	Hospitalized	Hospitalized - ICU	Deceased*
0-4	2	1	0	51	3	0
5-19	1	0	0	39	1	0
20-44	2	0	1	40	1	3
45-64	3	0	1	75	10	5
65+	22	0	1	279	18	37
Nova Scotia Total	30	1	3	484	33	45

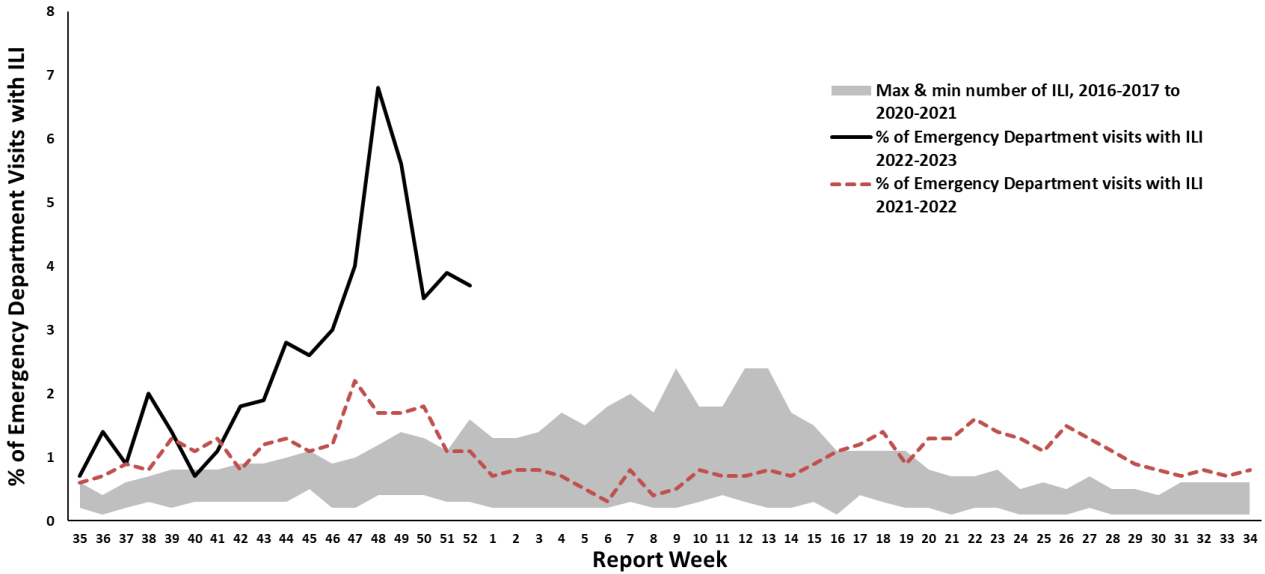
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Outcome categories (hospitalized hospitalized-ICU, Deceased) are mutually exclusive, and the most severe outcome will be reported for an individual. If a case experiences a more severe outcome in a later reporting period, it is possible for case counts to decrease in a less severe outcome (e.g., move from ICU to death)

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

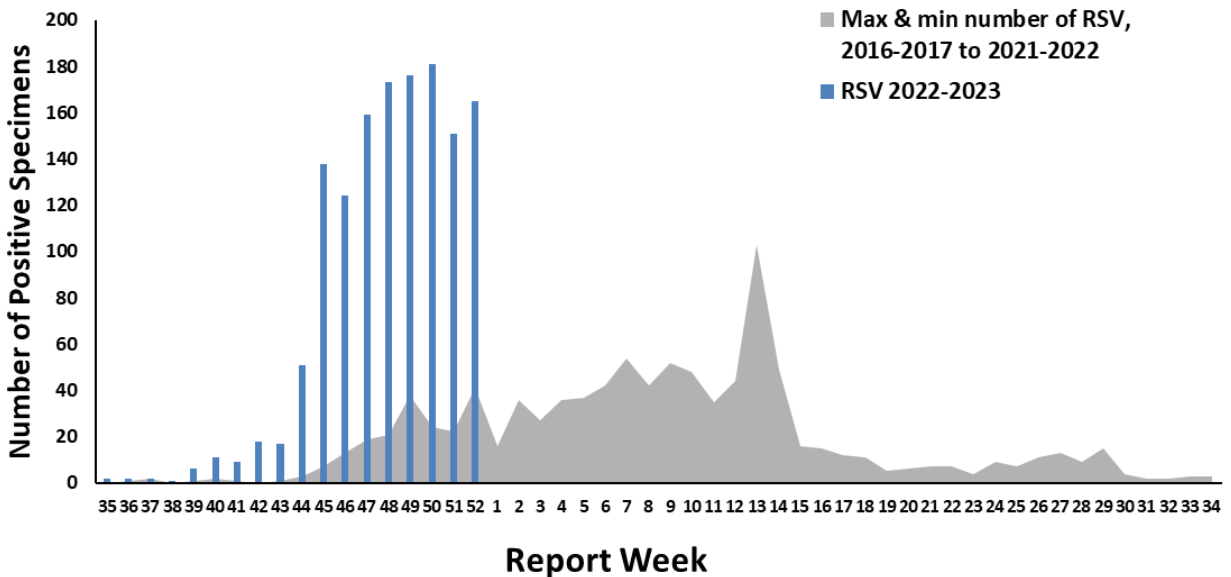
SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Figure 2: Percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI by report week, 2022-2023 season, with trend-line comparison to 2021-2022 season, Nova Scotia



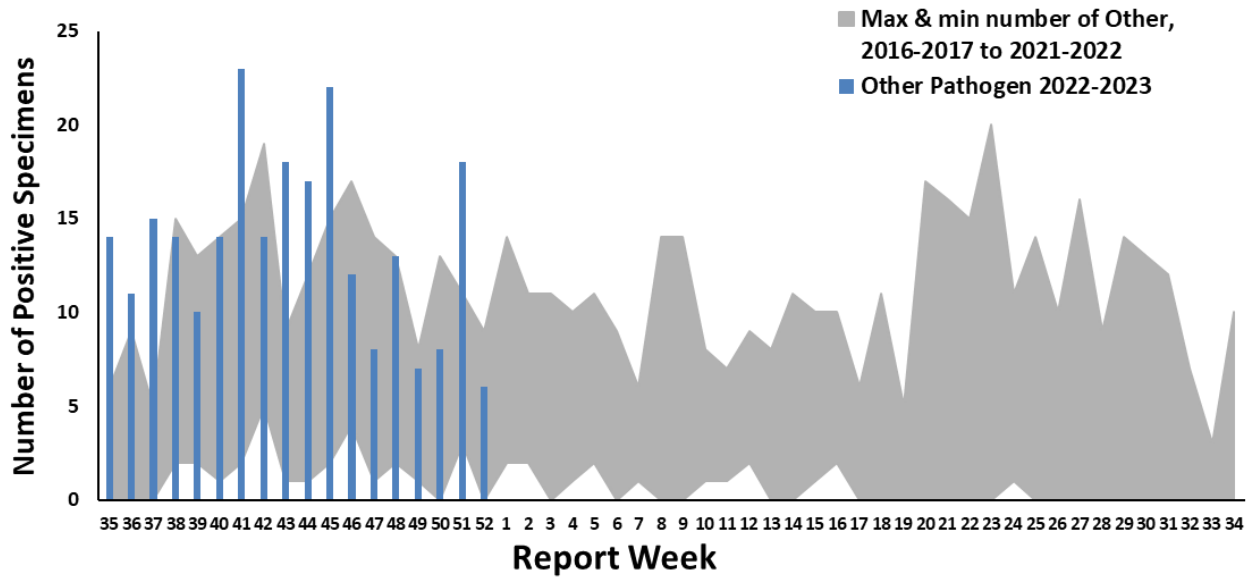
OTHER RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS

Figure 3: Number of positive specimens tested for RSV by report week, 2022-2023 season, Nova Scotia



Notes: in Nova Scotia RSV is not a notifiable disease.

Figure 4: Number of positive specimens tested for other respiratory pathogens by report week, 2022-2023 season, Nova Scotia



Notes: Other respiratory pathogen includes Adenovirus, Bocavirus, Chlamydomphila pneumonia, Coronavirus, Enterovirus, Metapneumovirus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Parainfluenza, Pertussis, Rhinovirus. Data for this figure is obtained from provincial laboratories.

Table 4: Number of positive RSV specimens by age group, current report week and cumulative 2022-2023 season, Nova Scotia

AGE GROUP	Week 52	Cumulative 2022-2023
0-5 months	21	177
6-11 months	4	70
12-23 months	5	172
2-5 years	14	232
6-15 years	2	78
16-64 years	44	271
65+ years	75	386
Totals (n)	165	1386

Table 5: Number of positive specimens tested for other respiratory pathogens, current report week and cumulative 2022-2023 season, Nova Scotia

Pathogen	WEEK 52	CUMULATIVE 2022-2023
Adenovirus	0	33
Bocavirus	0	0
Chlamydomphila pneumoniae	0	0
Coronavirus*	2	13
Enterovirus/Rhinovirus	1	158
Metapneumovirus	0	1
Mycoplasma pneumoniae	0	0
Parainfluenza	3	39
Pertussis	0	0
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	165	1386

*Notes: EXCLUDES novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS USED IN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE, AND USEFUL LINKS, 2022-2023

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/teams/global-influenza-programme/surveillance-and-monitoring/influenza-updates/current-influenza-update>
 US: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly