

## Highlights<sup>1</sup>

The 2023-2024 season runs from August 27, 2023, to August 24, 2024

Activity levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporadic influenza activity was observed in Central and Northern Zone.</li> <li>Overall, COVID-19 activity has been decreasing since the peak observed in week 40. Activity continues to be lower than during the same time period in 2022.</li> <li>An increase in RSV cases was observed this reporting period compared to the previous reporting period.</li> </ul>
Laboratory-confirmed cases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Influenza:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 10 new cases of Influenza A, and 1 new case of Influenza B reported during weeks 42-43; there have been 23 cases of Influenza A and 1 case of Influenza B reported since the start of the 2023-2024 season.</li> </ul> </li> <li>COVID-19:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 595 new cases of COVID-19 reported during weeks 42-43; there have been 3007 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the start of the 2023-2024 season.</li> </ul> </li> <li>RSV:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 24 new cases of RSV reported during weeks 42-43; there have been 52 laboratory confirmed case of RSV since the start of the 2023-2024 season</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Severity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Influenza:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the 2023-2024 season there have been:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 hospitalizations (non-ICU)</li> <li>0 ICU admissions</li> <li>0 deaths</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>COVID-19:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the 2023-2024 season there have been:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>148 hospitalizations (non-ICU)</li> <li>5 ICU admissions</li> <li>12 deaths</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Outbreaks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were 14 new long term care facility outbreaks declared in this reporting period:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 Influenza</li> <li>13 COVID-19</li> <li>1 RSV</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Syndromic surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage of emergency department visits for influenza like illness (ILI) was 0.9% during this reporting period.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix for data notes.

Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)

INFLUENZA

Figure 1: Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by week (N=24), 2023-2024 season, with comparison to previous seasons, Nova Scotia<sup>2</sup>

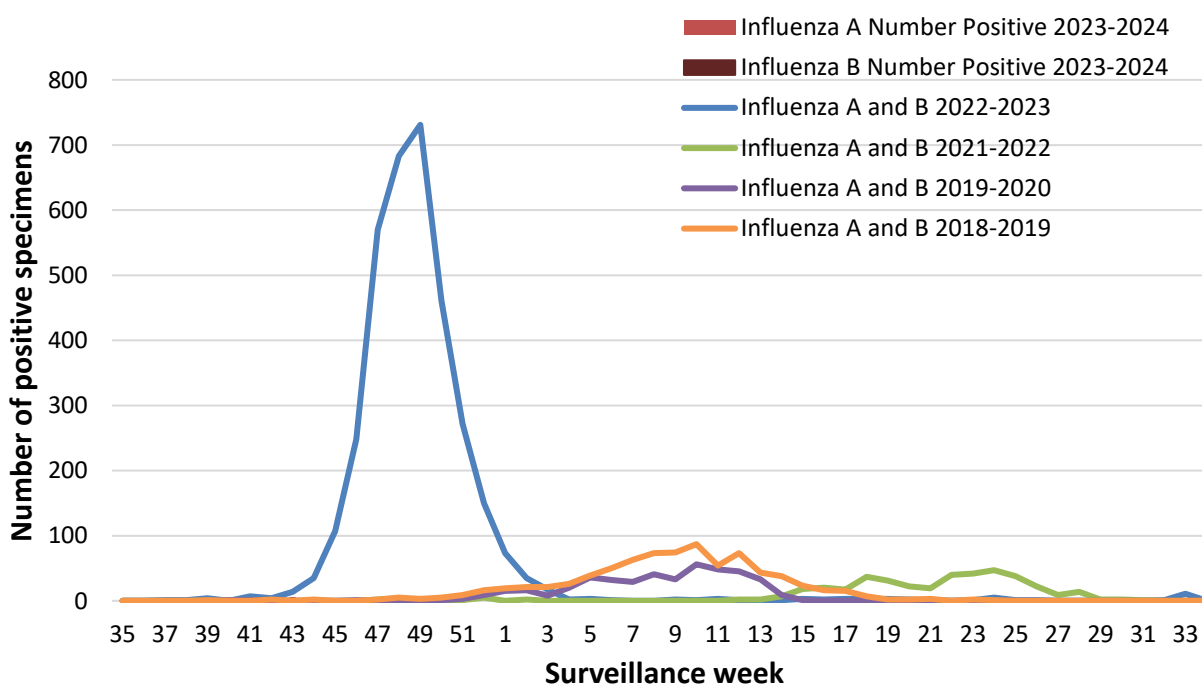


Table 1: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by zone, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

ZONE	CURRENT PERIOD			CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL
Western	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	7	1	8	16	1	17
Eastern	0	0	0	3	0	3
Central	3	0	3	4	0	4
<b>Nova Scotia Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>

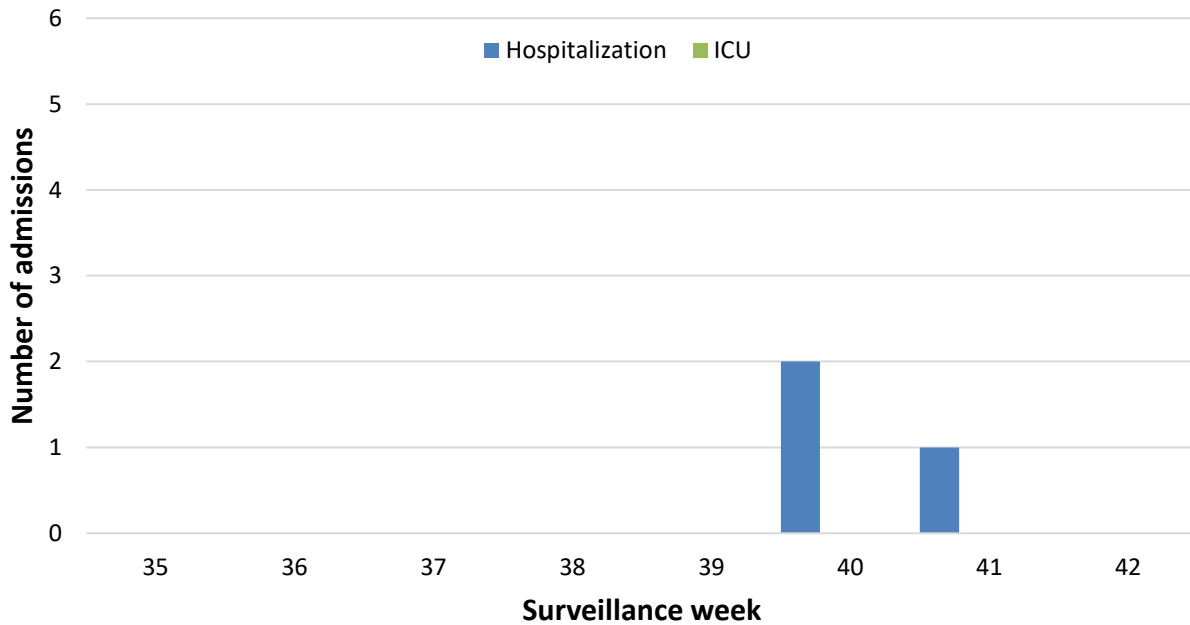
<sup>2</sup> There were no reported influenza cases during the 2020-2021 season.

Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)

**Table 2: Number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by age group, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia**

AGE (YEARS)	CURRENT PERIOD			CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL	INFLUENZA A	INFLUENZA B	TOTAL
0-4	2	0	2	2	0	2
5-19	3	0	3	3	0	3
20-44	3	0	3	6	0	6
45-64	0	0	0	7	0	7
65+	2	1	3	5	1	6
<b>Nova Scotia Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>

**Figure 2. Number of influenza hospitalizations and ICU admissions by week, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia<sup>3</sup>**



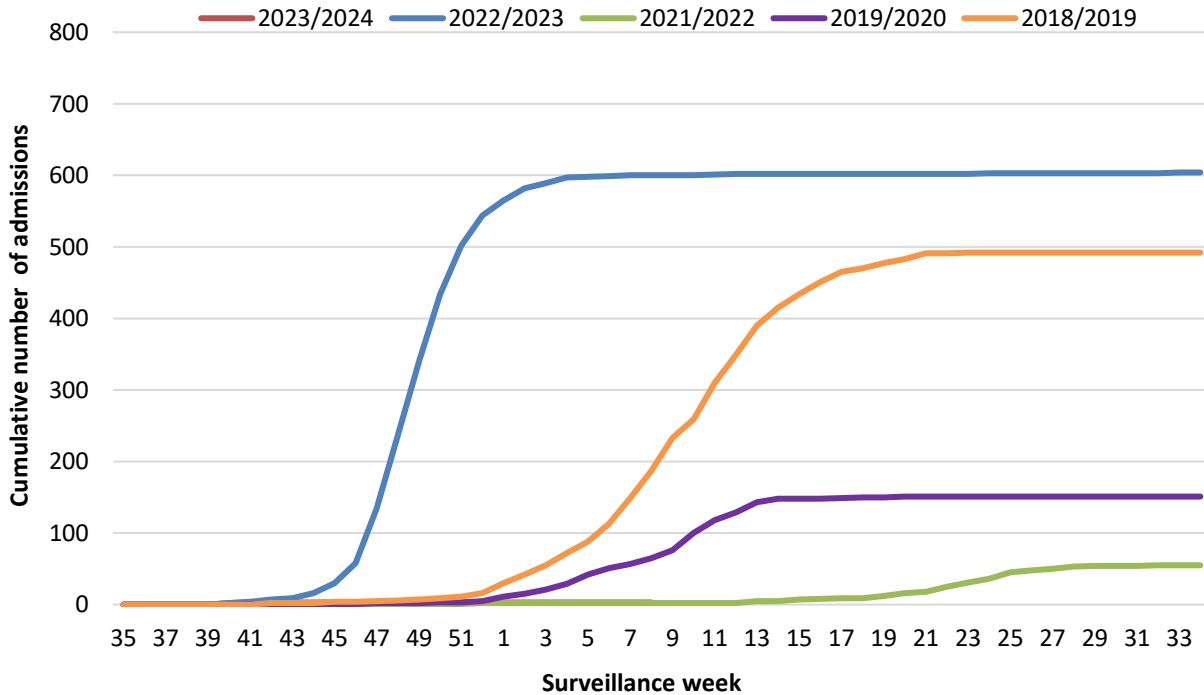
<sup>3</sup> Due to influenza outcome reporting cycles, a data delay prevents reporting on the most recent surveillance week. If a case is hospitalized and moves to ICU in the same reporting week, they will appear in both the hospitalization and ICU columns for that week.

Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)

**Table 3: Hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths for influenza positive patients, based on most severe outcome, cumulative counts, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia<sup>4</sup>**

AGE (years)	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	Hospitalizations	ICU	Deaths
0-4	0	0	0
5-19	0	0	0
20-44	0	0	0
45-64	2	0	0
65+	1	0	0
<b>Nova Scotia Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Figure 3: Cumulative influenza hospitalizations and ICU admissions, by week, 2023-24 season compared to prior seasons, Nova Scotia<sup>5</sup>**



<sup>4</sup> In this table, only the most severe outcome for a case is included; numbers of hospitalizations and ICU admissions could therefore decline over time, if a person counted in one of those columns moves to a more severe outcome.

<sup>5</sup> There were no reported cases of influenza during the 2020-2021 season.

COVID-19

Figure 4: Laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by week (N=3007), 2023-2024 season, with comparison to previous season, Nova Scotia

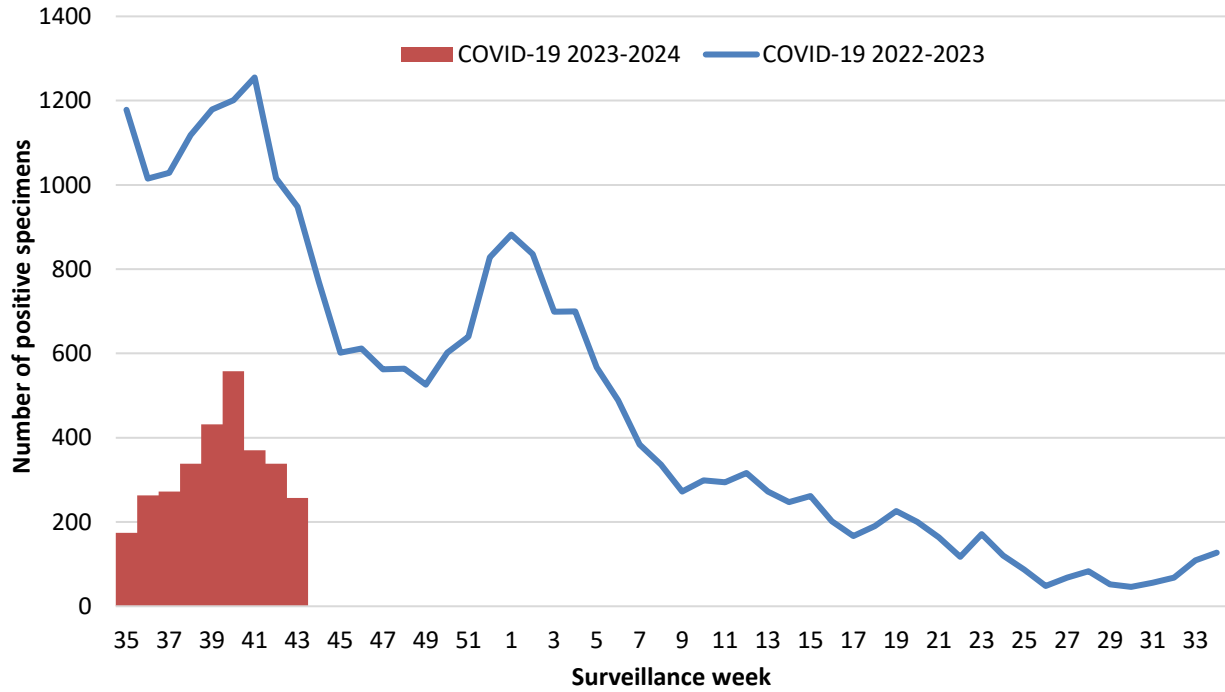


Table 4: Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by zone, current period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

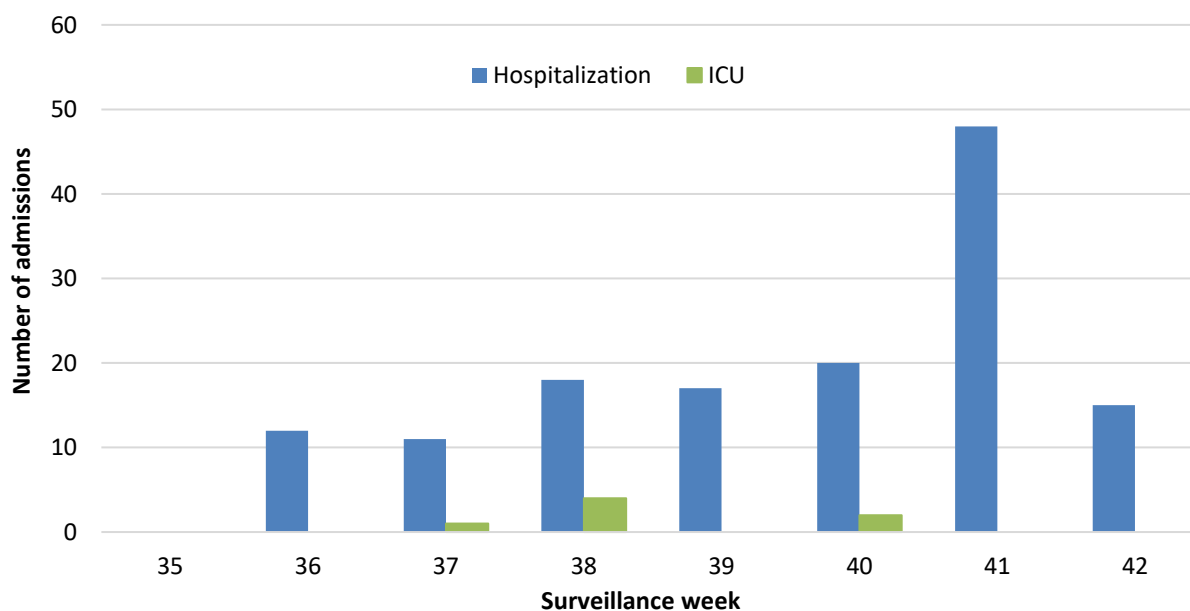
ZONE	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
Western	165	708
Northern	127	452
Eastern	108	520
Central	195	1327
<b>Nova Scotia Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>3007</b>

Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)

Table 5. Number of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases by age group, current period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia

AGE (YEARS)	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
0-4	9	26
5-19	6	42
20-44	85	448
45-64	132	696
65+	363	1795
<b>Nova Scotia Total</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>3007</b>

Figure 5: Number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU admissions by week, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Due to COVID-19 outcome reporting cycles, a data delay prevents reporting on the most recent surveillance week. If a case is hospitalized and moves to ICU in the same reporting week, they will appear in both the hospitalization and ICU columns for that week. COVID-19 outcome data are currently undergoing a quality review. Once the process is complete, future reports will include updated numbers.

Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)

**Table 6: Hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths for COVID-19 positive patients, cumulative counts, 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia<sup>7</sup>**

AGE (years)	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024		
	Hospitalizations	ICU	Deaths
0-4	0	0	0
5-19	0	0	0
20-44	0	0	0
45-64	20	1	0
65+	128	4	12
<b>Nova Scotia Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

**RSV**

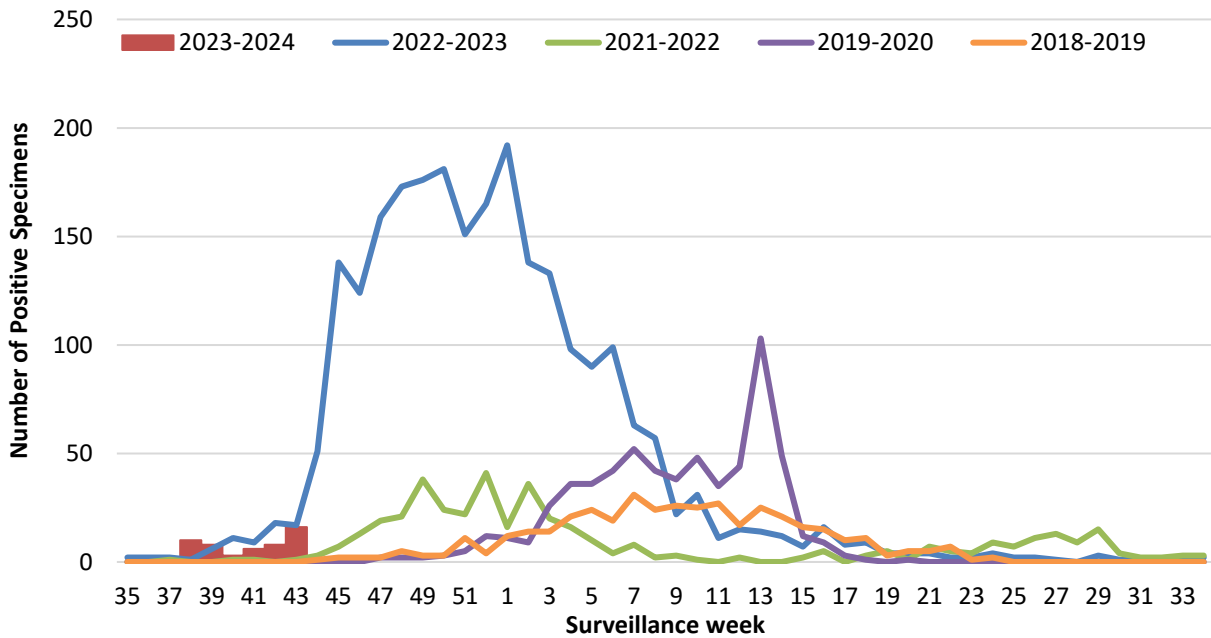
**Table 7: Number of laboratory-confirmed RSV cases by age group, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia**

AGE (YEARS)	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
0-5 months	3	7
6-11 months	0	1
12-23 months	3	8
2-4 years	6	14
5-19 years	0	2
20-64 years	2	6
65+ years	10	14
<b>Nova Scotia Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52</b>

<sup>7</sup> In this table, only the most severe outcome for a case is included; numbers of hospitalizations and ICU admissions could therefore decline over time, if a person counted in one of those columns moves to a more severe outcome. COVID-19 outcome data are currently undergoing a quality review. Once the process is complete, future reports will include updated numbers.

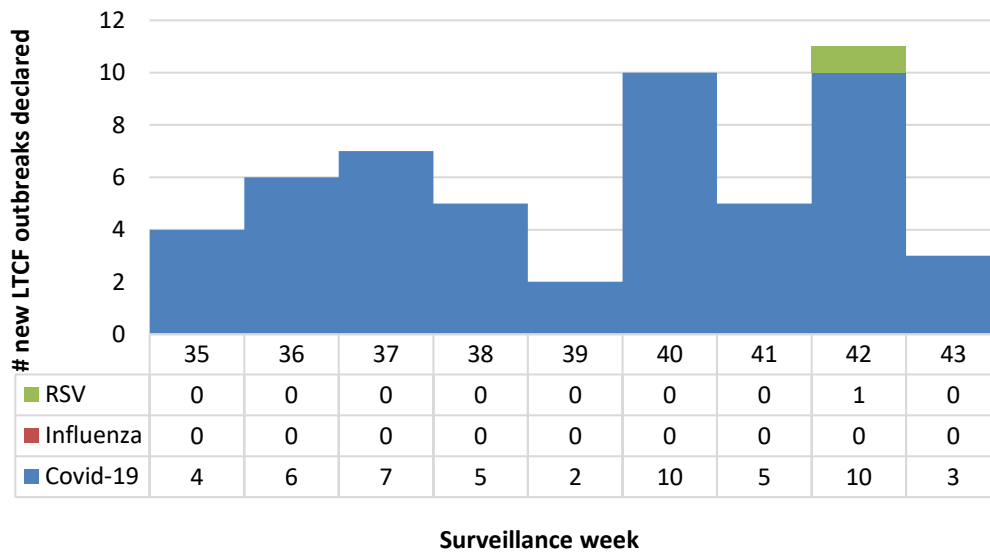
Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)

Figure 6: Laboratory-confirmed RSV cases by week (N=52)<sup>8</sup>, 2023-2024 season, with comparison to previous seasons, Nova Scotia<sup>9</sup>



RESPIRATORY OUTBREAKS

Figure 7. Number of new long term care facility respiratory outbreaks by week and respiratory virus (influenza, COVID-19 and RSV), 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia<sup>10</sup>



<sup>8</sup> Number was revised due to a typographical error in initial published report.

<sup>9</sup> There were no reported RSV cases during the 2020-2021 season.

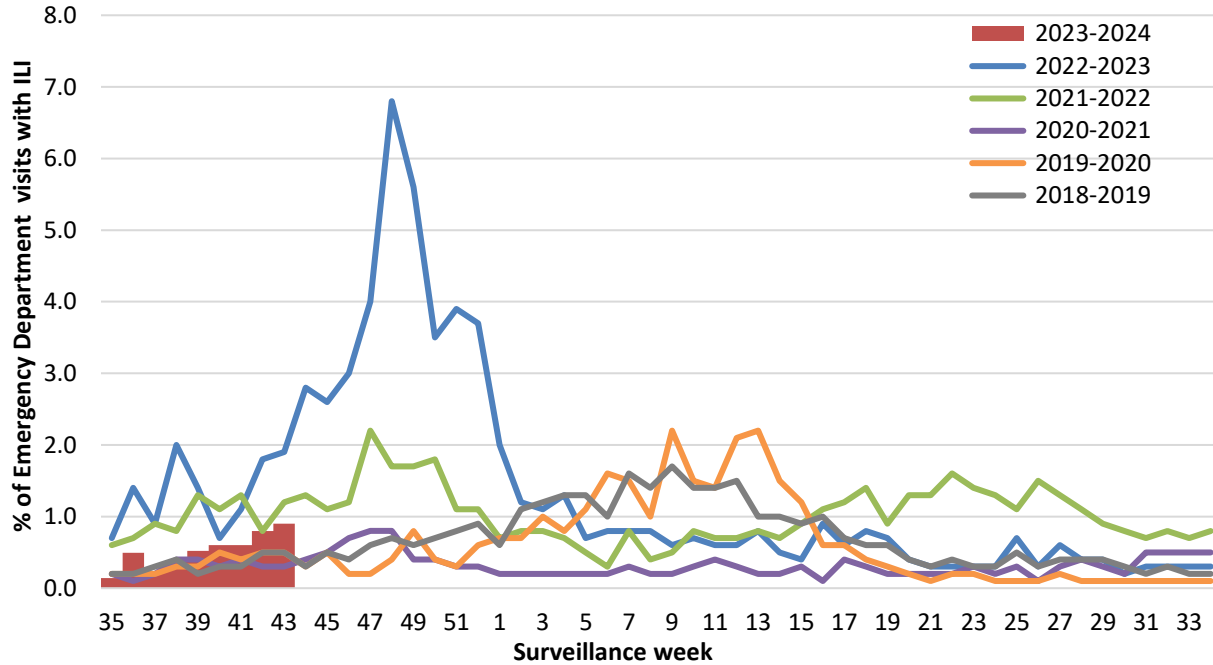
<sup>10</sup> Outbreak definitions can be found in the Appendix.



Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)

**SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE**

**Figure 8: Percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI by report week, 2023-2024 season, with comparison to previous seasons, Nova Scotia**



**OTHER RESPIRATORY ILLNESS**

**Table 8: Number of positive specimens for other respiratory viruses, current reporting period and cumulative 2023-2024 season, Nova Scotia**

PATHOGEN	CURRENT PERIOD	CUMULATIVE 2023-2024
Adenovirus	6	17
Bocavirus	0	0
Coronavirus*	0	0
Enterovirus/Rhinovirus	23	112
Metapneumovirus	0	1
Parainfluenza	4	19

\*Excludes COVID-19

## APPENDIX – DATA NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

### DATA NOTES

- A surveillance week runs from Sunday to Saturday. **Nova Scotia's** 2023-2024 season is aligned with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) FluWatch surveillance weeks.
  - This year runs from August 27, 2023 (Week 35) to August 24, 2024 (Week 34).
- Notifications of hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths may lag; deaths are particularly affected. Additionally, COVID-19 and influenza outcome reporting from public health occurs on Wednesdays. As a result, data are incomplete for the most recent week. Because of this, the most recent surveillance week is not included in graphs showing outcomes by week.
- The definition for a COVID-19 hospitalization was changed in May 2023.
- A case can have more than one outcome (e.g., be hospitalized, and later move to the ICU); multiple outcomes per case are counted in graphs showing outcomes by week, where applicable.
- RSV is not a notifiable disease in Nova Scotia.
- Testing eligibility guidelines and the use of multiplex respiratory virus testing affect the number of cases identified and reported.
  - Because not everyone gets tested or is eligible for testing, the numbers reported here under-represent the true burden of disease in the community.
  - The implementation of multiplex testing has likely led to increased detection of cases of other respiratory pathogens, including RSV.

### DEFINITIONS USED IN RESPIRATORY SURVEILLANCE, AND USEFUL LINKS, 2023-2024

See: [Nova Scotia's Respiratory Response Plan](#)

#### ACRONYM LIST

**ICU** Intensive care unit  
**ILI** Influenza-like illness  
**RSV** Respiratory syncytial virus

#### OUTBREAK DEFINITIONS

**Lab Confirmed COVID-19 Outbreak**

Two or more laboratory-confirmed resident cases, AND at least one is a facility acquired case, with all cases epidemiologically linked within the LTCF in a 10-day period

**Lab Confirmed Influenza Outbreak**

Two or more resident cases of ILI (influenza-like illness), where at least one is a laboratory confirmed case of influenza, within the LTCF in a 7-day period

**Weeks 42-43 (October 15, 2023, to October 28, 2023)**

**Lab Confirmed Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Outbreak**

Two or more symptomatic residents where at least one is a laboratory confirmed case of RSV, epidemiologically linked within the LTCF in a 7-day period

**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.

**OTHER CASE DEFINITIONS**

See: [Surveillance Guidelines | novascotia.ca](#)

**LINKS TO OTHER WEEKLY INFLUENZA REPORTS**

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](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly)