

Annex 3~A: FluWatch Definitions

The case definition for influenza-like illness is developed by a pan-Canadian surveillance committee and is available on the Public Health Agency of Canada's FluWatch website, www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/ (click on Definitions & calendar for the 2006/07 season). The case definition may change based on available epidemiological data.

Influenza-like illness (ILI)

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

Laboratory-confirmed influenza

A confirmed case is defined as clinical illness (i.e., ILI) with laboratory confirmation of infection through

- isolation of influenza virus from an appropriate clinical specimen

OR

- demonstration of influenza virus antigen in an appropriate clinical specimen.

Outbreaks

Surveillance for outbreaks of ILI and influenza is conducted in long-term care facilities, other residential facilities, acute care hospitals, schools, and day-care centres. The definition of an outbreak of ILI/influenza depends on the type of facility:

- *Schools, workplaces, day-care centres*

Greater than 10 per cent absenteeism on any day that is most likely due to ILI.

- *Residential facilities*

Two or more cases of ILI within a seven-day period, including at least one laboratory-confirmed case.

Activity levels

The level of influenza activity in each reporting region (district health authority) is determined by the presence of both laboratory-confirmed cases and outbreaks and may be defined as one of the following:

1. No activity reported: no laboratory confirmed influenza detections during the prior four weeks; however sporadically occurring ILI may be reported.
2. Sporadic activity: Sporadically occurring ILI and confirmed influenza¹ with NO outbreaks detected within the influenza surveillance region².
3. Localized activity: Sporadically occurring ILI and confirmed influenza¹ together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in less than 50 per cent of the influenza surveillance region².
4. Widespread activity: Sporadically occurring ILI and confirmed influenza¹, together with outbreaks of ILI in schools and worksites or laboratory-confirmed influenza in residential institutions occurring in greater than or equal to 50 per cent of the influenza surveillance region².

-
1. Confirmation of influenza within the surveillance region at any time within the prior four weeks.
 2. Sub-regions within the province or territory as defined by the provincial/territorial epidemiologist.