Influenza Weekly Report

Summary

⇒ Influenza indicators continue to decline. As of February 21, 2015, there have been 566 laboratory-confirmed cases, 271 hospitalizations, 42 ICU admissions and 20 deaths.
⇒ There have been 78 respiratory outbreaks this season; 10 respiratory outbreaks are ongoing, 5 of which are confirmed as influenza. Number of outbreaks reported to date remain higher than in previous seasons.
⇒ Influenza A remains the predominant type in NL. Approximately 62% of cases are 65 years of age or older. This is similar to the rest of Canada.
⇒ All sub-typed influenza A specimens are H3N2. Analysis indicates this virus is not optimally matched to the vaccine strain.
⇒ In NL and across Canada, laboratory detections of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continue to be higher than in previous seasons.

Laboratory-Confirmed Cases

Table 1: Number of positive influenza cases in NL, by severity, 2014-2015 season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Hospitalizations</th>
<th>ICU Admissions</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Number of cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths, by week virus identified, 2014-2015 season.
Influenza by type, and RHA

![Bar chart showing the number of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and B cases in NL, by Regional Health Authority, 2014-2015 season.]

Figure 2: Total number of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and B cases in NL, by Regional Health Authority, 2014-2015 season.

Influenza by age group

![Pie chart showing the percent of laboratory-confirmed influenza in NL, by age group, 2014-2015 season.]

Figure 3: Percent of laboratory-confirmed influenza in NL, by age group, 2014-2015 season.

Other Respiratory Viruses

Table 2: Weekly and total number of positive respiratory virus specimens in NL, by type, 2014-2015 season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virus Type</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.S.V.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parainfluenza virus 1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parainfluenza virus 2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parainfluenza virus 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenovirus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hMPV</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Respiratory Virus Detection, Public Health Agency of Canada

*Total from August 24, 2014 to February 21, 2015.
HealthLine

Figure 4: Number of influenza-like illness HealthLine calls by week and RHA, NL, 2014-2015 season.

Google Flu Trends

Google Flu Reports are available online: http://www.google.org/flutrends/ca/#CA-NL

Figure 5: Number of influenza-related online searches by report week, 2014-2015 as compared to the 2013-2014 season.

Resources and Disclaimer

⇒ HealthLine phone number is 1-888-709-2929 and website http://yourhealthline.ca/en/index.html
⇒ Public Health Laboratory website is http://publichealthlab.ca/
⇒ Fluctuations in data occur with each report and can be attributed to continuous reporting.