

In Summary...

Activity levels**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no activity in the province.
Laboratory-confirmed cases*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no new cases of Influenza during this reporting period. There have been 192 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A and 250 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza B reported during the 2019-2020 influenza season.
Severity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been 15 ICU admissions in adults and 4 ICU admissions in children (age group 0-19 years). There have been 9 deaths*** of laboratory confirmed influenza during the 2019-2020 influenza season in adults. There have been 0 deaths*** of laboratory confirmed influenza in children (age group 0-19 years).
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the most recent numbers for COVID-19 please refer to https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#cases
Syndromic surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average ILI rate for Nova Scotia during this reporting period was 0.1. Please note, this is likely an underestimate because data for IWK was excluded for this reporting period.

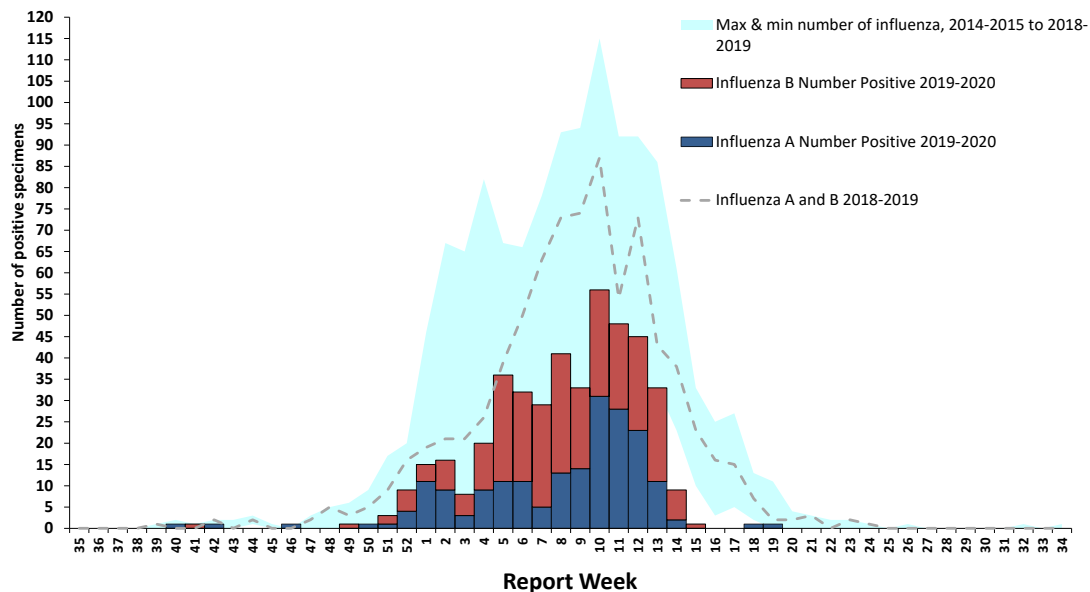
Notes: *Reporting weeks run from Sunday to Saturday. The 2019-2020 influenza season is defined using PHAC's influenza surveillance weeks. This year runs from August 25, 2019 (Week 35) to August 22, 2020 (Week 34);

**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.

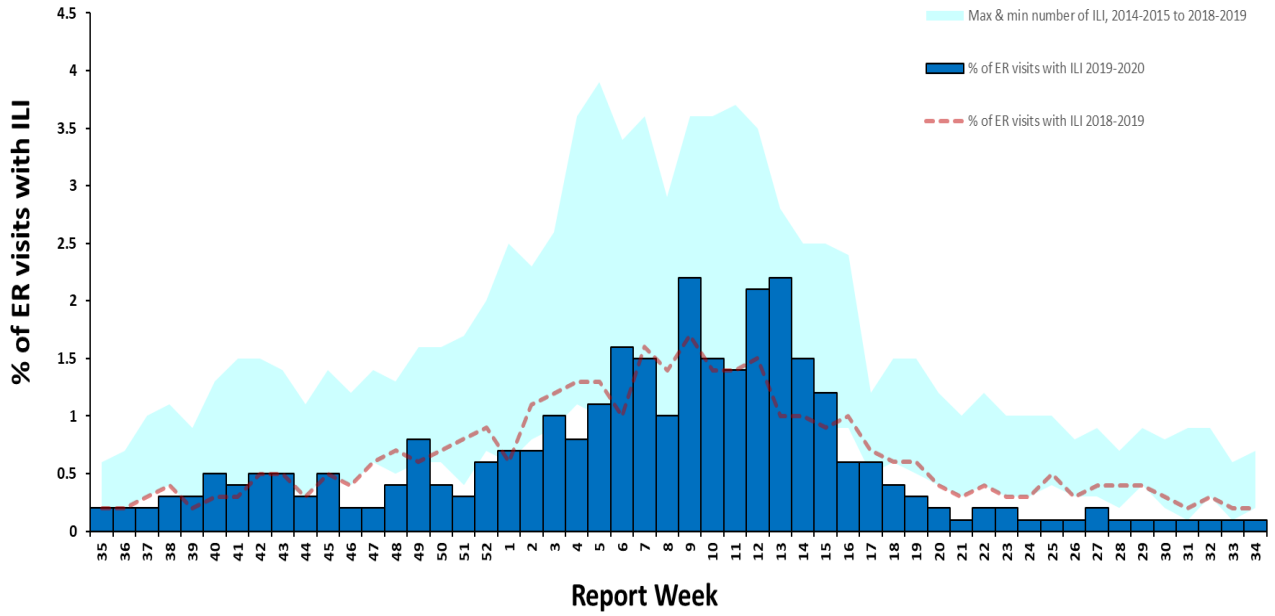
LABORATORY-CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES

Figure 1: Number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases by report week, 2019-2020 season, with trend-line comparison to 2018-2019 season, Nova Scotia



SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Figure 2: Percentage of emergency room visits due to ILI by report week, 2019-2020 season, with trend-line comparison to 2018-2019 season, Nova Scotia



APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS USED IN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE, AND USEFUL LINKS, 2019-2020

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