

IN SUMMARY...

Activity levels**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No activity has been reported in all zones. There are no influenza outbreaks.
Laboratory-confirmed cases***
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 0 influenza cases reported. There have been 774 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A and 23 laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza B reported during the 2018-2019 influenza season. Positive test results were received for Metapneumovirus, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Parainfluenza and Rhinovirus.
Severity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been 68 ICU admissions in adults and 6 ICU admission in children (age group 0-19 years). There have been 68 deaths*** of laboratory confirmed influenza during the 2018-2019 influenza season. All deaths have been in adults.
Syndromic surveillance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ILI rate for Nova Scotia during this reporting period was between 0.2 and 0.3.

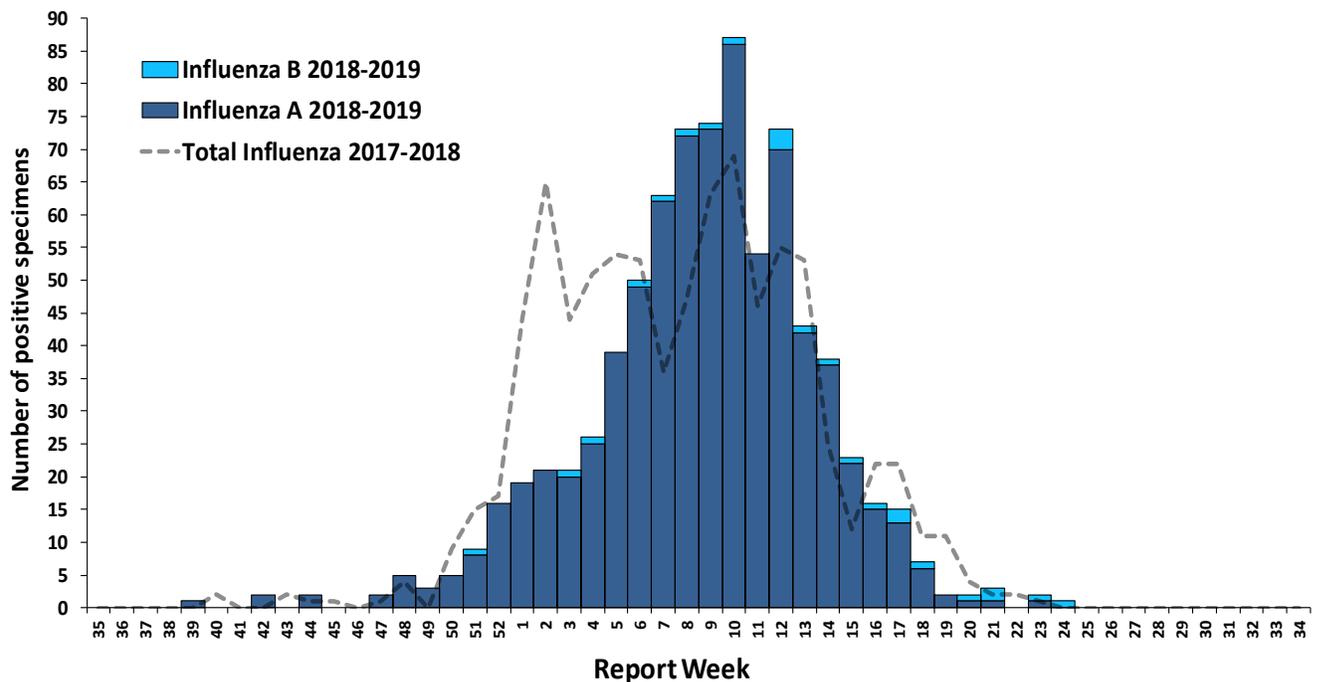
*Notes: *Reporting weeks run from Sunday to Saturday. The 2018-2019 influenza season is defined using PHAC's influenza surveillance weeks. This year runs from August 26, 2018 (Week 35) to August 24, 2019 (Week 34);*

***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.*

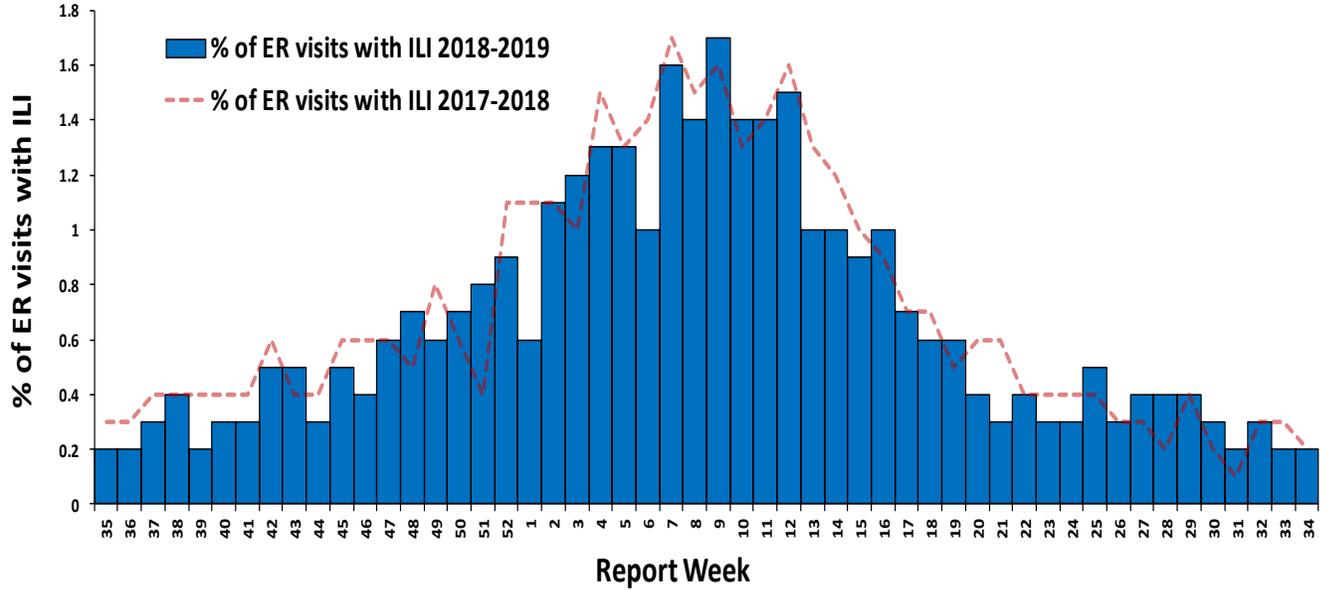
LABORATORY-CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES

Figure 1: Number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases by report week, 2018-2019 season, with trend-line comparison to 2017-2018 season, Nova Scotia



SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

Figure 2: Percentage of emergency room visits due to ILI by report week, 2018-2019 season, with trend-line comparison to 2017-2018 season, Nova Scotia



APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS USED IN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE, AND USEFUL LINKS, 2018-2019

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