



## Regional Update EW 01

Influenza  
(January 18, 2011 - 17 h GMT; 12 h EST)

The information presented in this update is based on data provided by Ministries of Health and National Influenza Centers of Member States to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) or from updates on the Member States' Ministry of Health web pages.

- In Canada, overall influenza activity increased as compared to the previous week, but remained within the expected levels for this time of year. In the United States, at the national level, the ILI activity decreased slightly as compared to the previous week. In Canada and Mexico, influenza A/H3 predominated since the beginning of the influenza season, while in the United States, there has been a co-circulation of influenza A and B.
- Influenza activity in Central America continued to remain low
- Influenza virus A/H3 and influenza B are co-circulating in the Americas Region

### Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

#### *North America*

In Canada<sup>1</sup>, in epidemiological week (EW) 01, overall influenza activity increased as compared to the previous week. In EW 01, two regions reported widespread influenza activity, 13 regions reported localized activity, 24 regions reported sporadic activity and 16 regions reported no activity. During EW 01, the national ILI consultation rate remained within expected levels and was 47.2 per 1,000 consultations—a slight decrease as compared to the previous week. Children under 5 years of age had the highest ILI consultation rates (100.7 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of samples positive for influenza was 25.5%. Since the beginning of the influenza season, A/H3N2 has been the predominant influenza strain circulating in Canada. Among other respiratory viruses, the proportion of specimens testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) decreased as compared to the previous week.

In Mexico, in EW 51, of all samples tested, the percentage of samples positive for influenza was ~40%. Influenza A/H3 has predominated since EW 30, 2010.

In the United States<sup>2</sup>, in EW 01, at the national level, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI was below the national baseline. At the regional level, one region (Region 4, southeast) reported ILI activity to be above the region-specific baseline, and the remaining nine reported ILI activity to be below the region-specific baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was at the epidemic threshold. Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported this week. Influenza-associated hospitalization rates remained lower than those observed during the same period in 2010 based on data from FluSurv-NET. During EW 01, 16.3% of samples tested were positive for influenza [unsubtyped influenza A (44.9%), followed by influenza type B (26.2%), and influenza A/H3 (23.2%)]. Of characterized influenza B viruses, 91% belong to the B/Victoria lineage, which is included in the 2010-2011 Northern Hemisphere vaccine and 9% belong to the B/Yamagata lineage.

#### *Caribbean*

CAREC<sup>\*</sup> reported a decreasing trend in the severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) admission proportion (SARI admissions among 100 hospital medical admissions) from 1.4% (EW 52, 2010) to 1.0 (EW 01). No SARI deaths were reported during EW 52. Influenza A/H3 and influenza B have been co-circulating for the last three months.

<sup>\*</sup> Participating CAREC member countries, which include, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, were assessed together

In the Dominican Republic, in EW 01, no influenza viruses were detected. Low numbers of RSV and adenovirus were detected this week.

**Central America**

In Costa Rica, influenza type B was the predominant influenza virus circulating and small numbers of adenovirus, parainfluenza and RSV continued to be detected.

In Honduras, in EW 01, two samples tested positive for influenza and no other respiratory viruses were detected.

**South America – Andean**

No Andean countries submitted epidemiologic reports this week.

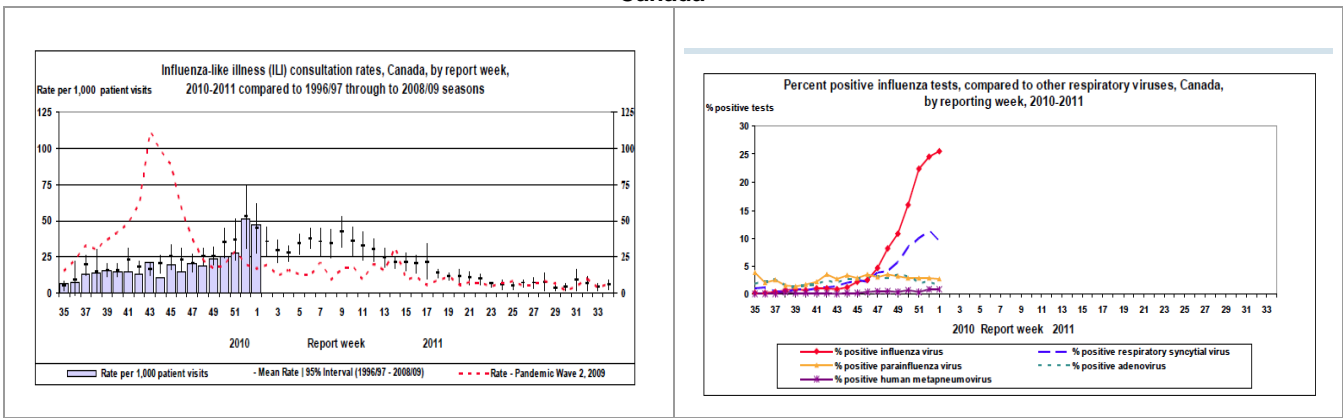
**South America – Southern Cone**

No Southern Cone countries submitted epidemiologic reports this week.

**Graphs**

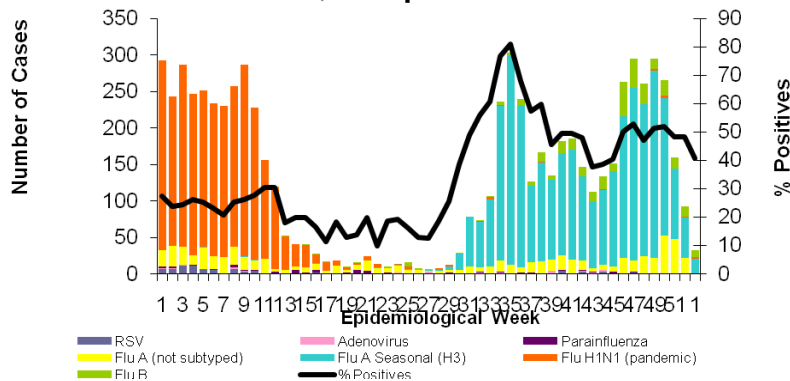
**North America**

**Canada**



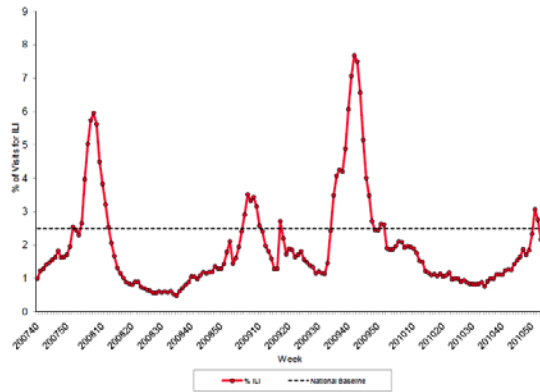
**Mexico**

**Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010-2011, as reported to PAHO**

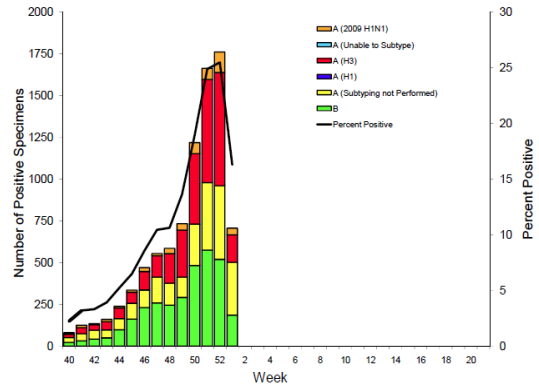


## United States

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, September 30, 2007 – January 8, 2011



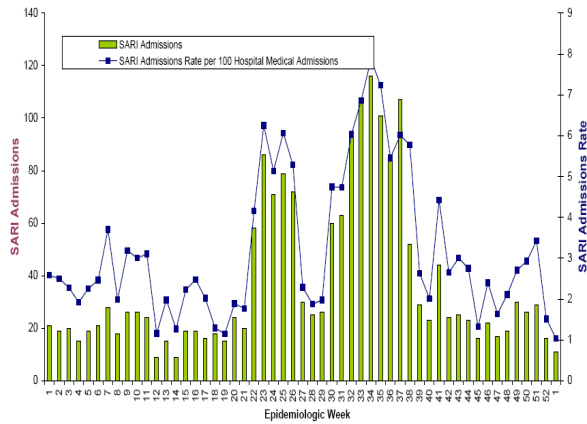
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2010-11 Season



## Caribbean

### CAREC

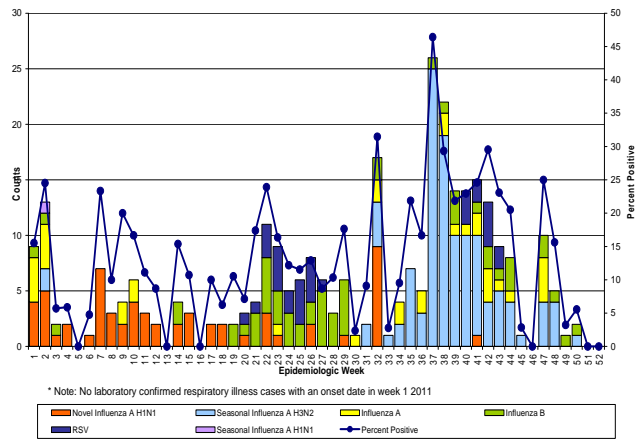
Graph A: SARI Admissions and SARI Admissions Rate per 100 Hospital Medical Admissions from Sentinel Sites in Select CAREC Member Countries Epidemiologic weeks 1-52 2010 and week 1 2011\*



\* Note: Data from week 1, 2011 from Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Tobago

Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago

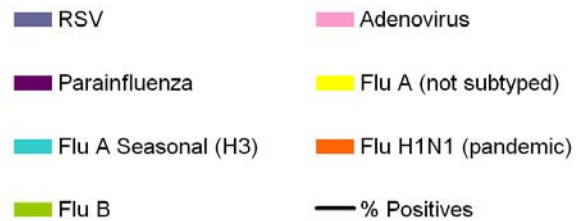
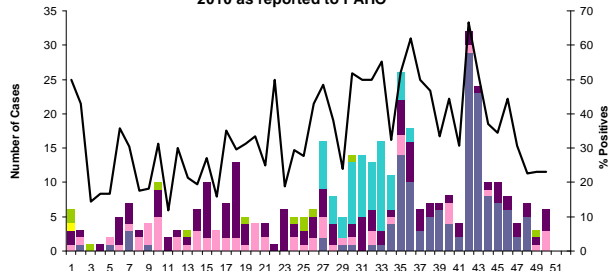
Graph E - Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Cases by Type and Subtype CAREC Member Countries Epidemiologic Weeks 1-52, 2010\*



\* Note: No laboratory confirmed respiratory illness cases with an onset date in week 1 2011

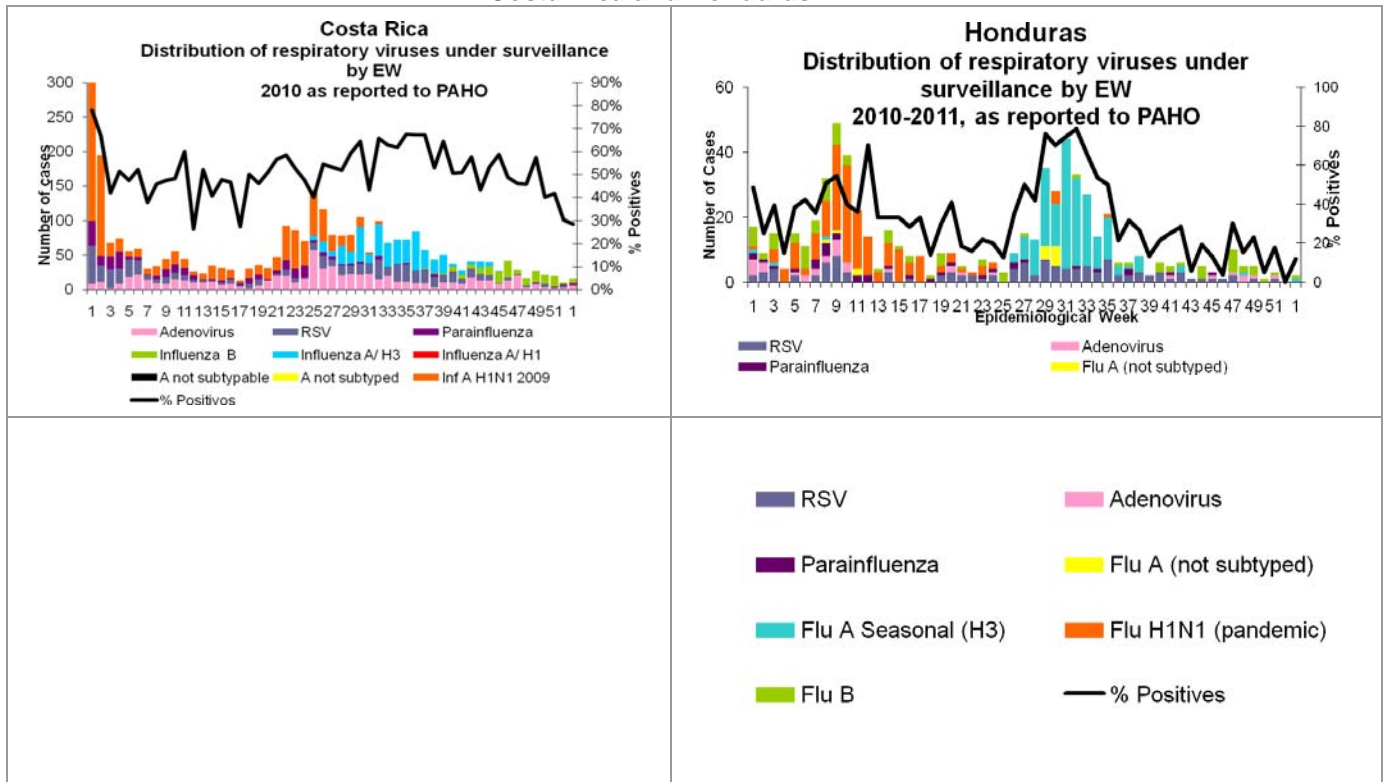
## Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010 as reported to PAHO



## Central America

### Costa Rica and Honduras



## South America - Andean

## South America – Southern Cone

<sup>1</sup> Canada. FluWatch Report. EW 01. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

<sup>2</sup> USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 01. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention