Regional Update EW 46

Influenza

(November 28, 2010 - 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 North America (Canada and United States), at the national level, influenza activity remained low; in Canada, influenza A/H3 predominated this week, while in the United States, influenza type B predominated
- Influenza activity in Central America and South 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[1], in epidemiological week (EW) 46, overall influenza activity has slightly increased, with most of the surveillance regions reporting no activity (n=47), six regions reporting sporadic activity and three regions reporting localized activity. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was within the expected levels for this time of year. Persons 5–19 years of age had the highest consultation rates (34.1 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of samples positive for influenza (EW 46: 2.62%) increased as compared to the previous week. Since the beginning of the influenza season, A/H3N2 has been the predominant influenza strain circulating in Canada.

In the United States,[2] in EW 46, at the national level, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI remained below the baseline. At the regional level, all regions reported the proportion of ILI to be below their region-specific baselines, but the state of Georgia reported high ILI activity and an increased number of influenza type B cases. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the epidemic threshold. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported this week. During EW 46, 9.8% of samples tested were positive for influenza, of which the majority was influenza type B.

Caribbean

In Jamaica, in EW 35–43, influenza A/H3 predominated.

Central America

In Costa Rica, from EW 42–46, influenza type B was the predominant influenza virus circulating. Small numbers of adenovirus, RSV, and influenza A/H3 continued to be detected.

In Honduras and Panama, over the last month, very low levels of respiratory viruses have been detected.

South America – Andean

In the northern part of Bolivia, for the last month, very low levels of respiratory viruses have been detected.

In Colombia over the last month, low levels of respiratory viruses have been detected, and pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 continued to be the predominant respiratory virus detected.

South America – Southern Cone

In Uruguay[3], since EW 43, the proportion of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases among the total number of hospitalizations, intensive care units (ICU) admissions, and deaths has remained less than 4%. From EW 41–46, the predominant virus circulating among sampled SARI cases was influenza A/H3.

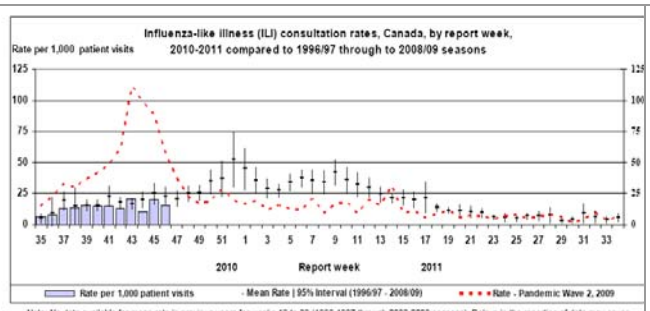
In Paraguay, from EW 41–46, influenza A/H3 predominated over other circulating respiratory viruses.

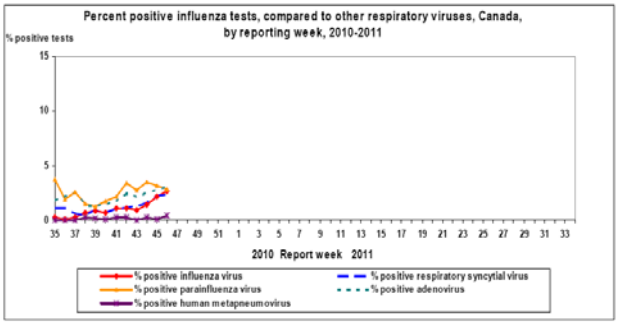
Graphs

The information below is based on reports from National Influenza Centers and influenza laboratories from the Region.

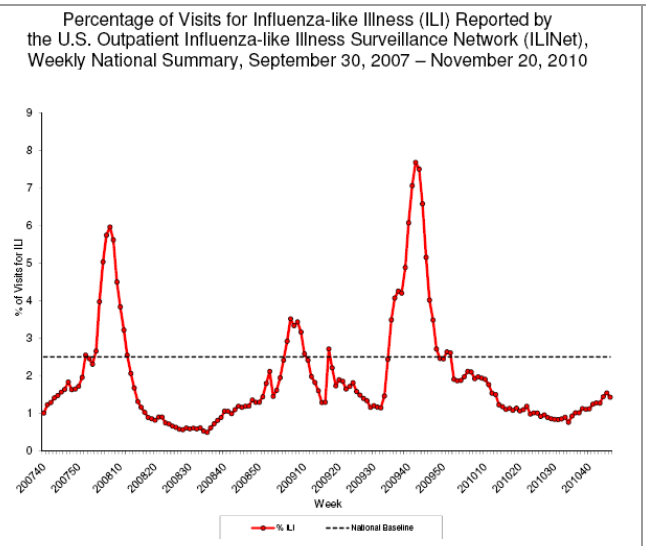
North America

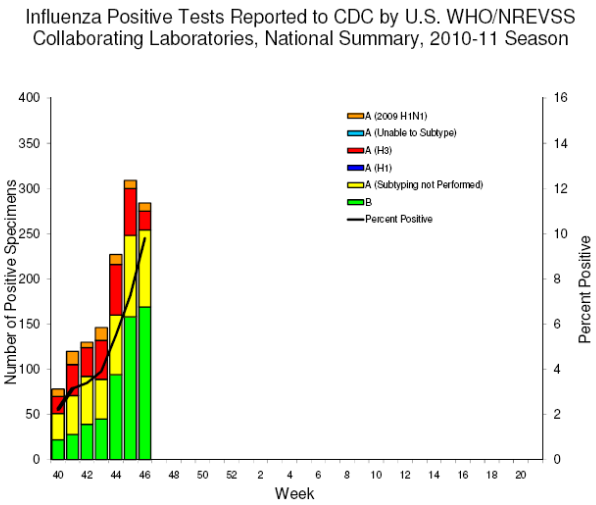
Canada





United States

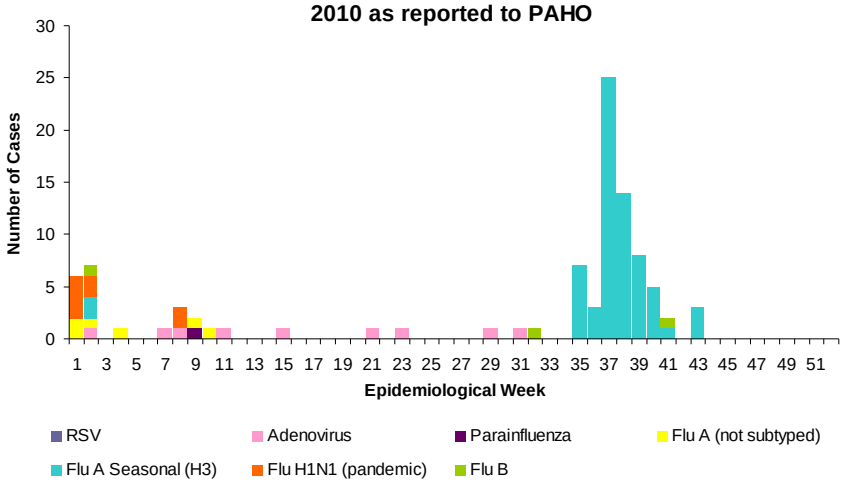




Caribbean

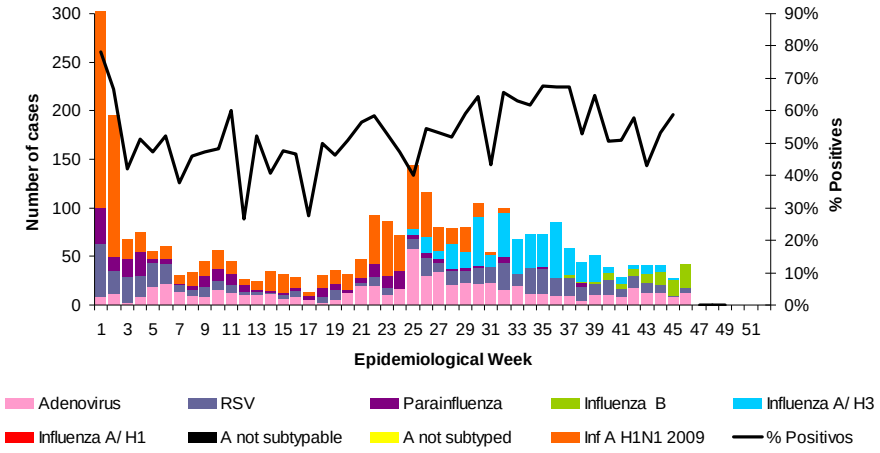
Jamaica

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

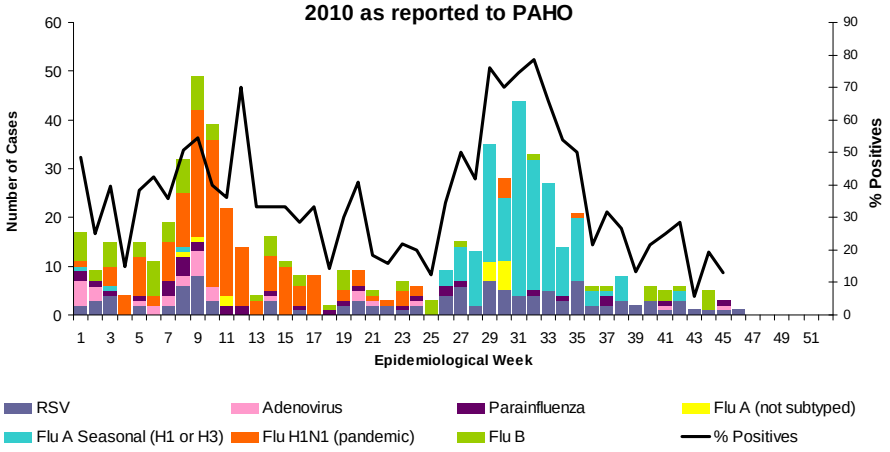


Central America

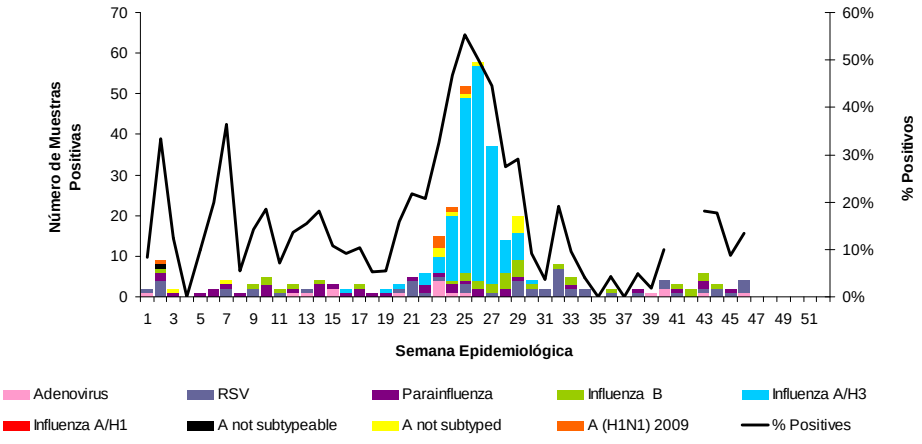
Costa Rica
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010 as reported to PAHO



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



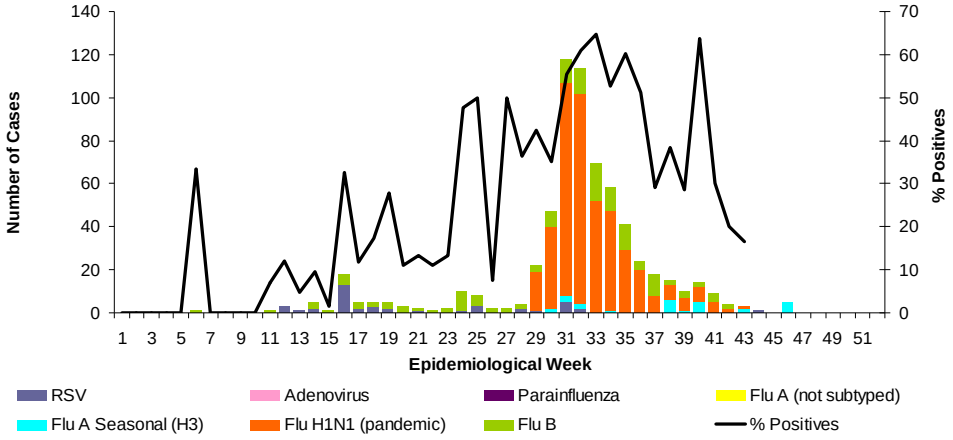
Panama
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010, as reported to PAHO



South America - Andean

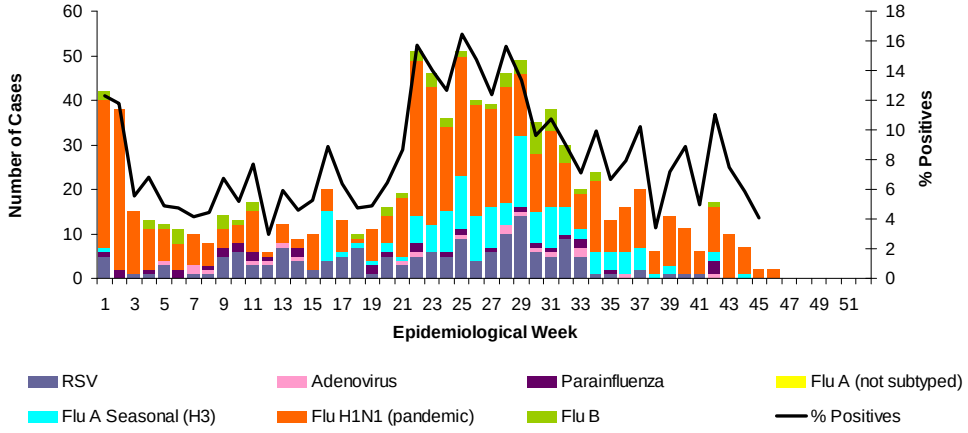
Bolivia (La Paz - INLASA)

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



Colombia

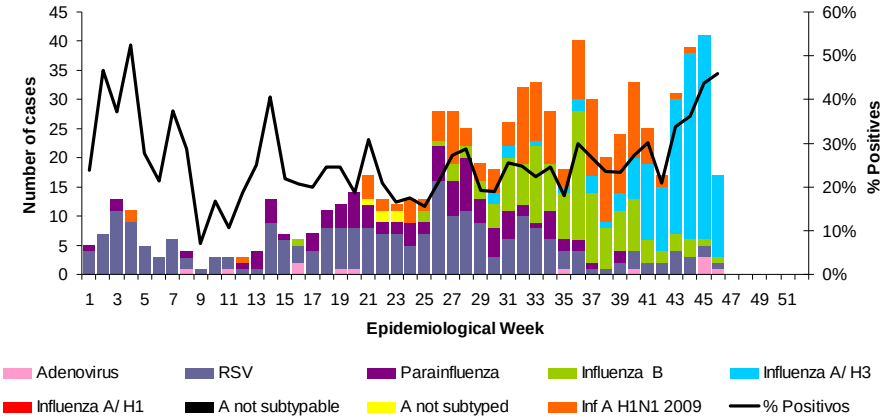
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010 as reported to PAHO



South America – Southern Cone

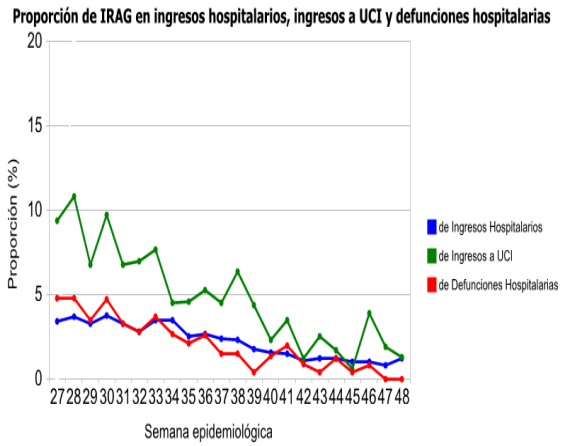
Paraguay

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



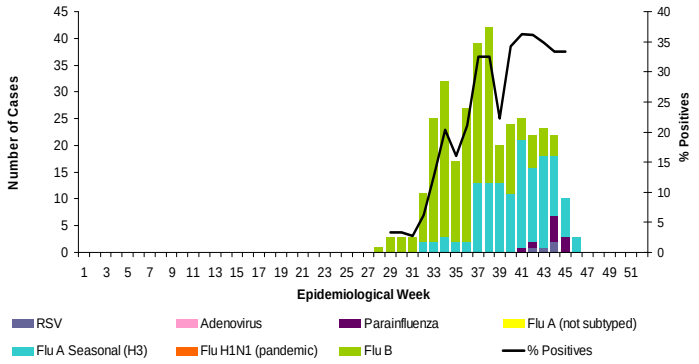
Uruguay

Proportion of SARI hospitalizations, SARI hospitalizations in ICU, and SARI deaths



Uruguay

Distribution of respiratory viruses under SARI surveillance by EW 2010



[1] Canada. FluWatch Report. EW 46. http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/
[2] USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 46. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
[3] Uruguay. Vigilancia de IRAG. https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu