



## Regional Update EW 47

Influenza  
(December 7, 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, there has been a co-circulation of influenza A and B
- 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<sup>1</sup>, in epidemiological week (EW) 47, overall influenza activity has slightly increased, with most of the surveillance regions reporting no activity (n=42), eleven regions reporting sporadic activity, and two regions reporting localized activity. The influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rate was within expected levels for this time of year and similar to what was observed in previous weeks. Children under 5 years of age had the highest ILI consultation rates (70 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of samples positive for influenza (EW 47: 4.6%) doubled 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,<sup>2</sup> in EW 47, at the national level, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI remained below the baseline. At the regional level, one of the 10 regions reported ILI activity above the region-specific baseline. One state (Georgia) experienced high ILI activity for the second consecutive week; one state experienced low ILI activity, and 48 states experienced minimal ILI activity. 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 47, 10.7% of samples tested were positive for influenza (influenza type B, followed by influenza A unsubtype).

#### *Caribbean*

In Cuba, influenza A/H3 continued to be the predominant influenza virus circulating. Other respiratory viruses (respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), adenovirus and parainfluenza) are also circulating.

In the Dominican Republic, RSV continues to predominate and no influenza viruses have been isolated since EW 36.

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

#### *Central America*

In Costa Rica, from EW 42–47, 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 Nicaragua, over the last month, very low levels of respiratory viruses have been detected.

**South America – Andean**

In Bolivia, the predominant influenza virus circulating is the influenza A/H3, especially in the eastern part of the country.

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**

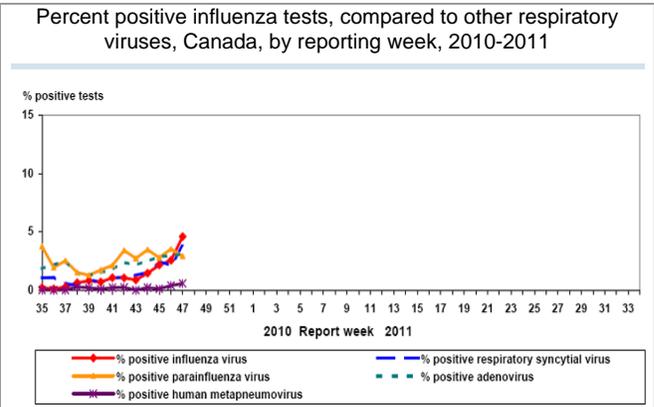
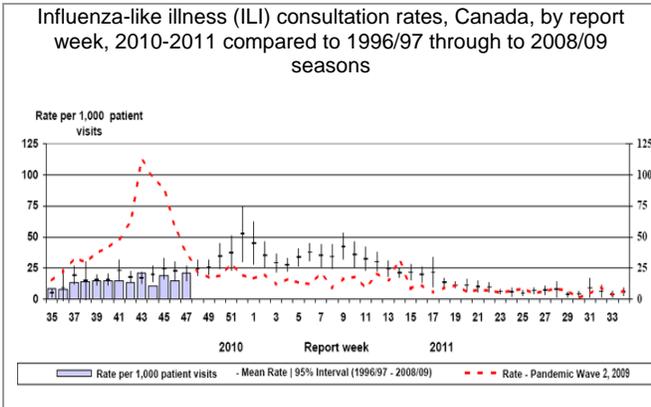
In Paraguay, from EW 41–47, influenza A/H3 predominated over other circulating respiratory viruses.

In Uruguay<sup>3</sup>, 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.

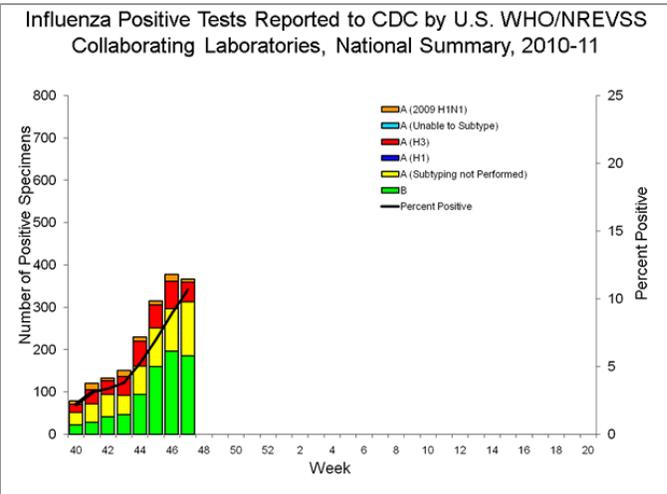
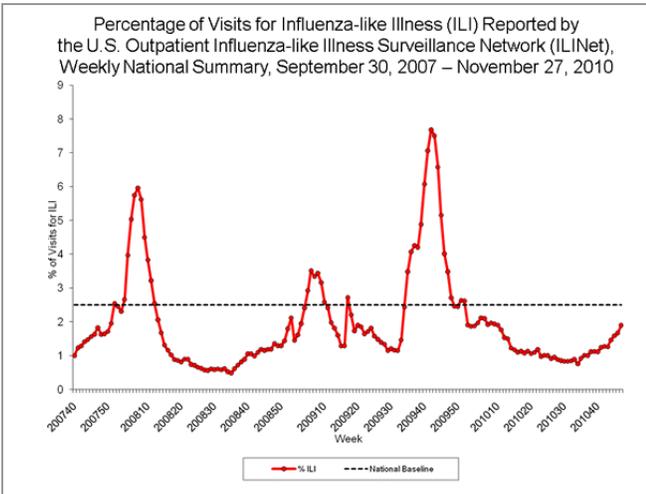
**Graphs**

**North America**

**Canada**



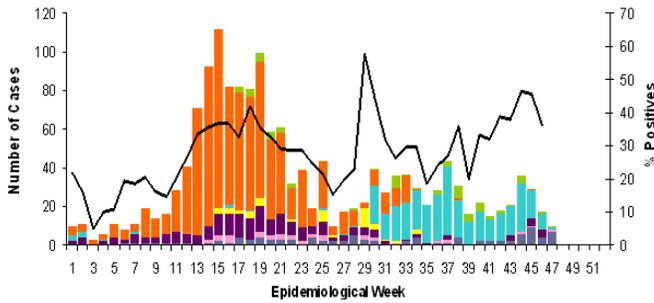
**United States**



## Caribbean

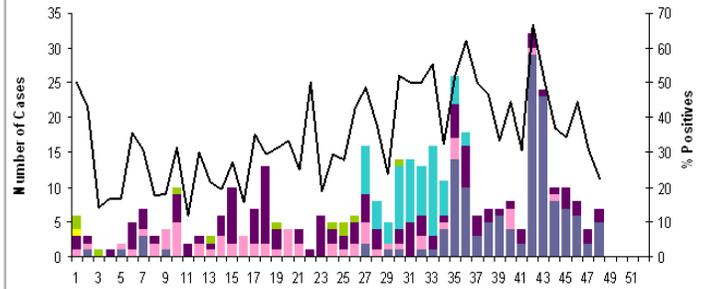
### Cuba

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



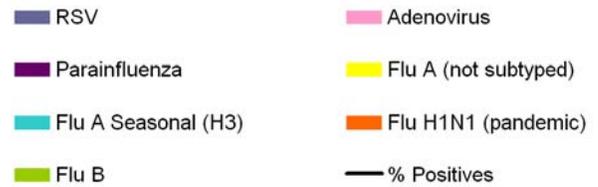
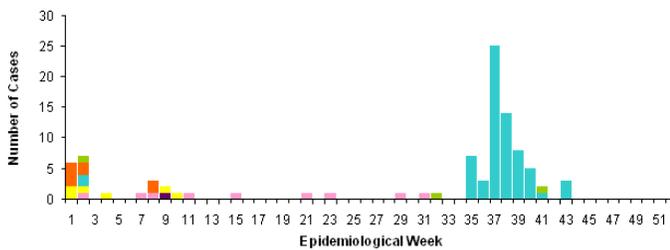
### Dominican Republic

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



### Jamaica

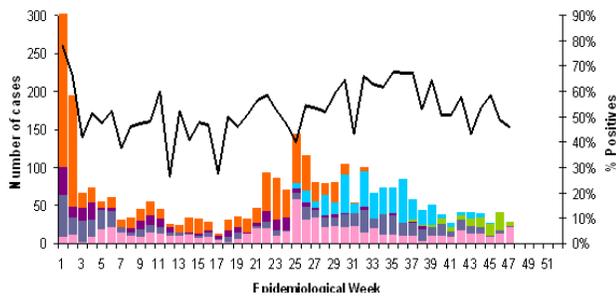
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010 as reported to PAHO



## Central America

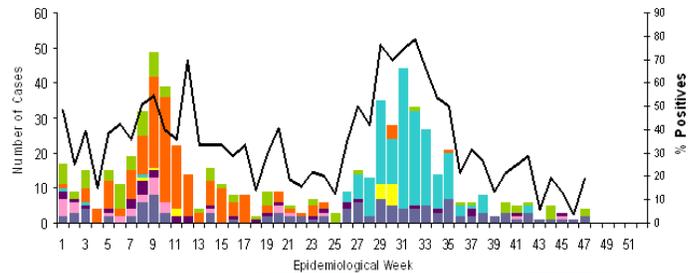
### Costa Rica

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



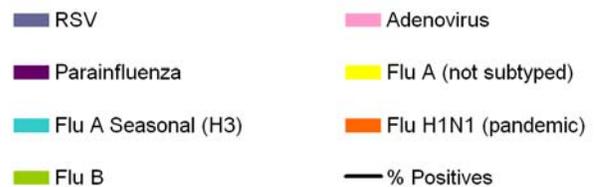
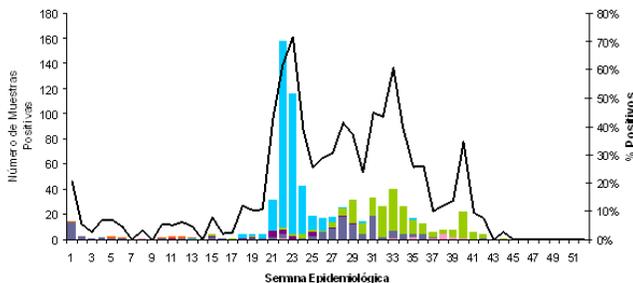
### Honduras

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



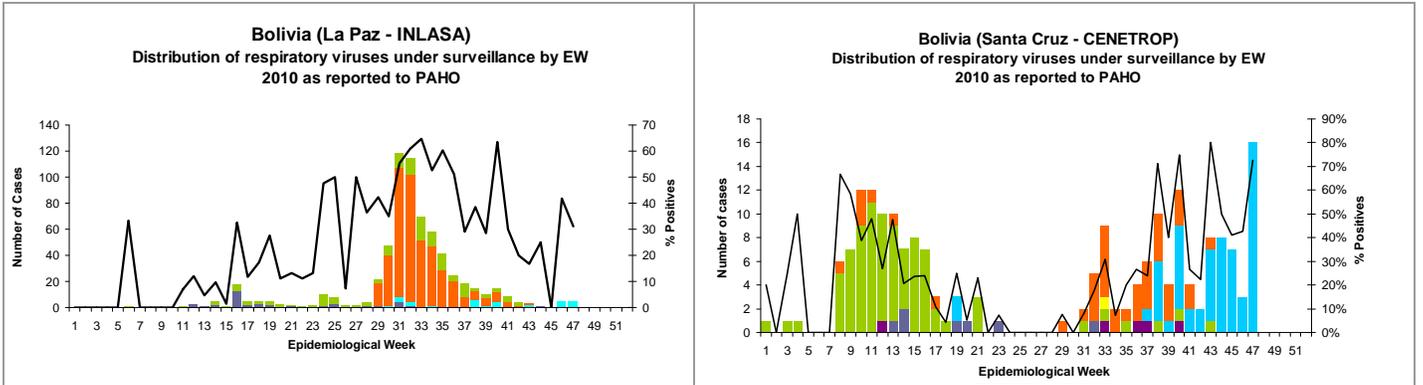
### Nicaragua

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



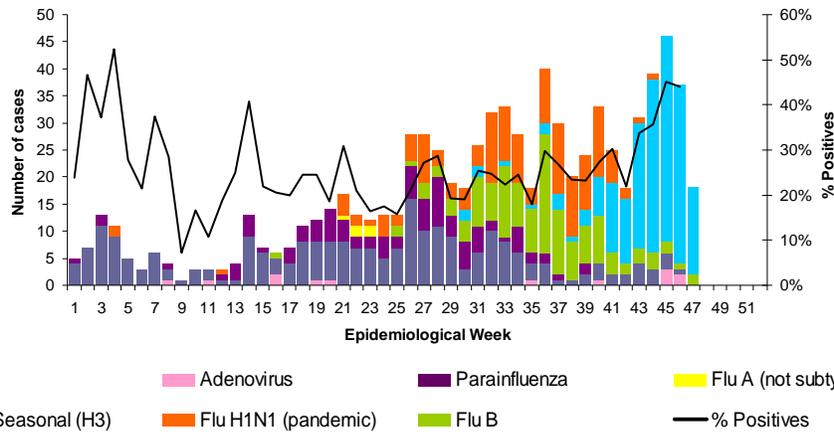
## South America - Andean

### Bolivia



### Paraguay

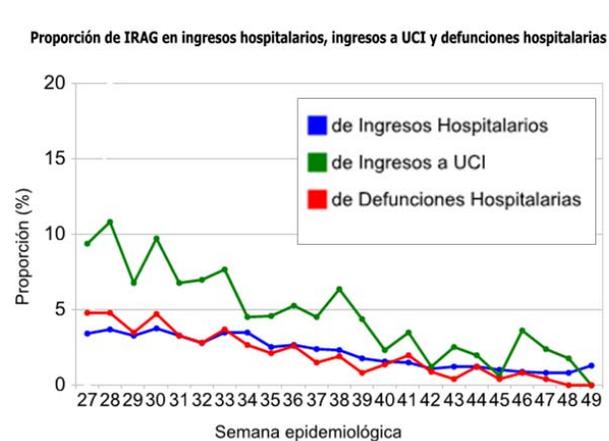
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010 as reported to PAHO



## South America – Southern Cone

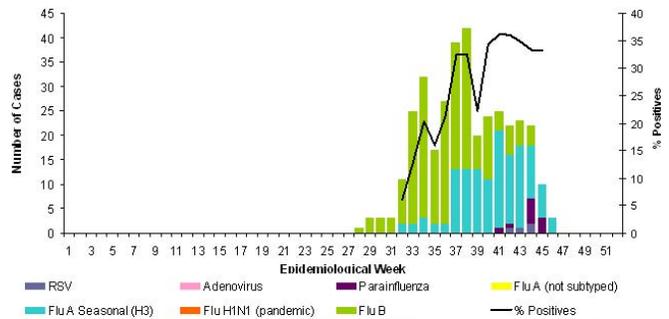
### Uruguay

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



#### Uruguay

Distribution of respiratory viruses under SARI surveillance by EW 2010



<sup>1</sup> Canada. FluWatch Report. EW 47. <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

<sup>2</sup> USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 47. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>3</sup> Uruguay. Vigilancia de IRAG. <https://trantor.msp.gub.uy/epidemiologia/servlet/iraggrafmenu>