**Influenza data – Supplementary Notes**

**Data Indicators:**

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| **Indicator** | **Description** |
| Influenza and Respiratory Virus detections | Number of positive influenza detections by type/subtype and number of parainfluenza, adenovirus, human metapneuovirus, rhinovirus, coronavirus, RSV detections by week week; percentage of positive. This data is provided by sentinel laboratories participating in the FluWatch Respiratory Virus Detection Surveillance System (RVDSS). There may be jurisdictional differences in laboratory testing protocols that affect representativeness of the data. |
| Influenza detections by age-group | Number of positive influenza detections by type/subtype, age-group and week. This data is provided by sentinel laboratories participating in the FluWatch Respiratory Virus Detection Surveillance System (RVDSS) and includes specimens for which demographic information was reported. These represent a subset of all positive influenza cases reported in Canada. There may be jurisdictional differences in laboratory testing protocols that affect representativeness of the data. Additionally, laboratory testing for influenza may be affected by biases in health care utilization and physician testing behaviour for different age groups. |
| Influenza-like-illness consultation rate | Population-weighted consultation rate for ILI, by week. This data is provided to FluWatch by from sentinel surveillance programs in three provinces, and independent sentinel physicians in provinces and territories without a participating program. Not all sentinel physicians report every week.  ILI surveillance does not capture influenza activity occurring in the elderly in long-term care facilities, children who visit paediatricians and consultations that occur in emergency departments and after-hours clinics. ILI consultation rates between jurisdictions may vary with sentinel participation, differences in coverage rates as well as co-circulation of other respiratory viruses. Due to the voluntary nature of sentinel surveillance, there are regions in Canada that may be unrepresented or under represented. |
| Influenza outbreaks | Number of new influenza outbreaks by facility type (hospital or LTCF) by week. This data is reported by all provinces and territories. However, reporting varies as not all provinces and territories report outbreaks occurring in all facility types. |
| Influenza activity level | Number of regions in Canada reporting influenza activity (no activity, sporadic activity, localized activity and widespread activity) by week. Influenza activity levels are assigned and reported by all provincial and territorial epidemiologists, based on laboratory confirmations, sentinel ILI rates and reported outbreaks. The number of regions within a jurisdiction may not be proportionate to their population (e.g. jurisdictions with larger populations having fewer regions and vice versa). Therefore, when a large proportion of regions report influenza activity, it does not necessarily imply a large proportion of the population is affected. |
| Hospitalizations by age-group and week | Number of influenza-associated hospitalizations by age-groups and type/subtype. This data is reported only by participating provinces and territories, therefore it is incomplete at the national level. |
| ICU admissions by age-group and week | Number of influenza-associated ICU admissions by age-groups and type/subtype. This data is reported only by participating provinces and territories, therefore it is incomplete at the national level. |
| Deaths by age-group and week | Number of influenza-associated deaths by age-groups and type/subtype. This data is reported only by participating provinces and territories, therefore it is incomplete at the national level. |

**General limitation:** The data presented here may not reflect the true number of individuals affected by influenza in the population as most of the data comes from sentinel data sources.

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