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.

### Epidemiologic and virologic influenza update

#### North America

In Canada, in epidemiological weeks (EW) 51 & 52, overall influenza activity increased as compared to the previous weeks. In EW 52, one region reported widespread influenza activity, 8 regions reported localized activity, 22 regions reported sporadic activity and 24 regions reported no activity. During EW 51, the national ILI consultation rate was 27.5 per 1,000 consultations, and it increased during EW 52 (49.8 per 1,000 consultations), but remained within the expected levels for this time of year. Children under 5 years of age had the highest ILI consultation rates (63.3 per 1,000 consultations). The percentage of samples positive for influenza (EW 51: 23% & EW 52: 25%) increased as compared to the previous weeks. Since the beginning of the influenza season, A/H3 has been the predominant influenza strain circulating in Canada. Among other respiratory viruses, the proportion of specimens testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) increased in EWs 51 & 52 as compared to the previous weeks.

In Mexico, in EW 51, of all samples tested, the percentage of samples positive for influenza was ~48%. Influenza A/H3 has predominated since EW 30.

In the United States, in EW 52, at the national level, the proportion of outpatient consultations for ILI decreased slightly as compared to the previous week; however, this proportion has been above the national baseline for the last two EW. At the regional level, four regions, mostly in the eastern part of the country, reported ILI activity to be above the region-specific baseline, and the remaining six reported ILI activity to be below the region-specific baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the epidemic threshold. One influenza B-associated pediatric death was reported this week. During EW 52, 20.3% of samples tested were positive for influenza [unsubtyped influenza A (34.5%), followed by influenza type B (34.1%), and influenza A/H3 (27%)].

#### Caribbean

CAREC* reported a decreasing trend in the severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) admission proportion (SARI admissions among 100 hospital medical admissions) from 2.7% (EW 51) to 1.4% (EW 52). Children between 6-48 months had the highest proportion of hospitalizations for SARI (3.4%). No SARI deaths were reported during EW 52. Virological data shows a cocirculation of influenza A/H3 and influenza B from EW 37-50.

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* Participating CAREC member countries, which include, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, were assessed together.
In Cuba, among the influenza viruses, influenza A/H3 was the predominant virus circulating between EWs 30–52. In EW 52, low levels of adenovirus and RSV were also reported.

In the Dominican Republic, from EW 50-52, no influenza viruses were detected. Low numbers of RSV and adenovirus were detected this week.

In Jamaica, no influenza viruses have been detected since EW 43.

**Central America**

In Costa Rica, influenza type B was the predominant influenza virus circulating between EWs 40-52. Small numbers of adenovirus, parainfluenza and RSV continued to be detected.

In El Salvador, RSV has been the predominant circulating respiratory virus from EW 40 to EW 50. No influenza viruses have been detected since EW 46.

In Honduras, in EW 52, no samples tested positive for respiratory viruses.

**South America – Andean**

In Colombia, from EW 48–51, influenza A/H3 was the predominant circulating respiratory virus. In EW 52, one case of pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 was detected.

In Ecuador, the Ministry of Health reported this week, that even though the number of hospitalizations due to pneumonia and influenza was in its highest level of the year (2010), it was within the endemic channel. The predominant circulating virus in Quito is influenza A (H1N1) 2009 and in Guayaquil is influenza A/H3N2.

**South America – Southern Cone**

In Argentina, in EW 51, of all samples tested, the percentage of samples positive for influenza was 4.2%. From EW 48–51, influenza A unsubtyped was reported as the predominant respiratory virus circulating. Low levels of adenovirus and RSV were also reported.

In Uruguay, the proportion of SARI cases admitted to intensive care units (ICU) increased in the EWs 51 & 52; but, remained under 4%. The SARI cases among the total number of hospitalizations and deaths associated to SARI remained <1%. From EW 41–47, the predominant virus circulating among sampled SARI cases was influenza A/H3.

**Graphs**

**North America**

![Influenza-like illness (ILI) consultation rates, Canada, by report week, 2010-2011 compared to 1996/97 through to 2008/09 seasons](image1)

![Percent positive influenza tests, compared to other respiratory viruses, Canada, by reporting week, 2010-2011](image2)
Mexico
Distribution of respiratory viruses under surveillance by EW 2010, as reported to PAHO

United States

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

Caribbean
CAREC
(Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago)

This graph includes data from Jamaica, Dominica and Tobago.

This graph includes data from the CAREC Lab, Dominica, Jamaica and Barbados.
Cuba, Dominican Republic and Jamaica

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, El Salvador and Honduras

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

El Salvador
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

RSV  Adenovirus
Parainfluenza  Flu A (not subtyped)
Flu A Seasonal (H3)  Flu H1N1 (pandemic)
Flu B  % Positives
North America - Andean

**Colombia and Ecuador**

**South America - Southern Cone**

**Argentina**

**Uruguay**

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2. USA. Surveillance Summary. Week 52. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention