






# Weekly Influenza News

## Week 44: October 29 to November 4, 2017

### Week in Review:

Influenza Activity Indicator	Assessment of Indicator*	Interpretation
 <u>Reported cases</u>	Similar	2 local lab-confirmed case reported in <b>week 44</b> ; 2 cases reported in week 43
 <u>Percent Positive of Flu Specimens<sup>†</sup></u>	Similar	<b>Simcoe Muskoka:</b> - flu A (4.0%); flu B (0.0%) <b>Ontario:</b> - flu A (0.9%); flu B (0.1%)
 <u>Local Institutional Outbreaks</u>	Similar	No institutional influenza outbreaks declared in the 2017/18 season
 <u>Local Emergency Department respiratory visits: week 44</u>	Similar	Percentage of visits similar to previous week and lower than same period of 2016/17 season
<b>Week 44 Overall Assessment October 29 to November 4, 2017</b>	<b>Similar</b>	<b>Reported Activity Level: Sporadic</b>  Flu A activity remains similar to the previous week in SMDHU. No Flu B activity in SMDHU.
 <u>Predominant Influenza Strains:</u> Influenza A		

**Notes:** Reported activity level is based on the weekly submission of [Appendix C](#) to Public Health Ontario. Definition available [here](#).

\*Compared to previous [surveillance week](#)

† Reported for week 43

## Reported Local Influenza Cases

In Simcoe Muskoka, there have been 6 **lab-confirmed influenza cases reported** as of 8 November 2017; 2 (33%) of which were reported in week 44 – this was similar when compare to week 43.

Of the 6 reported cases, only three (50%) have been subtyped:

- 3/3 (100%) were influenza A, subtype H3

🔗 Figure 1 and Figure 2 below provide historic comparisons

*Table 1: Summary of influenza cases for 2017/18 season*

Lab-confirmed Influenza Cases	Week 44		Season-to-Date	
	N	%	N	%
<b>Influenza A</b>	2	100%	6	100%
<b>Influenza B</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Influenza A &amp; B</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	100%	<b>6</b>	100%

Notes:  
Data source: Communicable Disease Intake Database, extracted on November 7, 2017.

## Historical Comparison

Figure 1: Reported Influenza Cases, Type A, Current Influenza Season with Historical Comparison, Simcoe Muskoka

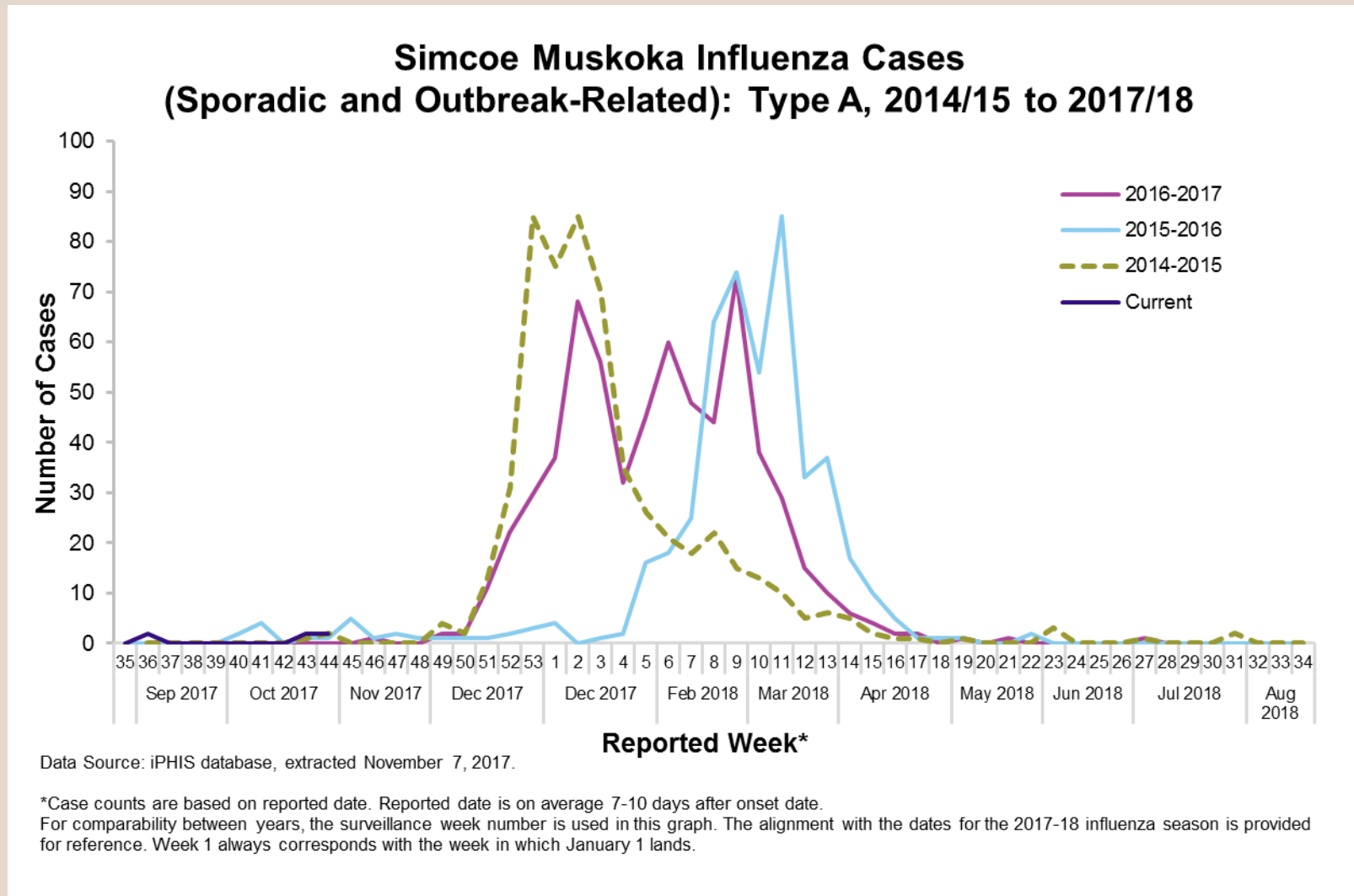
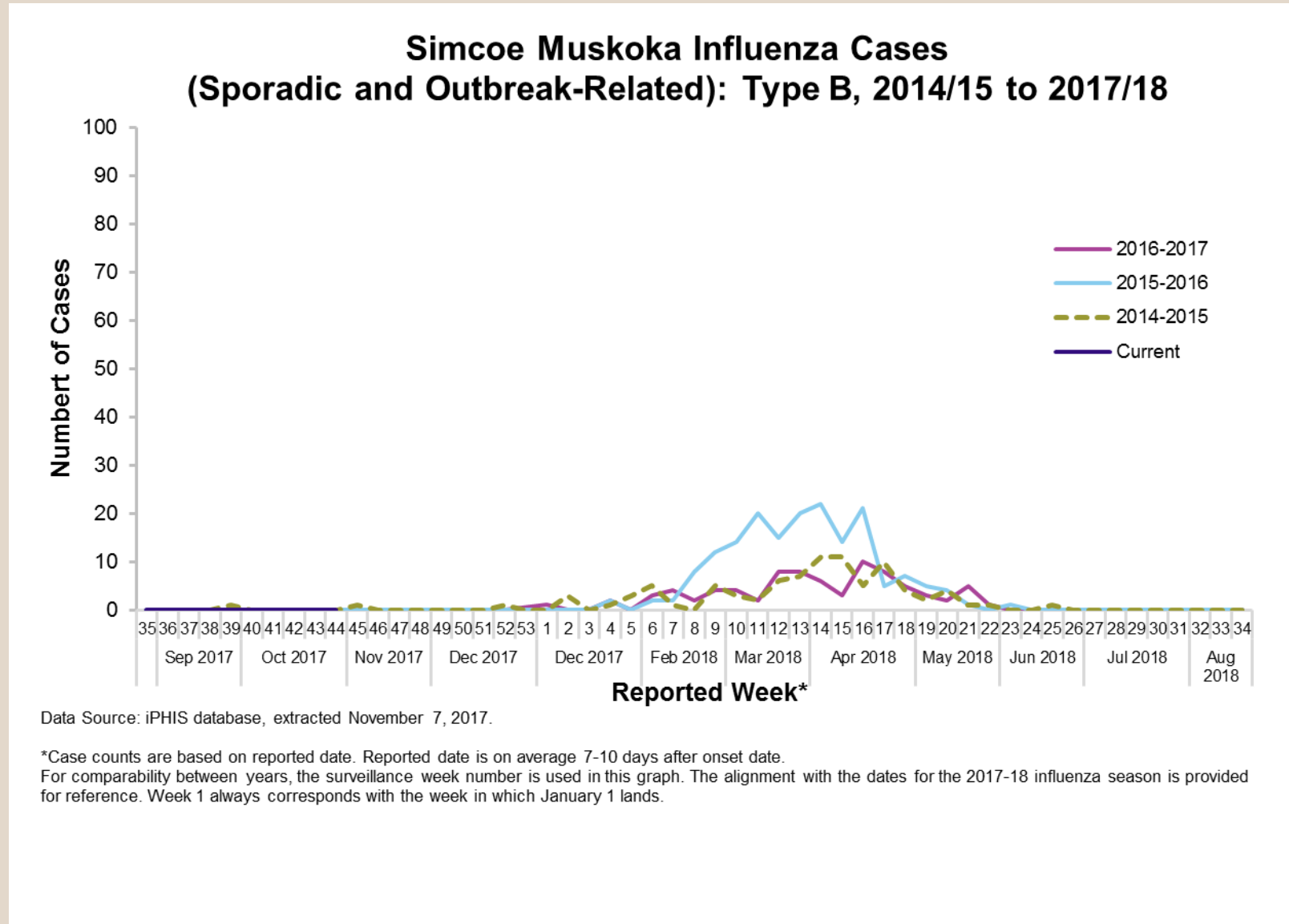


Figure 2: Reported Influenza Cases, Type B, Current Influenza Season with Historical Comparison, Simcoe Muskoka



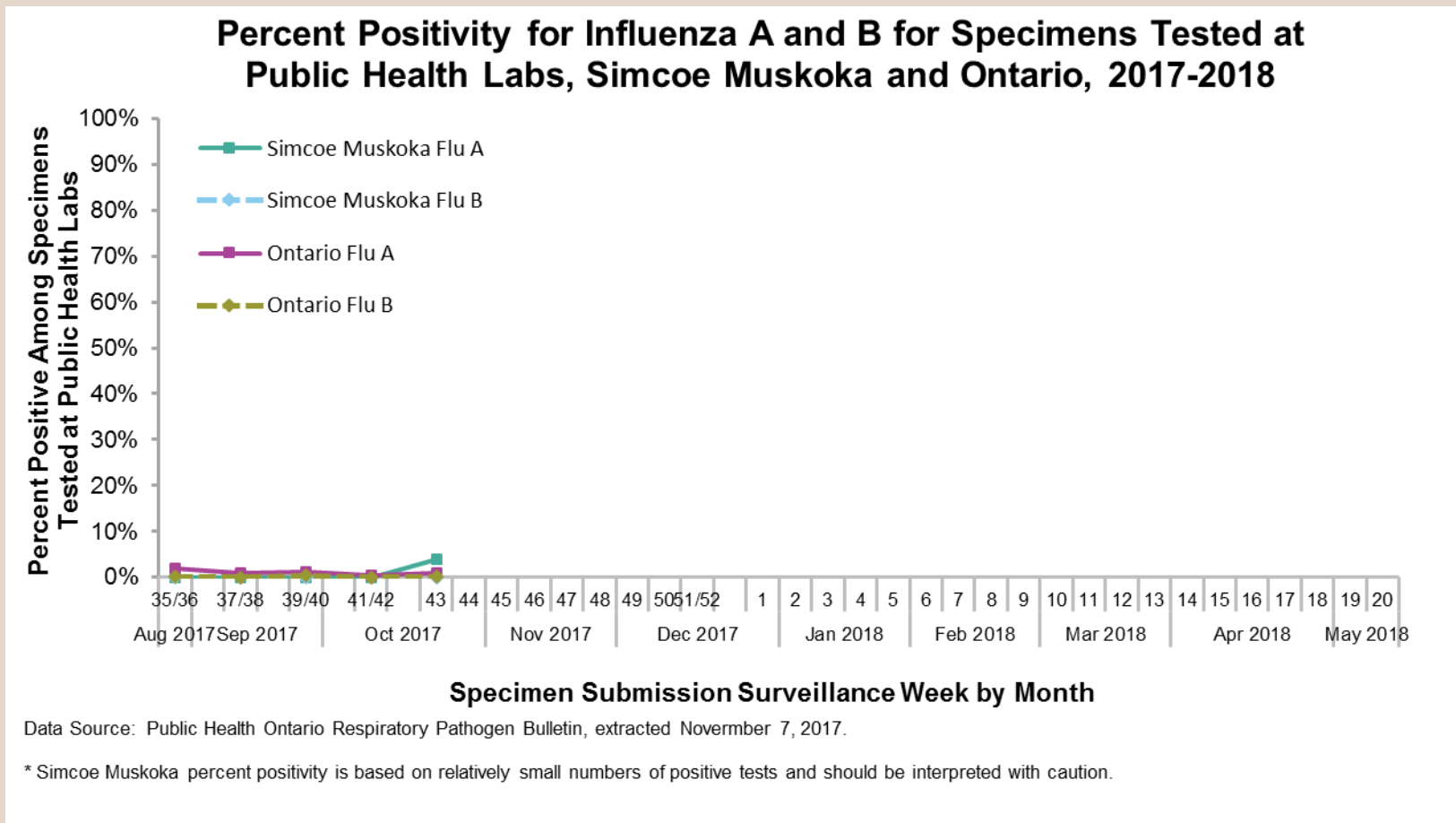
## Percent positivity

Note: Percent positivity is reported with one week lag and does not include week 44. Percent positivity is reported for week 43.

The percentage of flu specimens that are positive (percent positivity) for Influenza A remains low. The provincial percent positivity for influenza A in week 43 was reported at 0.9%, which is similar to week 42. Influenza B percent positivity was reported at 0.1% for week 43.

Locally for week 43, percent positivity for influenza A was reported at 4.0%, while influenza B was 0%.

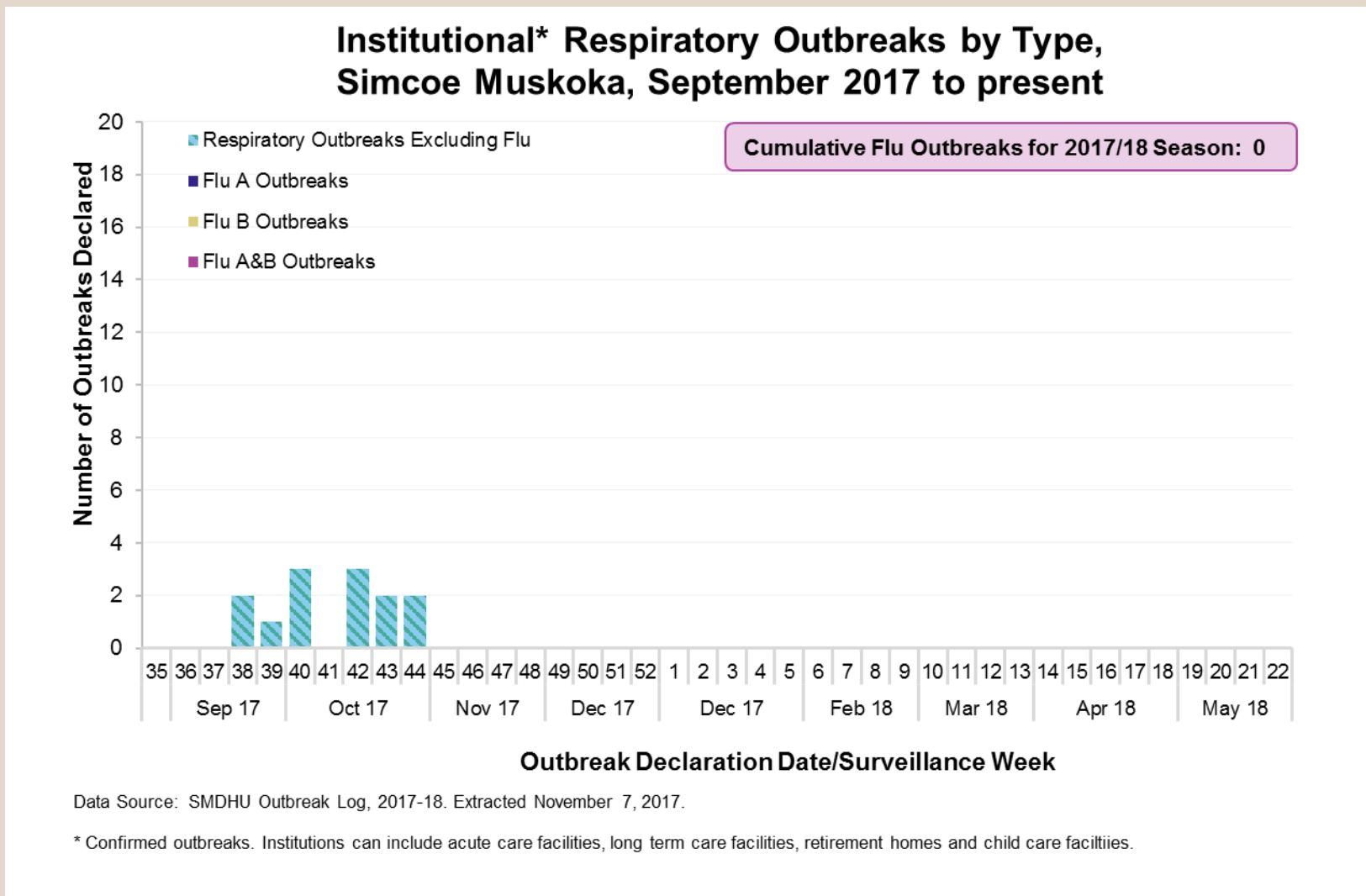
Figure 3: Percent Positivity, Influenza A & B, Simcoe Muskoka & Ontario, 2017/18



## Institutional Respiratory Outbreaks

There have been 0 *lab-confirmed institutional flu outbreaks* in Simcoe Muskoka since September 1, 2017.

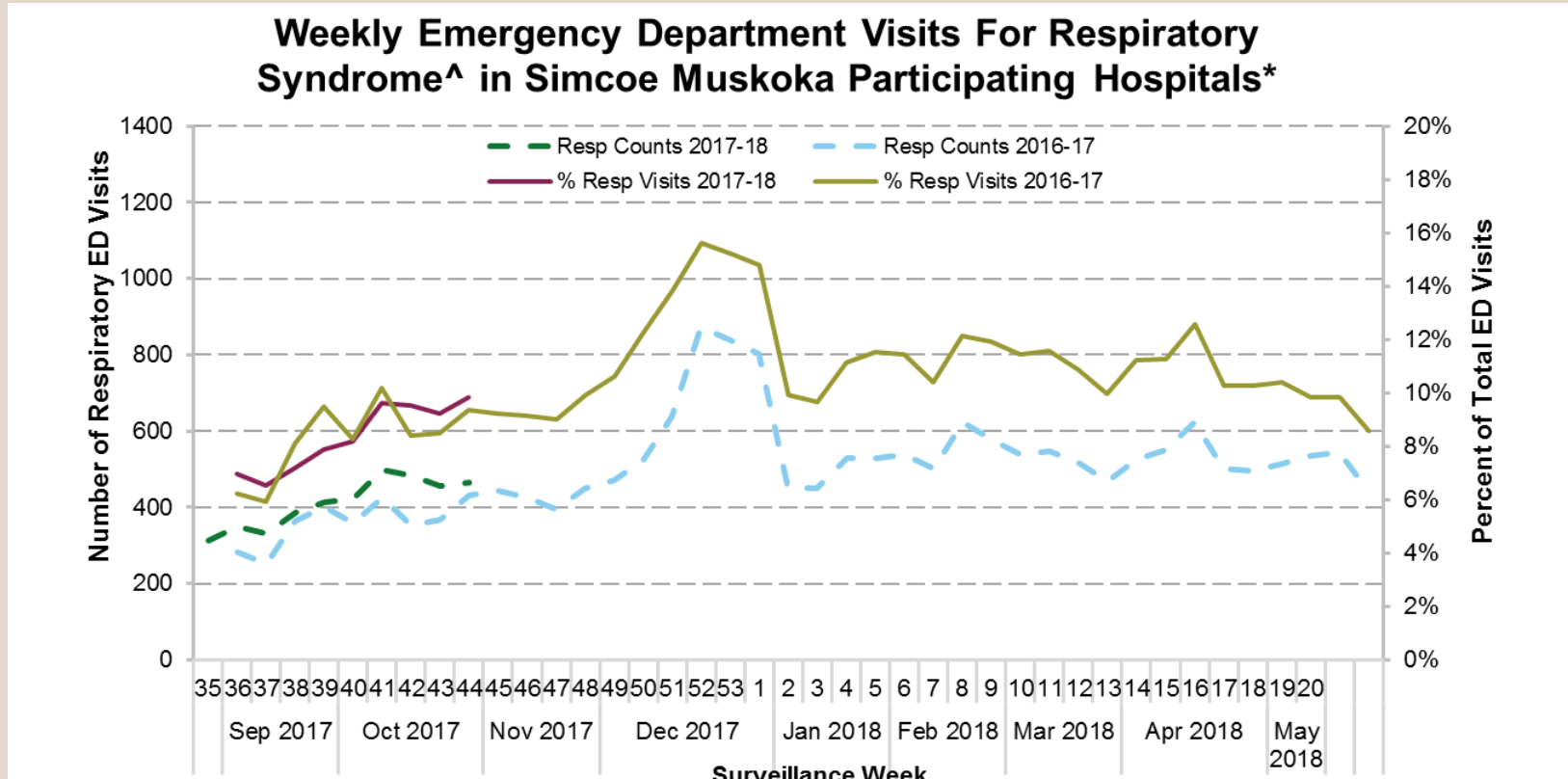
Figure 4: Institutional Outbreaks by Respiratory Pathogen, Simcoe Muskoka, 2017/18



### Local Emergency Department Visits

Emergency department visits for respiratory syndrome in Simcoe Muskoka accounted for 9.8% of visits in week 44. This is similar to week 43, and similar to the 2016/17 season.

Figure 5: Emergency Department Visits for Respiratory Syndrome at Participating Simcoe Muskoka Hospital, 2016/17, 2017/18 Seasons



Data Source: Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES) System, extracted November 7, 2017.  
 ^ Respiratory syndrome is defined as "respiratory infection non croup, non bronchiolitis. Includes sore throat, cough, cold, ear infection, blocked ear, earache etc". This syndrome does not include influenza-like illness, which is "fever, myalgia, undifferentiated flu".

\*Participating hospitals are: RVH, OSMH, MAH (Bracebridge and Huntsville), GBGH and CGMH. Includes Simcoe Muskoka residents and visitors. As of Oct. 2016, an additional local hospital began feeding data to ACES; comparison of previous crude counts with the current counts should not be made.

The above data is provided through Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), an emergency department (ED) syndromic surveillance system managed by KFLA Public Health Informatics for participating Ontario hospitals. Six hospitals participate in Simcoe Muskoka.

## Vaccine Match and Influenza Strains

The trivalent 2017-2018 influenza vaccine contains the following strains:

- A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus; and
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

*Table 2: Local, Provincial and National Matched and Mismatched Flu Specimens and National Match Percent, 2017-18*

Influenza Strains	Number of Specimens with Strain Characterization Results		National Match Percent <sup>†</sup>
	Ontario	Canada	
<b>Influenza A Vaccine Strains</b>			
<b>Influenza A (H3N2) A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-like</b>	2	5	50%
<b>Influenza A (H1N1) A/Michigan/45/2015-like</b>	5	5	50%
<b>Influenza B Vaccine Strains</b>			
<b>B/Brisbane/60/2008-like</b>	0	1	17%
<b>B/Phuket/3073/13-like</b> (Quad vaccine only)	0	5	83%

**Data Source:** Ontario and Canada Counts: Public Health Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Report, Table 8: Strain characterization completed on influenza isolates at the National Microbiology Laboratory Surveillance week 43, extracted November 8, 2017.

Provincial and national counts are reported with one week lag and do not include the most recently completed surveillance week. Surveillance weeks can be found [here](#).

<sup>†</sup> Non-vaccine match strains are not reported. Percent match is based on antigenically similar strains. As of week 43, an additional 10 specimens did not grow to sufficient hemagglutination titers for antigenic characterization, but were found to be of the same genetic group as A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-like virus through sequence analysis.



## Technical Notes

### Definitions

**Percentage positivity:** the number of positive flu cases divided by the number of specimens tested at Public Health Ontario Labs

**Reported activity level:** the level of influenza activity that is reported to Public Health Ontario by Simcoe Muskoka, based on influenza cases and outbreaks. Definitions available [here](#).

**Surveillance week:** The week number corresponding to the week of year, running Sunday to Saturday, inclusive, for reporting influenza activity. January 1 always falls within week 1. A list of the current season's surveillance weeks can be found [here](#).

### Limitations

#### Timeliness:

The provincial data are from one week previous because that is the most recent data available.

The hospital data, local counts of influenza, and outbreaks are current to date.

The number of cases listed in a given surveillance week may change as more information becomes available

#### Case-Follow-up and iPHIS Data Entry:

While Public Health Ontario only requires detailed information on every fifth case of influenza reported to SMDHU, the health unit investigates all hospitalized influenza cases in order to ensure accurate adverse outcomes and subtyping data is available.

#### Case Reporting:

Sporadic cases do not accurately describe all cases of influenza as those cases reported are skewed towards individuals more likely to seek medical care and be tested (e.g. young, elderly and immunocompromised).

## Additional Resources

### Simcoe Muskoka

- [Influenza Fact Sheet](#)
- [Influenza HealthSTATS page](#)

### Provincial

- [Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin](#)
- [Public Health Ontario Laboratory Respiratory Pathogen Surveillance Reports](#)
- [ILI Mapper](#)

**Week 43 Provincial Summary:** For the 2017-2018 surveillance season to week 43, 78 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across Ontario, 8 (10%) of which were reported in week 43. Among cumulative cases, 88.5% (69/78) were influenza A. Of the 30 reported influenza A cases with subtype information available, 73.3% (22/30) were H3N2 and 26.7% (8/30) were (H1N1)pdm09.

(Source: Public Health Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin, Surveillance Week 43, extracted November 8, 2017)

### National

- [Public Health Agency of Canada FluWatch](#)

### International Resources

- [WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System](#)