

# Weekly Influenza News

## Week 5: January 31 to February 6, 2021

### Week in Review:

Influenza Activity Indicator	Assessment of Indicator*	Interpretation
<u>Reported cases</u>	Similar	0 local lab-confirmed cases reported in <b>week 5</b> ; 0 cases reported in week 4
<u>Percent Positive of Flu Specimens<sup>†</sup></u>	Similar	Simcoe Muskoka: - flu A: 0.0%; flu B: 0.0% Ontario: - flu A: 0.0%; flu B: 0.0%
<u>Local Institutional Outbreaks</u>	Similar	No institutional flu outbreaks declared in <b>week 5</b> ; none in week 4
<u>Local Emergency Department respiratory visits: week 5</u>	Similar	Percentage of visits is <i>similar</i> compared to previous week and <i>lower</i> compared to the same period in the 2019-20 season
<b>Week 5 Overall Assessment January 31 to February 6, 2021</b>	Similar	<b>Reported Activity Level: No activity</b> 0 cases of Flu A in SMDHU this week 0 cases of Flu B in SMDHU this week
<u>Predominant Influenza Strains:</u> N/A		

**Notes:** Reported activity level is based on definitions available [here](#).

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

† Reported for week 4

## 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](#) (page 8)

**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](#) (Appendix B)

### 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 case information as provided by the laboratory report, the health unit investigates outbreak cases, as information is available, in order to provide a more accurate local picture of adverse outcomes and subtyping.

#### 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](#)
- [Viral Respiratory Mapper](#)

**Week 4 Provincial Summary:** For the 2020-2021 surveillance season to week 4, 21 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across Ontario, 2 (9%) of which were reported in week 4. Among cumulative cases, 48% (10/21) are influenza A.

(Source: Public Health Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin, Surveillance Week 4, extracted February 10, 2021)

### National

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

### International Resources

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