

December
2010

TARRANT VIRAL WATCH

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| TARRANT news | 1 |
| New research paper | 2 |

TARRANT News



Our office has moved! Please note our new address below. Phone and fax numbers have not changed.

This fall, since August 29th, Alberta ProvLab has reported 11 confirmed cases of influenza A subtype H3. To date, no influenza A subtype H1 has been seen in Alberta.

Rhinovirus has been the most prevalent circulating virus in Calgary. Since late August a total of three laboratory confirmed cases of influenza have been confirmed.

Between August 22 and Nov 13 Tarrant sentinels have reported 118 cases of influenza like illness and 259 cases of lower respiratory tract infections

New Forms!

Please switch to the **new PINK forms** for the Vaccine Effectiveness study. This year we will not be compensating for old forms as the H1N1 questions on the old forms are not relevant to our new season.

If you have not received a package with new forms and swabs please notify us immediately and we will resend the package.

TARRANT Viral Watch, Department of Family Medicine, University of Calgary
G012, Health Sciences Centre, 3330 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 4N1

403.220.2750: Karen Rivera 403.210.9258: Sandy Berzins
403.210.9261: Leah Ricketson

403.270.4329: fax tarrant@ucalgary.ca: email www.tarrantviralwatch.ca: website

Pandemic Vaccine Effectiveness Study to be Published in BMJ

TARRANT sentinels and office staff can be proud of their contribution to the latest paper on vaccine effectiveness to be published in **BMJ** entitled *Effectiveness of AS03-adjuvanted pandemic H1N1 vaccine: case-control evaluation based on the sentinel surveillance system in Canada, fall 2009* by D.M.

Skowronski *et al.* The paper assesses the value of the pandemic H1N1 vaccine during the epidemic last fall. As you remember, the vaccine became available after the epidemic started,

making assessment of the vaccine very difficult. As a result, few other groups were able to study the pH1N1 vaccine. However, because we are part of the established pan-Canadian Sentinel Network, we could produce a large enough sample size to calculate useful estimates of effectiveness..

A link to the BMJ article will be available soon on our website and the complete reference and summary will be included in the next TARRANT newsletter.

Tarrant On-line Reporting Option!

We are introducing a new online reporting method for TARRANT that will be both efficient and environmentally friendly. You will be able to access the new method of reporting through the TARRANT website (www.tarrantviralwatch.ca). We hope to have this up and running very soon.

If you are interested please fax us the form below or e-mail us. (tarrant@ucalgary.ca)

If you prefer, you can still complete and fax the paper forms.

A new research assistant, Susan Huculak, has joined the TARRANT team!



Interested in On-line Reporting for Tarrant?

If you would like to switch over to our new online reporting system, please provide us with your email address and we will set you up with an account. Fill out the form below and either fax it back to us (403-270-4329) or e-mail us at tarrant@ucalgary.ca

Name: _____

Email Address: _____