

January
2011

TARRANT VIRAL WATCH

Viral Watch Update



The pandemic strain of influenza (H1N1) arrived in Alberta in mid-December in the Banff area. Return of the pandemic strain to Canada was not surprising, as pH1N1 has been spreading through Europe.

During the first week of January, 6 patients with the pandemic H1N1 strain were seen in the Calgary zone, 2 in the Edmonton zone, and 1 patient in each of the North, Central and South zones.

Alberta's total count of lab-confirmed influenza cases this season was 150 as of January 8, 2011. One-hundred and forty-two of these were influenza A isolates, and 8 were influenza B isolates. To date, all strains of influenza A characterized by the National Microbiology Lab have been compatible with the seasonal vaccine components (H3N2 and H1N1). A small proportion of influenza B isolates characterized as B/Brisbane/60/08 have shown reduced reactivity to antiserum against this strain type.

Currently Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes are seeing a higher number of influenza cases (mainly H3N2) than Alberta or BC.

Did you know?

Sentinel physicians can claim Mainpro M2 CME credits through the Canadian College of Family Physicians. We recommend claiming 15 minutes for each week that you complete a Tarrant Viral Watch Weekly Incident Report Form. That's up to 13 M2 credits a year!

Save the Date! The TARRANT Annual General Meeting will be held on March 18, 2011 in Calgary

The main speaker at our AGM will be Dr. Gustavo Zervas from Edmonton, who is researching how droplets spread, and how they respond to meeting physical barrier such as masks (and elbows). This provides better understanding of how to control the path of droplets from the source to a recipient, and therefore how to best protect ourselves from epidemic disease.

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