



FluWatch Report: December 11 to December 17, 2016 (Week 50)

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada. [Weekly influenza reports. FluWatch summary: December 11 to December 17, 2016 \(Week 50\)](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/fluwatch-2016-2017-50-surveillance-influenza/index-eng.php). Available from: <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/fluwatch-2016-2017-50-surveillance-influenza/index-eng.php>.

Seasonal influenza activity continues to increase in Canada.

A total of 692 positive influenza detections were reported in week 50. Influenza A(H3N2) continues to be the most common subtype detected.

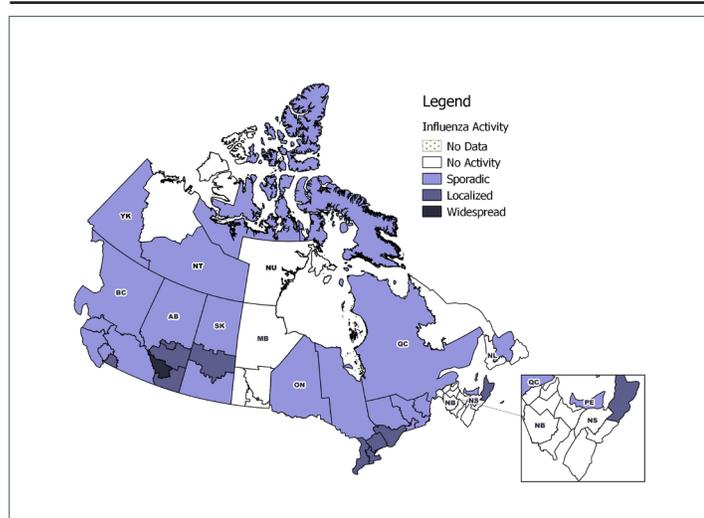
In week 50, 1.3% of visits to sentinel healthcare professionals were due to influenza-like symptoms.

Eighteen laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were reported with the majority in long-term care facilities.

There were 98 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported from participating provinces and territories; 54 (56%) were due to influenza A(H3N2).

In week 50, a total of 19 regions in Canada reported no influenza activity. Sporadic influenza activity was reported in 20 regions across 11 provinces and territories (BC, AB, SK, ON, NS, NB, PE, NF, NT, YT and NU). Localized activity was reported in eight regions across four provinces and territories (BC, AB, ON and NS).

Figure 1: Map of overall influenza/ILI activity level by province and territory, Canada, Week 50



Note: Influenza/ILI activity levels, as represented on this map, are assigned and reported by Provincial and Territorial Ministries of Health, based on laboratory confirmations, sentinel ILI rates and reported outbreaks. Please refer to detailed definitions at the end of the report. Maps from previous weeks, including any retrospective updates, are available in the mapping feature found in the [Weekly Influenza Reports](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/fluwatch-reports-rapports-surveillance-influenza-eng.php) (<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/fluwatch-reports-rapports-surveillance-influenza-eng.php>).

Human cases of West Nile virus in Canada, 2016

Source: Public Health Agency of Canada. [Surveillance of West Nile virus](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/west-nile-nil-occidental/surveillance-eng.php). Available from: <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/west-nile-nil-occidental/surveillance-eng.php>.

During the West Nile virus (WNV) season from mid-April to October, Canada conducts ongoing human case surveillance across the country. Monitoring West Nile virus nationally is a joint effort between the Government and its partners, including provincial and territorial ministries of health, First Nations authorities and blood supply agencies.

The Government relies on the provinces and territories to report the number of West Nile virus cases. To accurately reflect the annual occurrence of WNV cases in Canada, health professionals need to remain vigilant in diagnosing WNV, and reporting cases to their public health regional authorities. Case definitions can be accessed at: [National Surveillance for West Nile virus](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/west-nile-nil-occidental/surveillance-eng.php) (<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/west-nile-nil-occidental/surveillance-eng.php>).

In 2016, there were a total of 100 cases reported as of November 12, 2016. These numbers may change slightly as provincial or territorial public health organizations can sometimes retroactively identify cases. Surveillance detects only a portion of West Nile virus cases in Canada; the true number is likely greater.

West Nile virus clinical cases in Canada, reported as of November 12, 2016

Province/Territory	Total number of clinical cases
Newfoundland and Labrador	0
Prince Edward Island	1
Nova Scotia	0
New Brunswick	1
Quebec	27
Ontario	46
Manitoba	21
Saskatchewan	0
Alberta	4
British Columbia	0
Yukon	0
North West Territories	0
Nunavut	0
CANADA	100

Overall, the number of cases remain relatively low, although there has been a gradual increase over the last three years.

Cases of West Nile virus reported annually, 2006 - 2016

Year	Number of human cases
2006	151
2007	2215
2008	36
2009	13
2010	5
2011	101
2012	428
2013	115
2014	21
2015	80
2016	100