PEI Influenza Summary 2021-22 Season

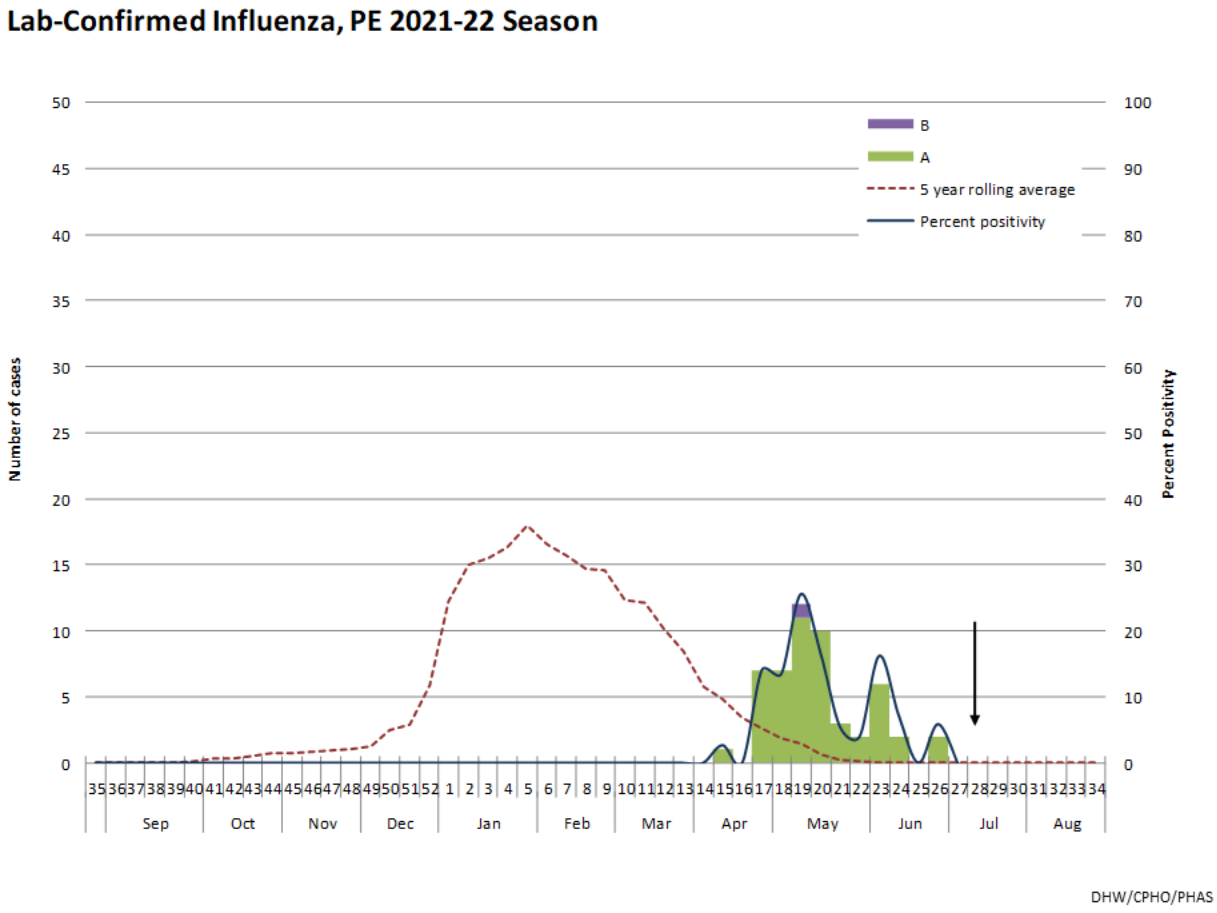
Chief Public Health Office

Summary

- Influenza A accounted for 98.1% of all lab-confirmed cases in PEI in 2021-22, while 2% were influenza B.
- Our seasonal total was 52 lab-confirmed cases (37 A/H3, 14 A/unsubtyped, and 1 B).
- The median age of cases was 10 years, with 50% being female.
- In total, there were 12 hospitalizations, including one ICU admission.
- In total, approximately 82,210 doses of influenza vaccine were distributed in PEI.

Epidemiological curve of laboratory data

PEI's late onset influenza season began with sporadic influenza activity in early April 2022, and activity remained sporadic until late-June 2022. Influenza A accounted for 98.1% of all lab-confirmed cases in PEI, while influenza B made up the remaining 1.9%. Flu activity peaked in mid-May, and overall, the 2021-22 season saw lower than average flu activity. The median age of cases was 10 years and ages ranged from <2 to 82 years. Overall, 50% of all lab-confirmed cases were diagnosed in females.



Lab-confirmed influenza tests are just an indication of greater influenza activity, as many individuals with influenza do not seek medical attention.

Positive influenza test results, cumulative 2021-22 season

Lab-confirmed cases	Cumulative 2021-22
Influenza A	51
A/H3	37
A/unsubtyped	14
Influenza B	1
Total Influenza	52

Influenza A/H3 accounted for 71.2% of all lab-confirmed cases in PEI in 2021-22. The 2021-22 season saw more lab-confirmed Influenza A cases (98.1%) than Influenza B (1.9%).

Influenza and influenza-like illness outbreaks, cumulative 2021-22 season

Respiratory Outbreaks	Cumulative 2021-22
Influenza A	0
Influenza B	0
Influenza Unspecified	0
Influenza-like Illness	0
Total Outbreaks	0

There were 0 influenza or influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks reported to the Chief Public Health Office.

Outbreaks are determined based on the FluWatch definitions.

Severe outcome surveillance

Severe Outcome	Cumulative 2021-22
Hospitalizations	12
ICU	1
Deaths	0

Hospitalization data is gathered through infection prevention and control practitioners at each Island hospital. There were 12 hospitalizations, which included 1 ICU admission during the 2021-22 influenza season. The median age of hospitalized patients was 37 years (mean: 39 years), and the range was <2 to 82 years. Two-thirds of hospitalized patients were male (66.7%). Forty-two percent (42%) of hospitalized cases were confirmed as vaccinated against flu this season, while another 58% were confirmed as not vaccinated.

The average length of stay for hospitalized patients was 4.4 days (median: 4 days), and the range was 0 to 11 days. More than nine-tenths (92%) of those in hospital were Influenza A cases, with the remaining 8% of hospitalized cases being Influenza B.

There was chronic disease information for 7 cases. Of these, all (100%) had at least one chronic condition, including hypertension (14%), diabetes (57%), respiratory conditions (i.e., asthma, COPD) (43%), or heart disease (29%).

Deaths are only reported when there is a positive influenza laboratory test, even if influenza may not have been the major contributing cause of death.

Historical influenza seasons

The predominant strain of circulating influenza changes year-to-year. The strain of influenza can impact the severity of disease, the age group(s) affected, and the number of individuals presenting themselves to the health system for care. In addition, the request for influenza testing varies season-to-season.

Influenza Season	Predominant Strain	All Cases*	Hospitalized**	ICU	Deaths
2011-12	B	53	11	0	0
2012-13	A/H3	124	54	6	1
2013-14	A/pH1N1	119	62	13	2
2014-15	A/H3 (B)	209	98	11	9
2015-16	A/pH1N1	71	39	2	1
2016-17	A/H3	208	88	11	5
2017-18	B	319	132	13	6
2018-19	A/pH1N1	280	123	12	9
2019-20	A	220	77	7	5
2020-21	-	0	-	-	-
2021-22	A/H3	52	12	1	0

*Laboratory confirmed cases. Note that clinical diagnosis of influenza takes place frequently in the community during peak season and is not confirmed with laboratory testing.
**Hospitalized counts include those admitted to ICU.