

# Alberta Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Surveillance Update

## HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SNAPSHOT July 8, 2010

This report is intended to assist health professionals with pandemic planning and care provision and is available on the Alberta Health Services website: [Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 Information for Health Professionals](#). The information and data will be reported as it becomes available on either a daily or weekly basis.

### What's New:

- No new Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases have been reported in Alberta in the last two months.
- There have been seven respiratory outbreaks reported in Alberta in the last four weeks. Three were in the Edmonton Zone, three in the Calgary Zone and one in the North Zone.
- Overall, influenza activity in Alberta and the rest of Canada remains low. Rhino-enterovirus remains the predominant isolate in Alberta. Parainfluenza appears to be increasing slightly over the last few weeks.
- According to the latest update from the WHO on July 2, the global circulation of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 is low. In the temperate Southern hemisphere, Chile and Argentina have reported only sporadic pandemic and seasonal influenza activity during the early part of winter. South Africa, New Zealand and Australia have all recently seen a slight increase in the rate of respiratory disease.
- Although South Africa recently reported their first case of confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, the predominant strain in that area is seasonal influenza A(H3N2) which is similar to the Perth-like strain (currently a component of the trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine). Transmission of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 continues to persist in areas of South and Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and West Africa. Recently, seasonal influenza H3N2 viruses have been detected at increasing levels in Nicaragua and at low or sporadic levels in Australia, Central America, South Africa and East Africa.

### Pandemic-to-Date

	Indicators	Total since start of Wave 2 <sup>*</sup>	Pandemic-to-date
<b>Mortality</b>	# deaths related to confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 <sup>2</sup>	<b>63</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	# confirmed hospitalized Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases – Alberta residents only <sup>2</sup>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>1,278</b>
<b>Laboratory Confirmed Cases</b>	# of confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases <sup>2</sup>	<b>4,843</b>	<b>6,633</b>

\* Wave 2 started October 11, 2009

<sup>2</sup> Source: Alberta Health & Wellness

## Alberta Snapshot

Indicators	Four week trend (week starting)				Total since start of Wave 2 *	
	Week 24 (June 13)	Week 25 (June 20)	Week 26 (June 27)	Current Week (July 4)		
<b>Mortality</b>	# deaths related to confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	63
<b>Laboratory Confirmed Cases</b>	# of confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases <sup>2</sup> (by date reported)	0	0	0	0	4,843
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	# confirmed hospitalized Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases – <u>Alberta residents only</u> <sup>2</sup> (by date hospitalized)	0	0	0	0	1,107
<b>Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) – in children</b>	# urgent care or emergency department visits in children (under 18 years) with ILI <sup>3</sup>	126	160	163	46	
	# children (under 18 years) with ILI admitted to hospital via the emergency department <sup>3</sup>	71	88	65	30	
<b>Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) – all ages</b>	# urgent care or emergency department visits seen with ILI <sup>3</sup>	4	7	7	3	
	# people with ILI admitted to hospital via the emergency department <sup>3</sup>	10	14	8	7	
<b>Outbreaks</b>	# cough related calls answered by Health Link <sup>3</sup>	169	184	185	60	
	# outbreaks related to <u>confirmed</u> Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 <sup>4</sup>	9	8	12	4	
	# of respiratory outbreaks - all <sup>4</sup>	18	22	16	8	
		287	271	227	80	
		0	0	0	0	37
		1	1	3	2	1,089

Indicators	2010 Monthly trend						Total since Jan 1/10		
	Jan/10	Feb/10	Mar/10	Apr/10	May/10	June/10			
<b>Mortality</b>	# deaths related to confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Laboratory Confirmed Cases</b>	# of confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases <sup>2</sup> (by date reported)	3	3	0	2	1	0	9	
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	# confirmed hospitalized Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 cases – <u>Alberta residents only</u> <sup>2</sup> (by date hospitalized)	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	
<b>Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) – in children</b>	# urgent care or emergency department visits in children (under 18 years) with ILI <sup>3</sup>	Calgary:	853	1,273	1,412	963	881	695	6,077
		Edmonton:	648	958	1,004	641	464	375	4,090
	# children (under 18 years) with ILI admitted to hospital via the emergency department <sup>3</sup>	Calgary:	54	95	113	51	48	28	389
		Edmonton:	46	82	99	65	50	52	394
<b>Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) – all ages</b>	# urgent care or emergency department visits seen with ILI <sup>3</sup>	Calgary:	1,413	1,707	1,834	1,232	1,059	819	8,064
		Edmonton:	1,293	1,445	1,605	1,049	715	583	6,690
	# people with ILI admitted to hospital via the emergency department <sup>3</sup>	Calgary:	120	157	169	88	70	43	647
		Edmonton:	140	185	215	153	102	91	886
	# cough related calls answered by Health Link <sup>3</sup>		2,206	2,693	2,740	1,677	1,308	1,170	11,794
<b>Outbreaks</b>	# outbreaks related to <u>confirmed</u> Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 <sup>4</sup>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	# of respiratory outbreaks - all <sup>4</sup>		7	3	13	12	11	7	53

<sup>1</sup> Wave 2 started October 11, 2009

<sup>2</sup> Source: Alberta Health & Wellness

<sup>3</sup> Source: Alberta Real Time Syndromic Surveillance Net (ARTSSN) (2400hr, July 6, 2010)

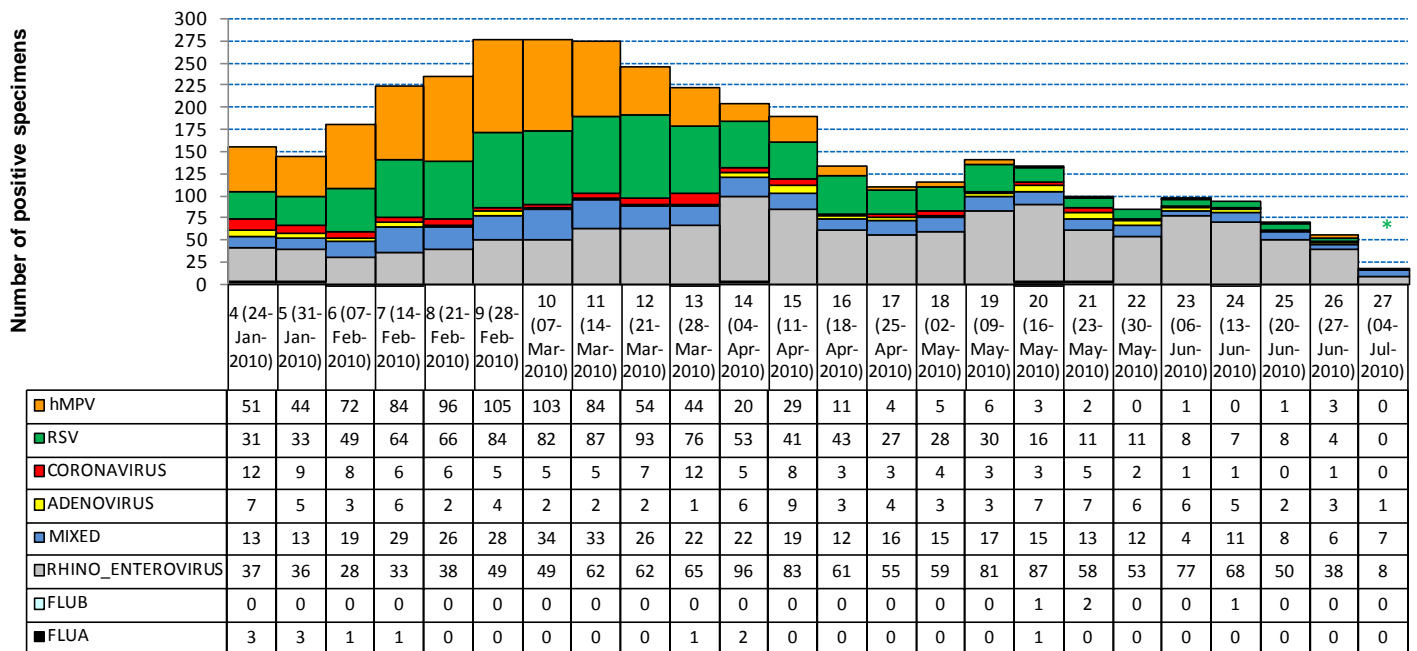
<sup>4</sup> Source: Alberta Health Services Fillable PDF forms from All Zones

-- information not available ; ILI = Influenza-Like Illness

## Laboratory Confirmed Specimens

Information on the respiratory virus activity in Alberta is based on laboratory specimens submitted and tested at the Alberta Health Services Provincial Laboratory. The specimens reported are from residents of Alberta; according to the date the specimen was received by the laboratory.

### Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Alberta



#### Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

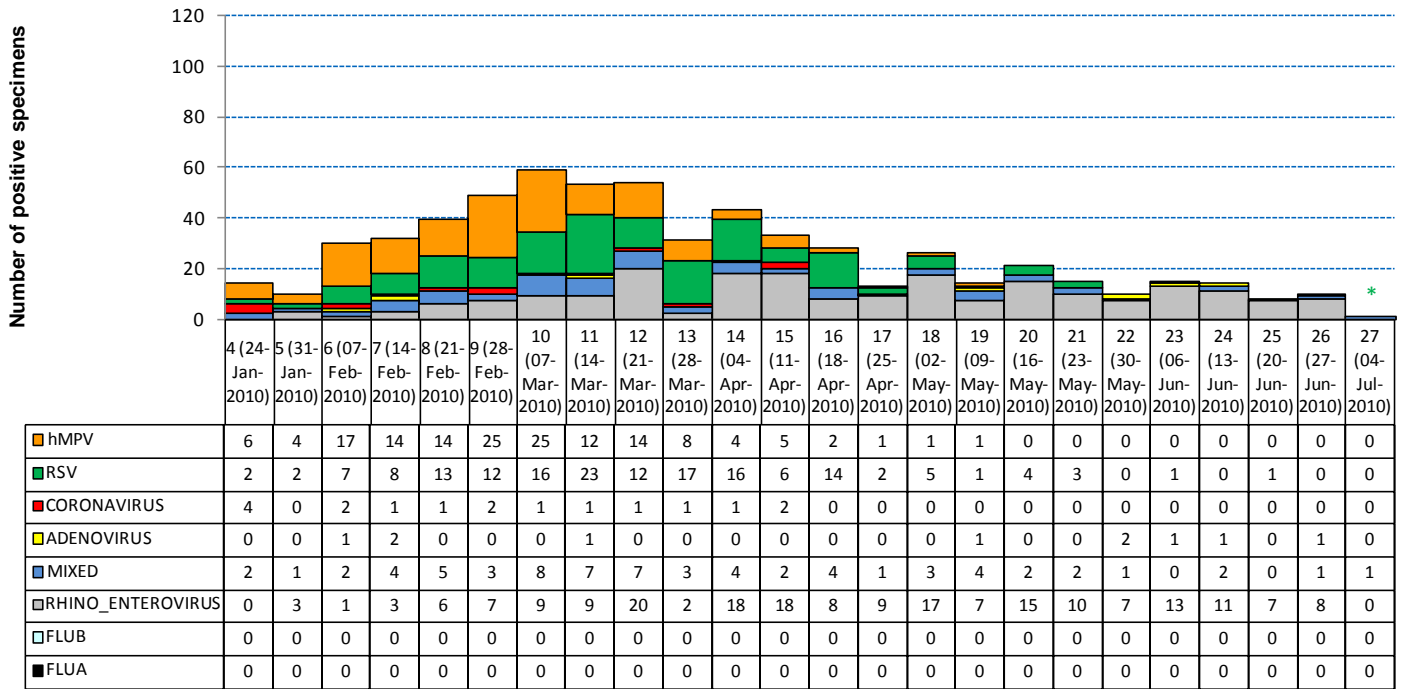
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on July 6, 2010

\* This week contains only 3 days of data.

There may be delays in receiving reports so data are preliminary and may change.

Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations

**Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, North Zone**



**Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)**

Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on July 6, 2010

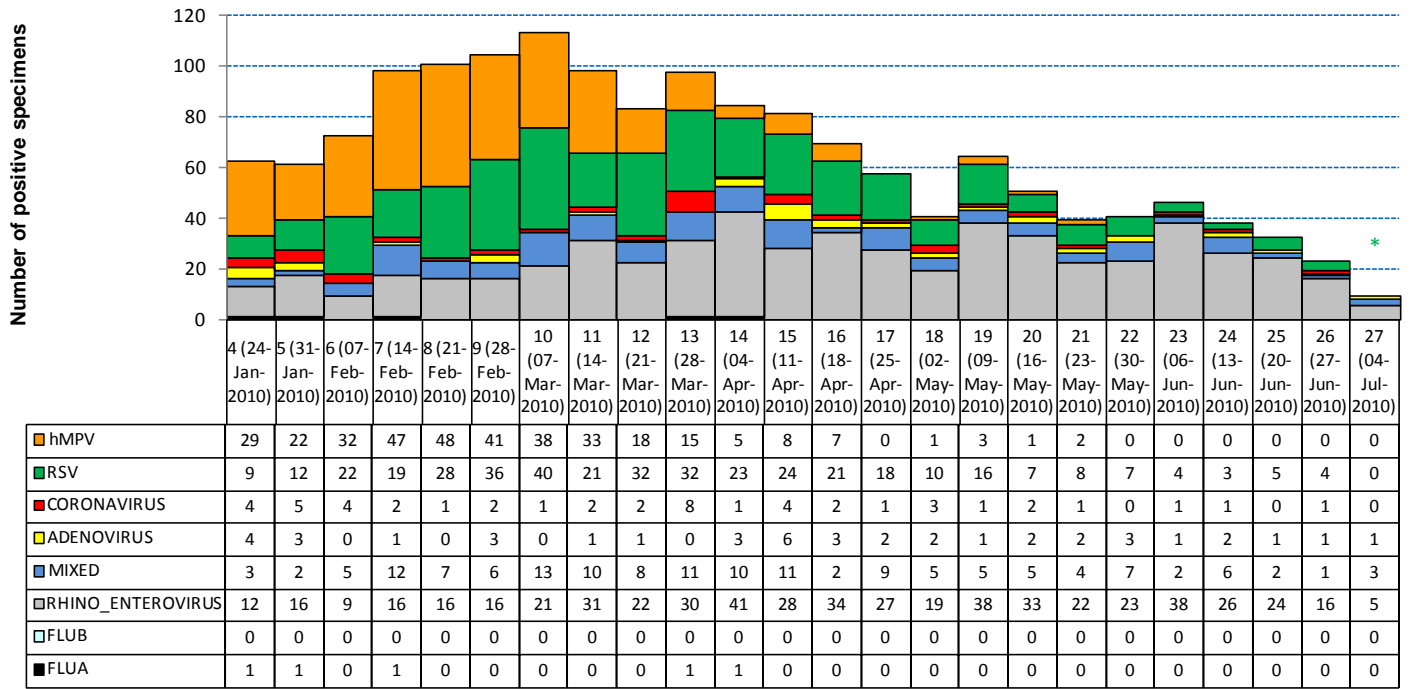
\*This week contains only 3 days of data.

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Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations

Back to first page? [Click Here](#)

**Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Edmonton Zone**



**Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)**

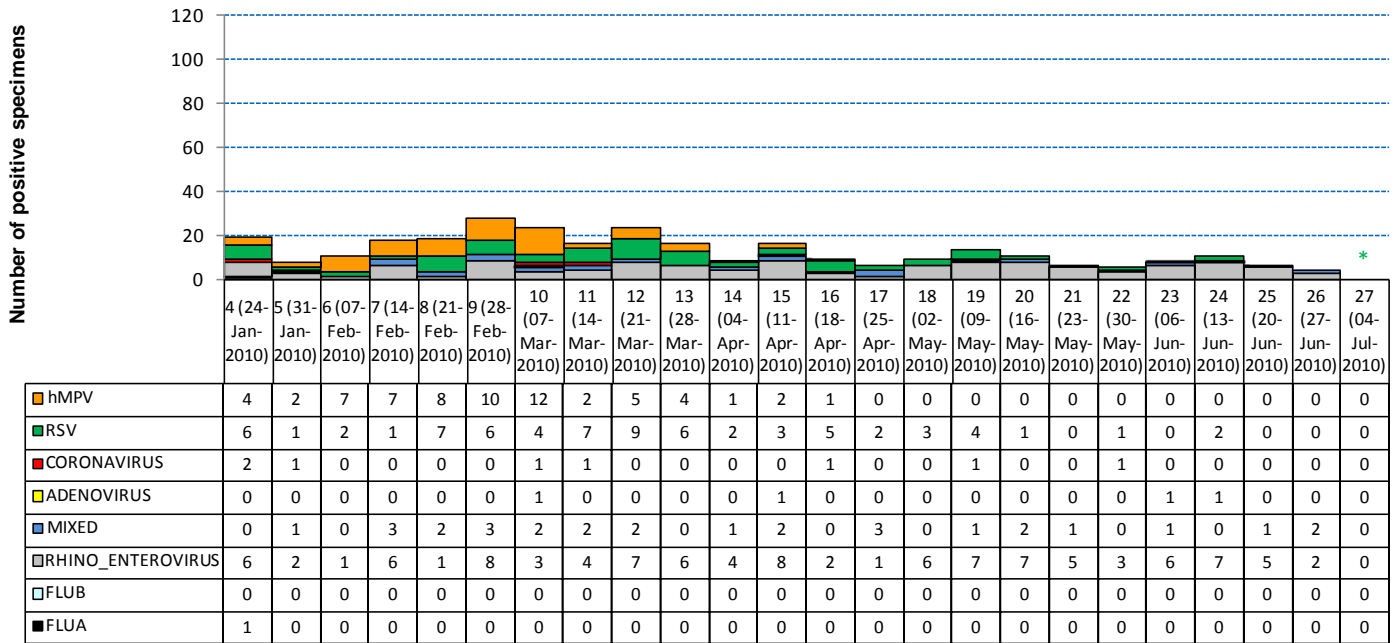
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on July 6, 2010

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Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations

### Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Central Zone



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

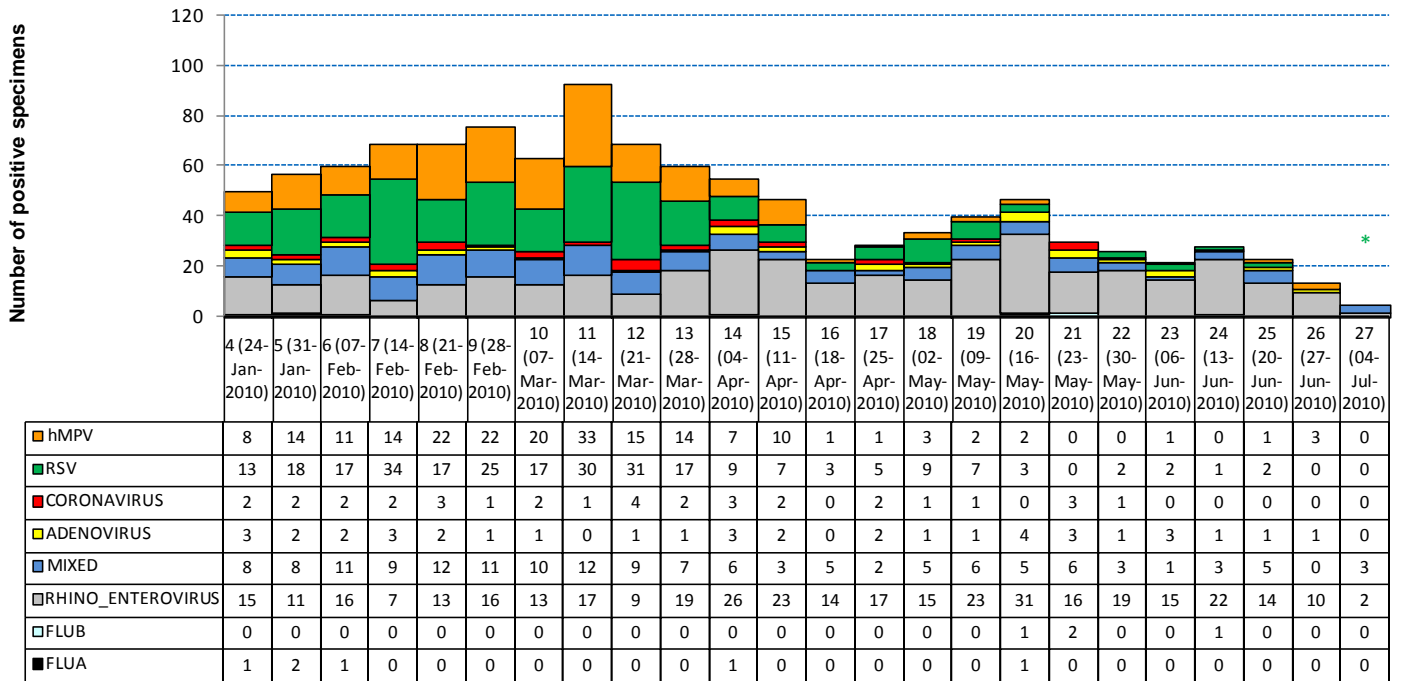
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on July 6, 2010

\*This week contains only 3 days of data.

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Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations

**Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, Calgary Zone**



**Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)**

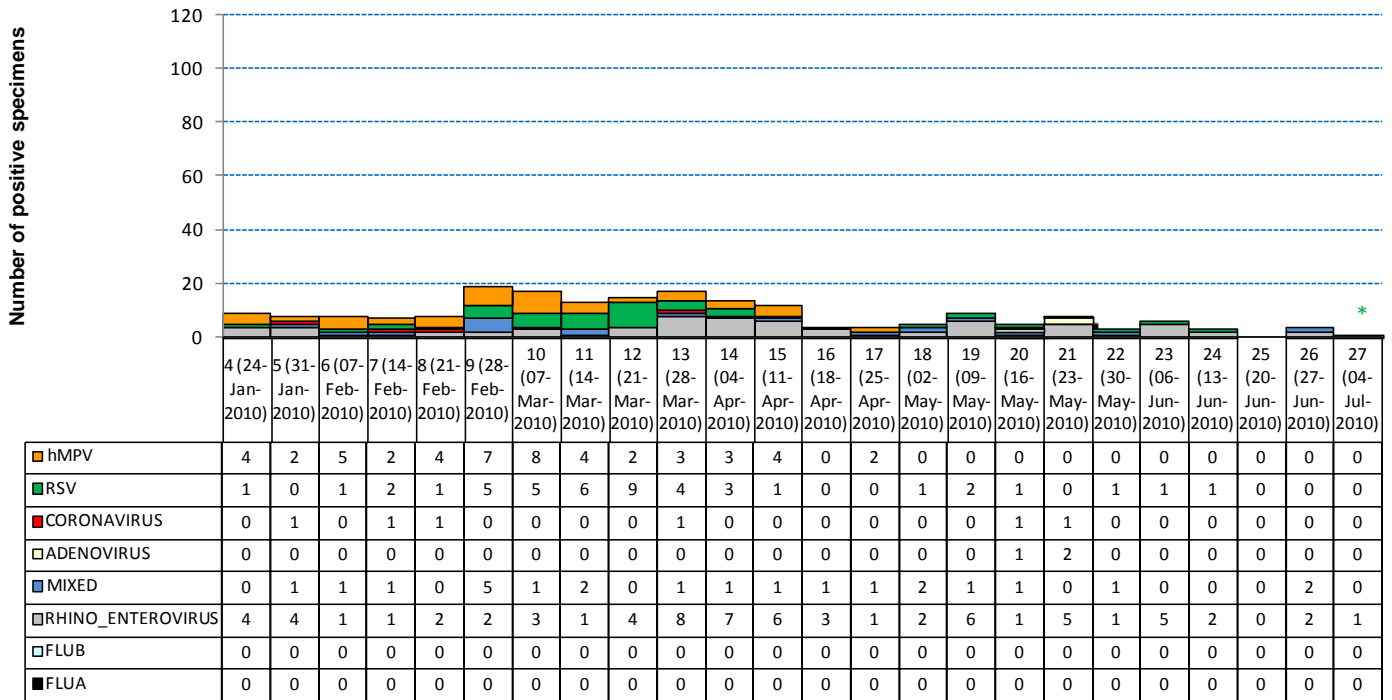
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on July 6, 2010

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Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations

### Confirmed Respiratory Viruses Specimens, by week, South Zone



Influenza Week specimens received (week start date)

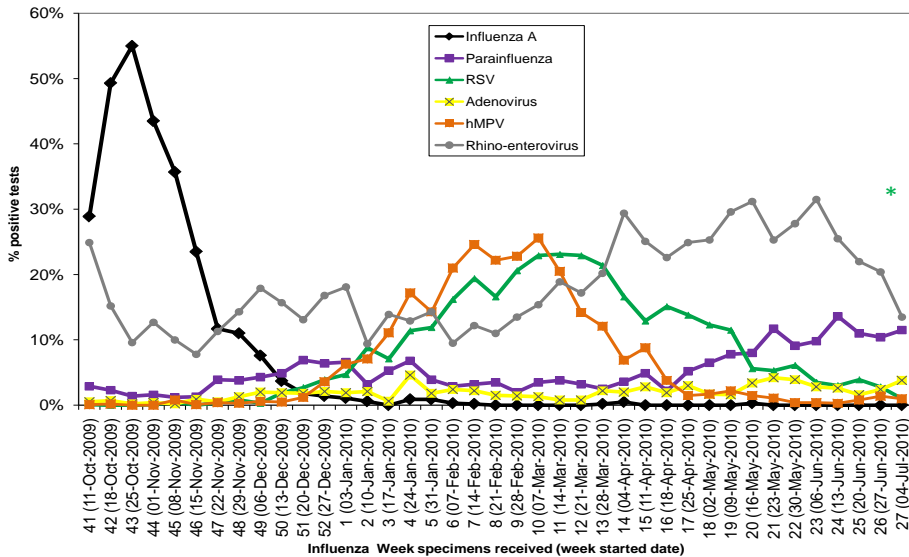
Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on July 6, 2010

\*This week contains only 3 days of data.

There may be delays in receiving reports so data are preliminary and may change.

Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations

**Percent Positives of Respiratory Viruses, by virus type, by week, Alberta**



Source: Alberta Provincial Laboratory, DIAL System as of 2400 on July 6, 2010

Note: Graph denotes the proportion (%) of positive specimens of the specimens tested for that particular respiratory virus of interest (e.g. RSV positives/all samples tested for RSV)

\* This week contains only 3 days of data

There may be delays in receiving reports so data are preliminary and may change.

Confirmed Respiratory Specimens include specimens from Acute Care, Emergency Department, and Hospitalizations

Source: Data Integration for Alberta Laboratories (DIAL) System, Provincial Laboratory  
There may be delays in receiving reports so data is preliminary and may change.

On October 26, 2009, due to high volumes, the Provincial Laboratory (ProvLab) restricted testing to provide DFA (Direct fluorescent antibody test) only for samples from hospitalized patients and outbreaks in long-term-care facilities. Respiratory virus panel (RVP) was only performed on specimens tested negative for influenza A from hospitalized patients, outbreaks, a random 5% of community samples, and samples from Tarrant Viral Watch Program. Despite this ALERT and implementation of NEW Pandemic requisition on October 26<sup>th</sup>, sample volumes continue to escalate.

On October 28, 2009, another Pandemic Alert was issued requesting ALL health providers to stop testing patients with mild illness in the community. ProvLab implemented the no-testing of “community” patients effective October 30<sup>th</sup>, allowing for a 24-hour transition period from the time of the ALERT. On Dec 10, 2009 the laboratory resumed community testing. Of note, over 50% of samples submitted to ProvLab for respiratory virus testing have been tested as positive for Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

Due to the high volumes of specimens being submitted to the Provincial Laboratory, testing is not required for mild cases of influenza-like illness. [Current swabbing guidelines for community physicians](#) are available on the Health Care Professional Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 website.