



Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control

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Health Advisory Respiratory Virus Surveillance Summary October 13, 2010

Surveillance Summary

The last three weeks have marked the return of the cold season, as emergency departments in the Philadelphia area identified increases of respiratory-related visits during this time period. Clinical laboratories have confirmed this observation, with increasing detections of rhinoviruses in respiratory specimens (Figure). Rhinovirus infection is an important trigger of asthma exacerbation, a condition that can lead to hospitalization.

In addition to rhinoviruses, adenoviruses and parainfluenza viruses are also circulating at low levels. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza activity appears to be minimal, as only a handful of cases have been identified to date.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) will provide updates on influenza activity in the form of a weekly influenza surveillance report posted on the Health Information Portal (<https://hip.phila.gov>).

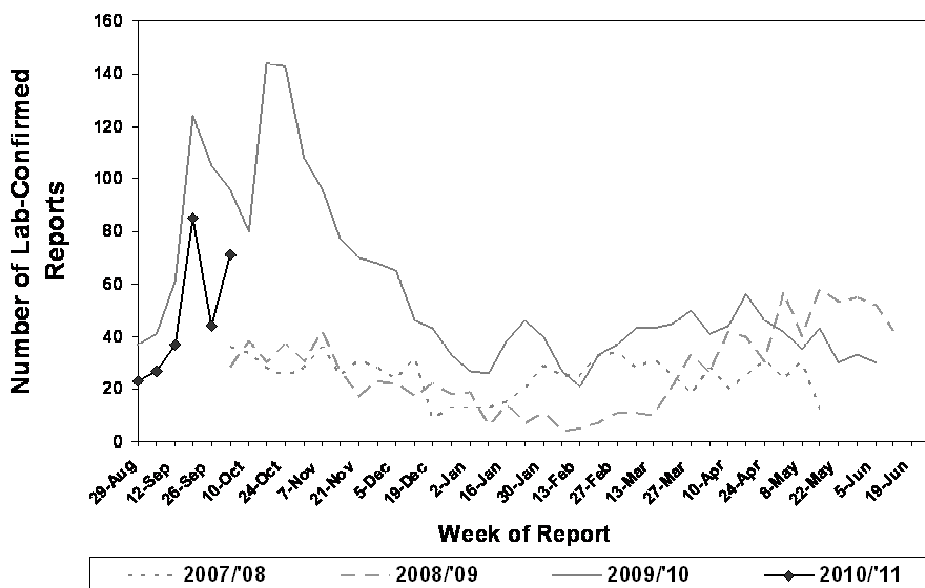
Reporting Requirements for Influenza

PDPH requests that healthcare providers and infection control practitioners report the following influenza cases to the health department using the attached report form for the 2010-2011 season:

- Hospitalized persons with laboratory-confirmed (including positive rapid tests) or suspected influenza
- Fatal cases of laboratory-confirmed (including positive rapid tests) or suspected influenza
- Outbreaks of influenza in a facility, school, childcare center, shelter, or other setting that requires special containment measures

Note that case reports of influenza in pregnant women are no longer required, unless meeting the criteria above. Cases can be reported via fax to 215-238-6947. A fillable PDF version of the case report form can be found at <https://hip.phila.gov>. Outbreaks can be reported by calling 215-685-6748. Infection control, laboratory testing, and antiviral guidance for influenza, will be provided later in the season.

Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Rhinovirus:
Philadelphia Counts for 2007/2008 - 2010/2011
Seasons



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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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