

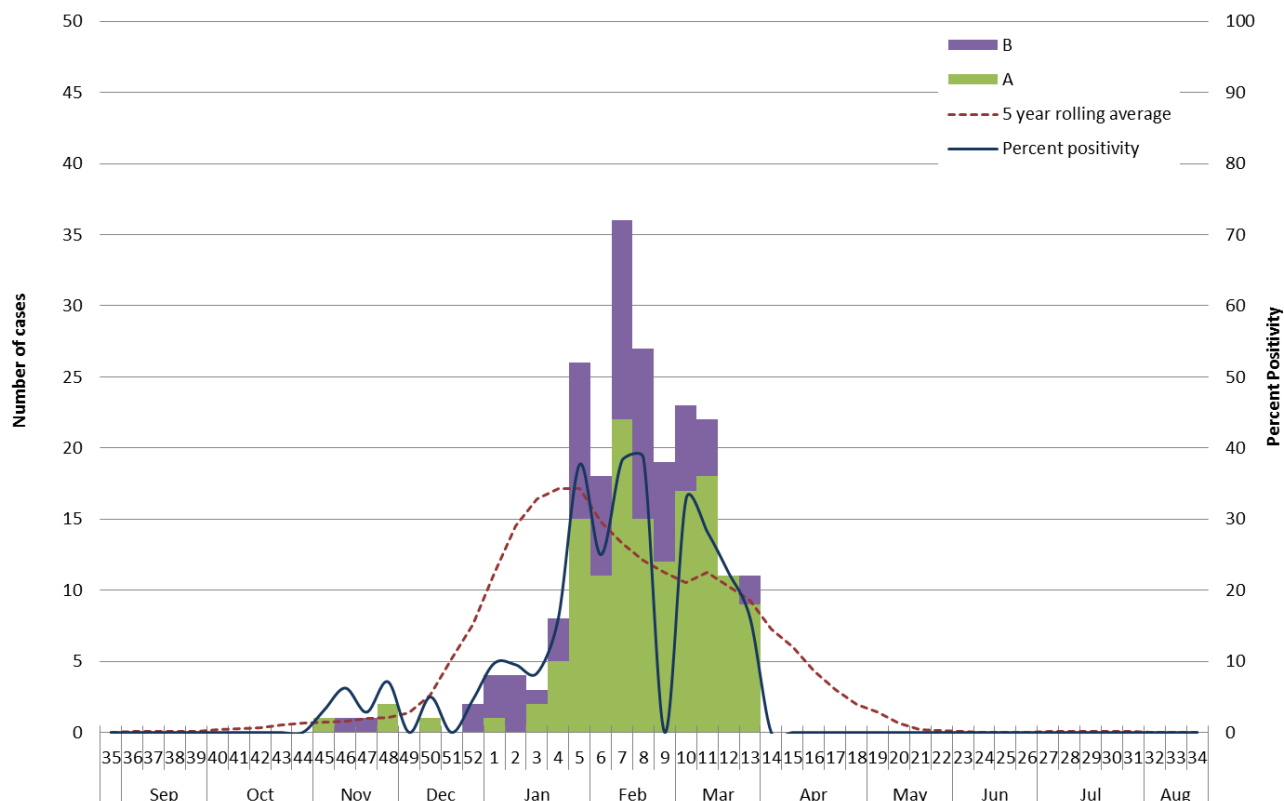
Summary

- Influenza A accounted for 64.5% of all lab-confirmed cases in PEI in 2019-20, while 35.5 % were influenza B.
- Our seasonal total was 220 lab-confirmed cases (142 A and 78 B).
- The median age of cases was 30 years, with 53% being female.
- In total, there were 77 hospitalizations, including 7 ICU admissions.
- In total, approximately 65,800 doses of influenza vaccine were distributed in PEI.

Epidemiological curve of laboratory data

Sporadic influenza activity in PEI started in early November, and activity continued throughout the season. Influenza A accounted for 64.5% of all lab-confirmed cases in PEI, while influenza B made up the remaining 35.5%. Flu activity peaked in mid-February, and overall, the 2019-20 season saw average flu activity. The median age of cases was 30 years and ages ranged from <1 to 98 years. Overall, 53% of all lab-confirmed cases were diagnosed in females. Flu activity ended abruptly at the end March. This may be attributed to physical distancing and other public health measures put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sporadic cases of influenza may occur at any time during the year.

Lab-Confirmed Influenza, PE 2019-20 Season



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 2019-20 season

Lab-confirmed cases	Cumulative 2019-20
Influenza A	142
Influenza B	78
Total Influenza	220

Influenza A accounted for 64.5% of all lab-confirmed cases in PEI in 2019-20, while influenza B made up the remaining 35.5%. Sub-typing of influenza cases was not recorded.

Influenza and influenza-like illness outbreaks, cumulative 2019-20 season

Respiratory Outbreaks	Cumulative 2019-20
Influenza A	4
Influenza B	1
Influenza Unspecified	1
Influenza-like Illness	1
Total Outbreaks	7

There were 7 influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks reported to the Chief Public Health Office. Of the outbreaks, 4 were Influenza A, 1 was influenza B, 1 was unspecified and 1 was ILI. The outbreaks occurred in February and March, and occurred in schools/daycares (2), hospitals (1), and community care facilities (4).

Outbreaks are determined based on the [FluWatch](#) definitions.

Severe outcome surveillance

Severe Outcome	Cumulative 2019-20
Hospitalizations	77
ICU	7
Deaths	5

Hospitalization data is gathered through infection prevention and control practitioners at each Island hospital. There were 77 hospitalizations, which included 7 ICU admissions during the 2019-20 influenza season. The median age of hospitalized patients was 67 years (mean: 57 years), and the range was <1 to 98 years. Just over half of hospitalized patients were female (51%). Forty-five percent (45%) of hospitalized cases were confirmed as vaccinated against flu this

season, while another forty percent (40%) were confirmed as not vaccinated. The remainder of cases had unknown vaccine status.

The average length of stay for hospitalized patients was 6 days (median: 4 days), and the range was 1 to 60 days with one case still hospitalized. More than three-quarters (82%) of those in hospital were Influenza A cases, with the remaining 18% of hospitalized cases being Influenza B.

There was chronic disease information for 56 cases. Of these, approximately 75% had at least one chronic condition, including hypertension (9%), diabetes (22%), respiratory conditions (i.e., asthma, COPD) (39%), heart disease (39%), or cancer (4%).

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

*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.