



FLU FAST FACTS

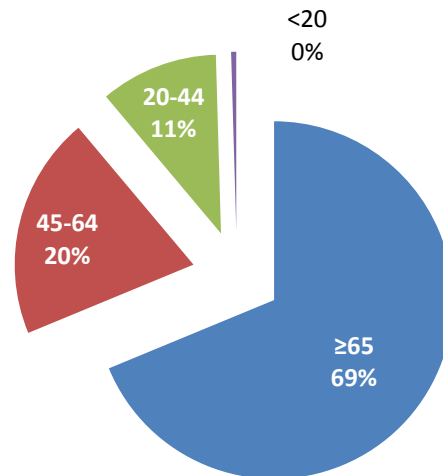
[From Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

WHAT IS THE FLU?

The medical name for the Flu is Influenza and it is a respiratory infection caused by influenza A and B viruses. In Canada it generally occurs each year in the late fall and winter months. Symptoms typically include the sudden onset of headache, chills, cough, fever, loss of appetite, muscle aches and fatigue, runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes and throat irritation. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may also occur, especially in children.

Most people will recover within a week or ten days, but some - including those 65 years of age and older and adults and children with chronic conditions - are at greater risk of more severe complications, such as pneumonia.

Age of FLU related adult hospitalizations



HOW OFTEN IS THE FLU FATAL?

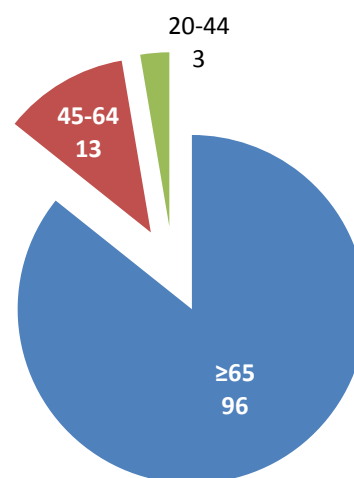
From November 4, 2012 to April 20, 2013, 1,735 influenza-associated adult hospitalizations were reported by the Influenza Research Network (PCIRN) Serious Outcomes Surveillance (SOS) network across Canada.

Of these, 1,193 (68.8%) were ≥65 years of age, 349 (20.1%) were 45-64 years, 185 (10.7%) were 20-44 years, and 8 (0.5%) were <20 years of age.

ICU admission was required for 201 hospitalizations; the majority of which were adults ≥65 years of age (121; 60.2%).

A total of 112 deaths were reported: More than 85% of the deaths (96/112) were in adults ≥65 years of age, 13 (11.6%) were adults 45-64 years of age, and 3 (2.7%) were 20-44 years of age.

Deaths from FLU by age

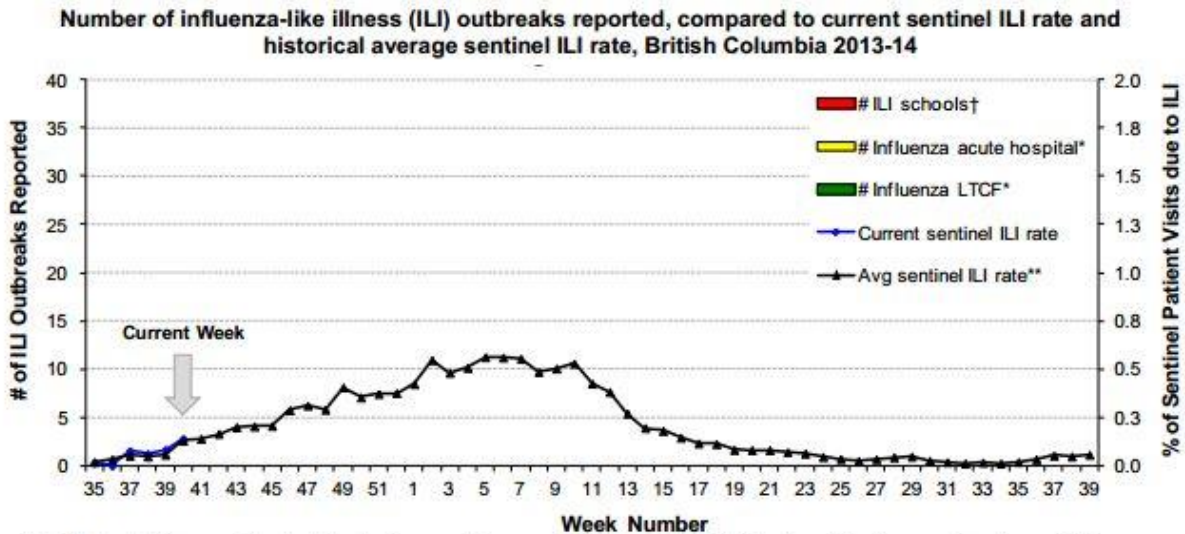


HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THE FLU IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES?

In 2012 / 2013 there were 1078 outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness (ILI) reported across Canada, of which the majority were in long-term care facilities (61.1% or 659/1078).

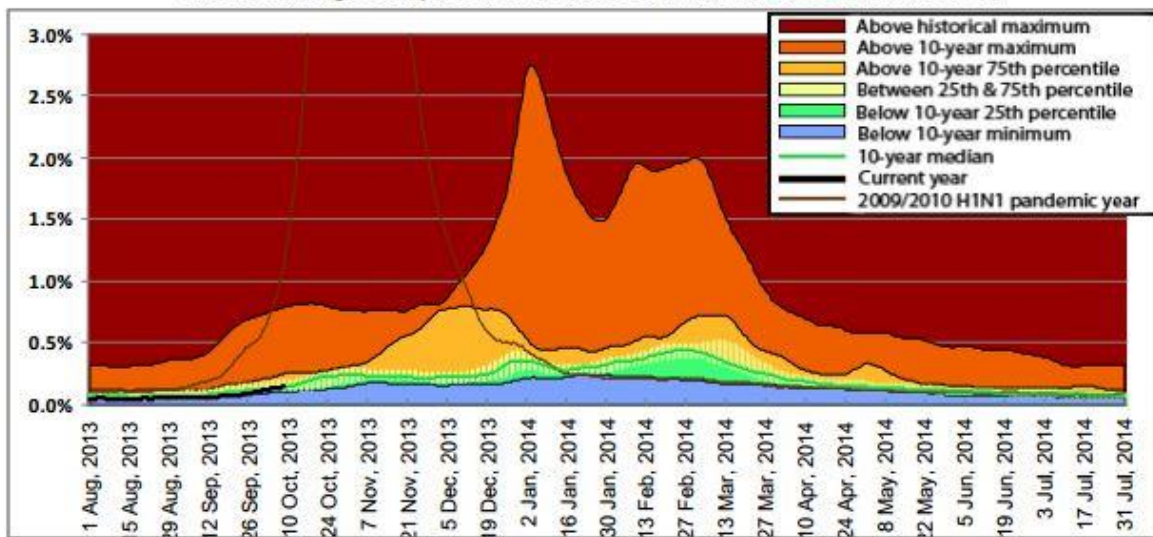
WHEN DOES FLU SEASON PEAK?

[From British Columbia Influenza Surveillance Bulletin](#)



* Facility-based influenza outbreaks defined as 2 or more ILI cases within 7-day period, with at least one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza.
 † School-based ILI outbreak defined as >10% absenteeism on any day, most likely due to ILI.
 ** Historical values exclude 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons due to atypical seasonality.

Service claims submitted to MSP for influenza illness (II)* as a proportion of all submitted general practitioner service claims, British Columbia, 2013-14



* Influenza illness is tracked as the percentage of all submitted MSP general practitioner claims with ICD-9 code 487 (influenza). Data provided by Population Health Surveillance and Epidemiology, BC Ministry of Health Services
Note: MSP week beginning 1 August 2013 corresponds to sentinel ILI week 31; Data current to 8 October 2013.