

Help us help you!

Why volunteer?

As we plan for another busy influenza season, your participation in this project will contribute to our understanding of influenza-like-illness (ILI)* activity in the Region of Peel.

The data you provide will be critical for monitoring the impact of influenza and other respiratory viruses in our community. It will also assist in guiding prevention and control activities.



Use this exciting opportunity to earn **Mainpro-M2 credits!** Earn 1 credit for every hour participated (approximately 4 submissions).

Help us help you...become a sentinel physician today!

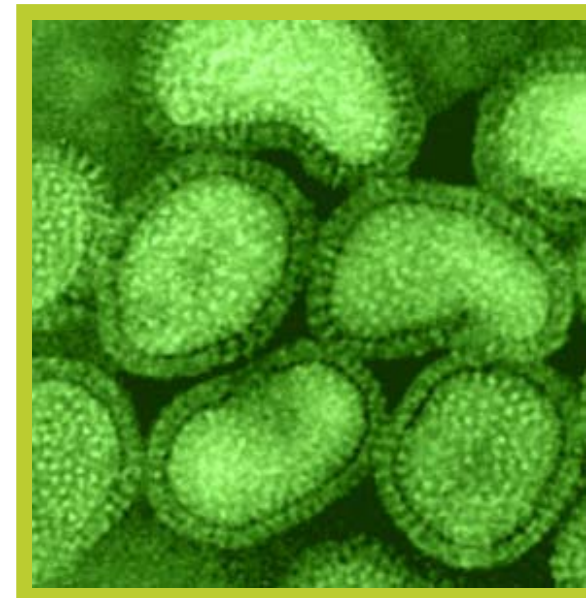
*ILI is the acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following - sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia, or prostration which could be due to influenza virus. In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5 or those 65 and older, fever may not be prominent (Public Health Agency of Canada).

“Influenza is something unique. It behaves epidemiologically in a way different from that of any other known infection.”

~Sir Christopher Howard Andrewes

Communicable Disease Surveillance, Region of Peel

Email: ZZG-PeelSurveillance@peelregion.ca
Tel: 905-791-7800 ext. 2884



Sentinel Physicians Influenza Surveillance System

Call for Physician Participation

 **Region of Peel**
Working for you
Public Health

Join Peel's Sentinel Influenza Surveillance System!

What is a sentinel physician?

A sentinel physician conducts surveillance of influenza-like-illness (ILI) in collaboration with Peel Public Health. Sentinel physicians are volunteers. The data they provide to Peel contributes to the picture of local ILI activity.

Please note that the Peel Sentinel System is separate from the Federal Sentinel System collecting FluWatch data. Physicians may be part of one or both systems.

Who can be a sentinel physician?

Physicians of any specialty (e.g. family physicians, pediatricians) in any type of practice (e.g. private practice, family clinic, walk-in clinic) are eligible to participate.

What data do sentinel physicians report?

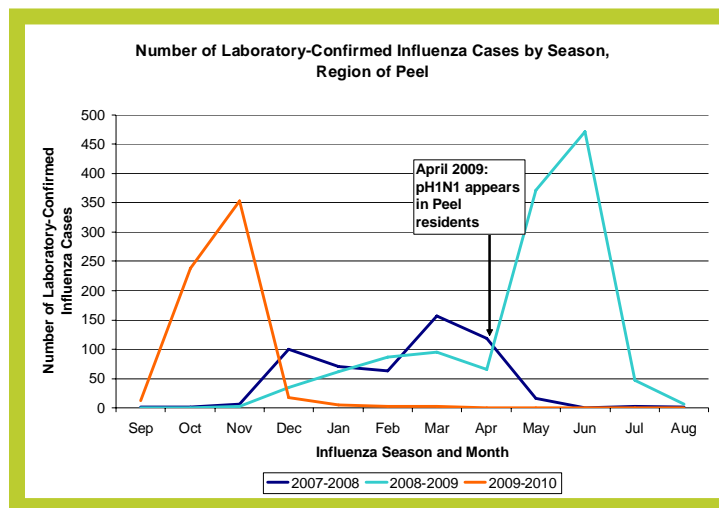
One-time report of:

- Average number of patients seen in an 8-hour day in your office practice;
- Estimated proportion (%) of patients that you see during the peak influenza season (February/March) that present with ILI.

Once a week on a day of your choosing[†], reporting of:

- Total number of all consultations;
- Number of ILI consultations by age group (i.e. 0-4 yrs, 5-19 yrs, 20-54 yrs, 55+ yrs);
- Number of nasopharyngeal swabs.

[†] Based on a Sunday-to-Saturday reporting period. Days with greater proportion of walk-in clients are preferred.



How are the data collected?

Data are collected through our website: <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/professionals/sentinel>

One-time reports are communicated directly to the Communicable Disease Surveillance Team.

The role of Peel Public Health.

Data provided by the sentinel physicians will be combined with other influenza surveillance data (such as hospitalized cases and mortality) to identify and monitor changes in influenza epidemiology. Combined with other data, a surge in ILI consultations may indicate the need for public health measures.

Sentinel physicians can receive feedback on the data submitted as well as summaries of regional and provincial influenza data through regular surveillance reports produced by Peel Public Health.

“Knowledge is our best defense.”

How to Volunteer

Contact Peel Public Health Today!

Peel's Communicable Disease Surveillance team is currently accepting new sentinel physicians! To participate, please contact them at ZZG-PeelSurveillance@peelregion.ca or 905-791-7800 ext. 2884

Please have the following information ready:

- The name(s) of the physician(s) who would like to participate;
- The clinic/office name and address;
- A contact phone number where the physician(s) can be reached;
- An email address (if wishing to receive regular influenza reports);
- Specialty information & practice type;
- Average number of patients seen in a regular 8-hour day;
- Estimated proportion (%) of patients with ILI during peak influenza season (February/March).

The team will then set up a username and password for the physician(s) and send a Welcome Package complete with login information and data entry instructions.

We look forward to working with you!