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NEWS STORIES:

- ▾ Influenza B activity and outbreaks of influenza-like illness in England and Wales
- ▾ *Erratum:* Transposition of graphs in PDF issue in *HIV Drug Resistance in the United Kingdom: data to end of 2004*, Vol 16 no. 4, 26 January 2006

INFECTION REPORTS

Respiratory:

- ▾ Laboratory reports of respiratory infections made to the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections from HPA and NHS laboratories in England and Wales: weeks 01-04/06

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News

Last updated: **2 February 2006**, Volume 16, No. 5

Next update due: **9 February 2006**

▾ **Influenza B activity and outbreaks of influenza-like illness in England and Wales**

▾ **Erratum:** Transposition of graphs in PDF issue in *HIV Drug Resistance in the United Kingdom: data to end of 2004*, Vol 16 no. 4, 26 January 2006

▾ **Influenza B activity and outbreaks of influenza-like illness in England and Wales**

Reports of outbreaks of influenza-like illness in approximately 60 schools and colleges throughout England and Wales have been received by the Centre for Infections over the last two weeks. Most of the reports relate to outbreaks beginning from mid-January 2006, but a small number of reports of outbreaks were received in December 2005.

Illness in the majority of cases includes typical 'flu-like symptoms of fever, headache and sore throat with a small number of cases experiencing either diarrhoea or vomiting or both. The illness is generally mild and lasts between two and seven days. The attack rate in school outbreaks is about 25% with a range of 3% to 50%.

Influenza B virus infection has been identified from cases in outbreaks where results of virological investigations are available. In addition, influenza B has been isolated from samples taken from patients with influenza-like illness in the community. The strain (B/Hong Kong/330/2001-like) has drifted from that seen in recent years and from that seen in the vaccine. It is, however, likely to be close enough to the vaccine strain for immunisation to provide worthwhile protection.

Despite the wide circulation of influenza B viruses, overall consultation rates with general practitioners remain at low levels but slightly higher levels are being seen in the 5 to 14 years age group. This is likely to reflect the generally mild illness and the fact that, in most cases, consultation with healthcare professionals is not needed.

Further information can be found in the HPA Weekly National Influenza Report on the HPA website at <http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/seasonal/activity0506/flureport.htm>

▾ **Erratum:** Transposition of graphs in PDF issue in *HIV Drug Resistance in the United Kingdom: data to end of 2004*, Vol 16 no. 5, 26 January 2006

Figures 1 and 3 and 2 and 4 respectively were transposed incorrectly in the original PDF issue of the infection report *HIV Drug Resistance in the United Kingdom: data to end of 2004*, Volume 16 number 4, 26 January 2006. The content on the HTML version, however, was published correctly in the first instance. This error has now been corrected and the PDF file has now been re-published: <<http://www.hpa.org.uk/cdr/archives/2006/cdr0406.pdf>>.

Respiratory

Last updated: **2 February 2006**, Volume 16, No. 5

Next update due: **2 March 2006**

Respiratory Routine Data Reports

[Laboratory reports of respiratory infections made to the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections from HPA and NHS laboratories in England and Wales: weeks 01-04/06](#)

Laboratory reports of respiratory infections made to the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections from HPA and NHS laboratories in England and Wales: weeks 01-04/06

Table 1 Reports of influenza infection made to HPA Centre for Infections, by week of report: weeks 01-04/2006

Week	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
Week ending	08/01/06	15/01/06	22/01/06	29/01/06	
Influenza A	11	13	3	8	35
Isolation	–	1	1	–	2
DIF*	1	2	1	1	5
Four-fold rise in paired sera	–	–	–	–	–
PCR	–	–	1	–	1
Other†	10	10	–	7	27
Influenza B	7	15	8	19	49
Isolation	2	6	2	2	12
DIF*	1	3	5	7	16
Four-fold rise in paired sera	–	–	–	–	–
PCR	1	–	1	1	3
Other†	3	6	–	9	18
Influenza (untyped)	–	–	–	–	–
Isolation	–	–	–	–	–
DIF*	–	–	–	–	–
Four-fold rise in paired sera	–	–	–	–	–
PCR	–	–	–	–	–
Other†	–	–	–	–	–

Table 2 Respiratory viral detections by any method (culture, direct immunofluorescence, PCR, four-fold rise in paired sera, single high serology titre, genomic, electron microscopy, other method, other method unknown), by week of report: weeks 01-04/2006

Week	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
Week ending	08/01/06	15/01/06	22/01/06	29/01/06	
Adenovirus*	16	14	23	6	59
Coronavirus	–	–	–	–	–
Parainfluenza†	17	9	6	5	37
Rhinovirus	5	1	4	1	11
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)‡	686	673	408	374	2141

*Respiratory samples only. Excludes diagnoses made by electron microscopy (EM).

†Includes parainfluenza types 1, 2, 3, 4, and untyped.

‡ Excludes diagnosis made by electron microscopy (EM).

Table 3 Respiratory viral detections by age group: weeks 01-04/2006

Age group (years)	<1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-44 years	45-64 years	≥65 years	Unknown	Total
Adenovirus*	9	10	2	25	9	4	–	59
Coronavirus	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Influenza A	3	2	8	10	8	4	–	35
Influenza B	4	12	12	14	4	3	–	49
Parainfluenza†	10	8	5	5	7	2	–	37
Rhinovirus	9	–	–	2	–	–	–	11
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)‡	1822	208	13	30	30	22	16	2141

*Respiratory samples only.

†includes parainfluenza types 1, 2, 3, 4, and untyped.

‡ Excludes diagnoses made by electron microscopy (EM).

Table 4 Laboratory reports of infections associated with atypical pneumonia, by week of report: weeks 01-04/2006

Week	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
Week ending	08/01/06	15/01/06	22/01/06	29/01/06	
<i>Coxiella burnettii</i>	–	–	–	1	1
Respiratory <i>Chlamydia</i> sp*	2	1	1	2	6
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	28	27	20	36	111
<i>Legionella</i> sp	4	4	5	3	16

*Includes *Chlamydia psittaci*, *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, and *Chlamydia* sp detected from blood, serum, and respiratory specimens.

Table 5a Reports of legionnaires' disease (pneumonic and non-pneumonic*) cases in England and Wales, by week of report: weeks 01-04/2006

Week	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total
Week ending	08/01/06	15/01/06	22/01/06	29/01/06	
Nosocomial	–	–	–	–	–
Community	2	2	2	3	9
Travel abroad	2	2	2	–	6
Travel UK	–	–	1	–	1
Total	4	4	5	3	16
Male	3	2	3	2	10
Female	1	2	2	1	6

*Including case who travelled both abroad and to UK.

Sixteen cases were reported with pneumonia: ten males aged between 38 and 73 years, six females aged between 47 and 73 years. Nine cases had community-acquired infection. There were no deaths. There were no outbreaks.

Seven cases were travel associated: Italy (4) , England (1), France (1), and United States (1).

Table 5b Reports of Legionnaires' disease (pneumonic and non-pneumonic*) cases by region of report in England and Wales: weeks 01-04/2006

Region	Nosocomial	Community	Travel (Abroad)	Travel (UK)	Total
North East	–	–	–	–	–
Yorkshire & the Humber	–	1	–	–	1
East Midlands	–	3	–	–	3
East of England	–	–	–	–	–
London	–	1	1	1	3
South East	–	1	1	–	2
South West	–	–	–	–	–
West Midlands	–	2	1	–	3
North West	–	1	3	–	4
Wales	–	–	–	–	–
Total	–	9	6	1	16

*Including case who travelled both abroad and to UK.