

QUICK EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Staff Influenza Immunization Coverage among Hospitals and Long-Term Care Homes, Ontario

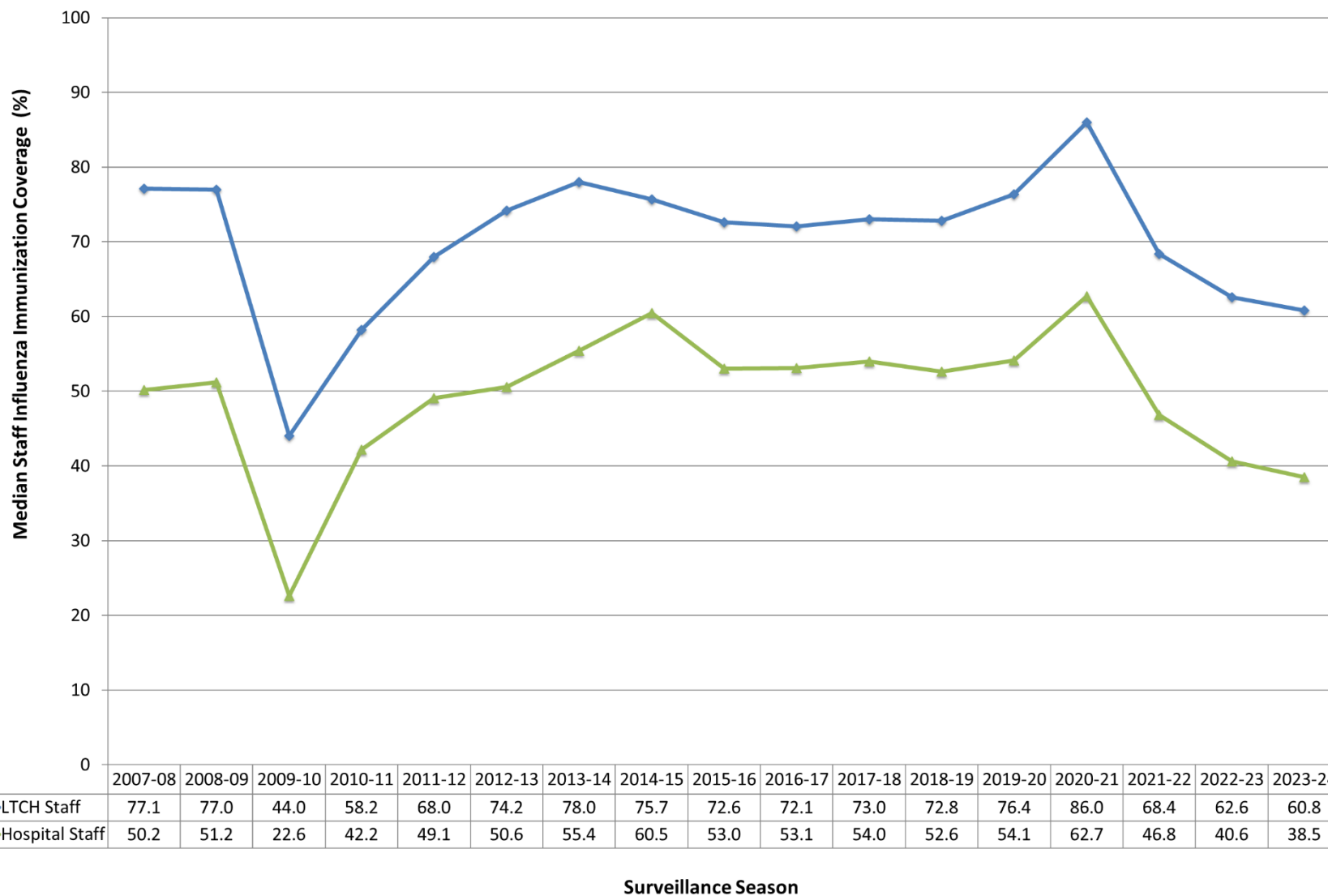
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Introduction

The Ministry of Health collects seasonal influenza immunization coverage data each year for health care workers (HCWs) working in hospitals and long-term care homes (LTCHs). For the 2023-24 respiratory virus surveillance season, hospital and LTCH staff influenza immunization coverage was reported by March 1, 2024.

Figure A below outlines trends in reported median staff influenza immunization coverage for hospitals and LTCHs for the seasonal influenza vaccine from the 2007-08 surveillance season up to the 2023-24 surveillance season. The technical notes described below Figure A should be considered when interpreting these immunization coverage data.

Figure A. Median staff influenza immunization coverage among hospitals and LTCHs, by respiratory virus surveillance season: Ontario, 2007-08 to 2023-24 seasons



Technical Notes

Data Source

- Ontario Ministry of Health, Influenza and RSV Immunization Coverage Reporting Survey for Hospital and Long-Term Care Home Staff and Residents, analyzed by Public Health Ontario [2024/05/24].

Data Caveats

- Data for the 2023-24 season was submitted by LTCHs and hospitals through an online survey. The proportion of LTCHs and hospitals sites that reported coverage during this respiratory virus surveillance season was notably lower (64.1% and 68.1%, respectively) than the proportion reporting in the 2022-23 season (84.3% and 74.7%, respectively). Differences in the reporting process prior to the use of the online survey, which started in the 2020-21 season, should be considered when interpreting trends in coverage.
- Variations in the immunization status 'as of' and 'data submission dates' may impact coverage over time. In some seasons, the immunization status 'as of' date was earlier than in other seasons.
- The 2023-24 coverage reflect staff immunization status as of the date of report from the hospital or LTCH. Reporting dates typically fell between February 1 and February 29, 2024.
- From the 2019-20 season on, hospital and LTCH sites that reported data were no longer cross-referenced against provincial facility changes. As a result, the median staff influenza immunization coverage as of the 2019-20 season represents all data reported by public health units or LTCHs and hospitals with no exclusions other than for duplicate reports.

Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Staff influenza immunization coverage among hospitals and long-term care homes, Ontario. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2024.

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