



DIAGNOSTIC VIROLOGY LABORATORY NEWSLETTER



Texas Children's Hospital
Changing the face of healthcare,
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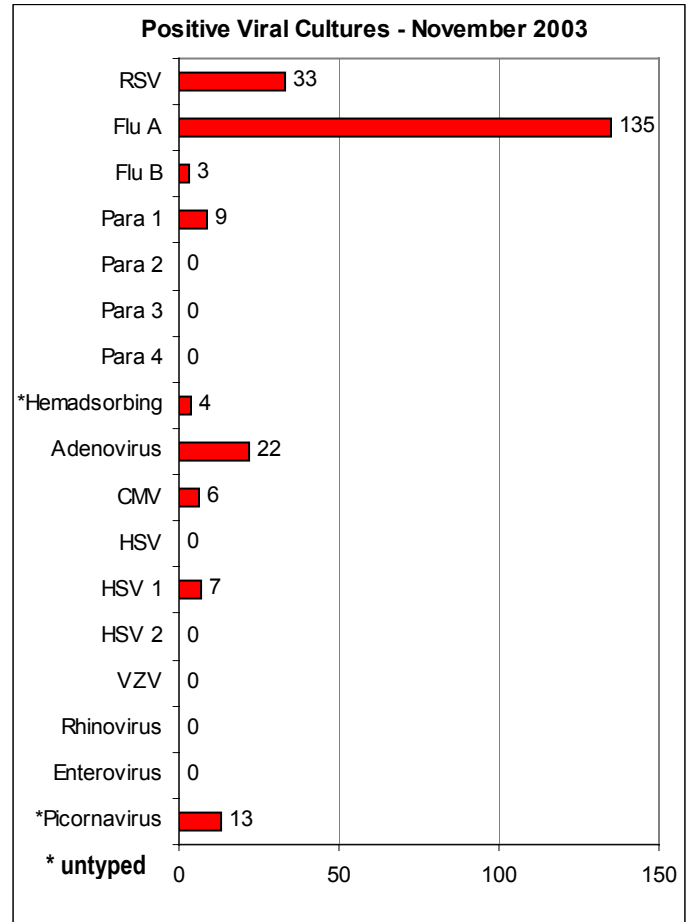
The most common virus isolated in November remained influenza A virus. The number of positive virus isolates has decreased somewhat, but influenza virus remains strong here in Houston. Also RSV, adenovirus and parainfluenza virus, as well as influenza B virus were detected in November, but still in much smaller numbers than influenza A virus. A relatively small number of representative samples (50) selected from over 500 influenza A virus isolates were sent to the CDC for antigenic analysis. They urged us NOT to send ALL our flu isolates, for obvious reasons! Of the 38 isolates from which results have been received so far, 20 were characterized as A/Panama/2007/99-like (H3N2), a widely used H3N2 vaccine strain, and 18 were characterized as A/Korea/770/2002-like (H3N2), a strain similar to the A/Fujan/411/2002 reference strain. Influenza virus isolated from children with unusual, severe, or fatal illness, as well as a random sampling of positive isolates, will be sent to the CDC, to monitor and characterize this season's unusually early and severe outbreak. Please alert us about these types of cases. By doing this, we hope to better understand the epidemiology of influenza virus and to contribute towards influenza vaccine recommendations by WHO for the next year. Stay tuned to our **RSV-FLU-O-Meter**

[http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV&FLU-O-METER\(combined\).pdf](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV&FLU-O-METER(combined).pdf) for the most up-to-date readings!

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Visit our website for weekly updates @:
www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl

Positive Viral Cultures – November 2003



EIA Rapid Test Results – November 2003

	RSV	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	1160	1047	1047
Positive	221	147	4
% Positive	19	14	0

Viral Cultures – November 2003

Total	1146
Positive	232
% Positive	20

This newsletter is supported in part by unrestricted educational grants from:

