

## **2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues November 22, 2013**

### **Current Local Activity**

This is the first issue of Middlesex London's 2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report. This report will be generated approximately weekly during the influenza season and will provide an overview of the current status of influenza and respiratory illness being observed in Middlesex-London.

Since September 1, 2013, only one laboratory-confirmed influenza A case was reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. The case was reported in October and acquired influenza from travel outside of Canada. The case did not require hospitalization. No other cases of influenza in Middlesex London have been identified to date.

### **Current Outbreak Activity**

No outbreaks due to influenza have been declared since September 1, 2013. Rhinovirus was identified in 7 outbreaks and is the most commonly identified pathogen in respiratory outbreaks declared from September 1, 2013 to present.

### **Upcoming Flu Clinics**

Community influenza immunization clinics organized by the Middlesex-London Health Unit began on October 19, 2013 and run until December 10, 2013. A list of the Middlesex London Health Unit's community influenza clinics is attached to the end of this document and is also available on our web site at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-vaccination-clinics>

In addition to the community influenza immunization clinics, influenza vaccination remains available at some health care providers' offices, participating pharmacies and at the Health Unit's walk-in immunization clinic. Clinics are scheduled at 50 King Street in London on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clinics also take place at the Kenwick Mall in Strathroy from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

To find a free flu shot clinic near you, visit the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's "Find a Flu Shot Clinic" web page at <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/publichealth/flu/finder.aspx>

### **Current Provincial Activity**

There has been little influenza activity in Ontario to date. Between November 3-9, 10 cases of influenza A and 1 case of influenza B were reported; these cases were reported from Eastern Ontario, York, Peel, Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto. In total, 38 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1. The percent positivity for all influenza types is 1.6%. The latest Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin from Public Health Ontario can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>.

### **Current National Activity**

Influenza activity is increasing in Canada, as evidenced by increasing laboratory detections of influenza. Between November 3-November 9, 36 cases of influenza A and 5 cases of influenza B were reported across Canada. From August 25- November 9, 2013, 100 Influenza A and 25 influenza B cases have been identified.

In Canada, since the beginning of September 2013, 11 influenza viruses (six influenza A and 5 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized. Of the 11 influenza viruses, ten matched the components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. The components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine are: an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, an A(H3N2) virus antigenically like the cell-propagated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011b, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus (Yamagata lineage). The latest FluWatch report can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators**  
**November 22, 2013**

There is no influenza activity in Middlesex-London.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>Current Week</b>	<b>Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)</b>	<b>Recent Trends</b>
<b>Laboratory Information</b>				
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases</b>	Nov 10-16	0	One travel related case of influenza A reported on October 7, 2013	<p>Since the beginning of September, no locally-acquired influenza cases have been reported.</p> <p>Between November 3-9, 11 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were reported across the province as a whole. In total, 38 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported in Ontario since the beginning of September.</p>
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	Nov 10-16	0	0	<p>Since the beginning of September, no hospitalizations of people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported locally.</p> <p>Between November 3-9, there were three laboratory-confirmed influenza cases who were hospitalized across the province. A total of 16 people with laboratory confirmed influenza have been hospitalized in Ontario since the beginning of September.</p>
<b>Deaths</b>	Nov 10-16	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no deaths of people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported locally or provincially.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Nov 10-16	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no local or provincial influenza outbreaks have been reported.
<b>Percentage samples that are positive for influenza</b>	Nov 3-Nov 9	Ontario: Influenza A 1.5% positivity, Influenza B 0.1% positivity <sup>1</sup>		Low

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Recent Trends
<b>Other Community Surveillance Indicators</b>			
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Nov 10-16	<p>An average of 6.8% patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) emergency departments and the St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) urgent care centre presented with fever and respiratory symptoms</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 15.9% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>The proportion from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined is higher than 5.6% from the previous week.</p> <p>The proportion at the paediatric emergency department is higher than 12.0% from the previous week.</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Nov 11-15	Three elementary schools in one of the two main English public school boards reported a 5-day average absenteeism exceeding 10%.	The number is higher than the previous week, when one elementary school reported increased absenteeism.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Nov 11-16	3.3% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia.	The proportion is comparable to 3.4% from the previous week.

**Sources:**

1 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2013-2014, retrieved from <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx> accessed November 18, 2013

The Middlesex-London Health Unit gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following community partners who provide data for this report:

London Health Sciences Centre  
London X-Ray Associates  
St. Joseph's Health Care London  
Thames Valley District School Board

# INFLUENZA VACCINATION CLINICS

*The influenza vaccine is free and available to anyone 6 months of age and older.  
If possible, please bring your Health Card or Driver's License*

<b>WESTMOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOL</b> 1011 Viscount Road, London	<b>Saturday November 23, 2013</b> 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
<b>CLARKE ROAD SECONDARY SCHOOL</b> 300 Clarke Road, London	<b>Thursday November 28, 2013</b> 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
<b>LAMBETH COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 7112 Beattie Street West, London	<b>Tuesday December 10, 2013</b> 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

*For more information about the influenza vaccine or vaccination clinics, call 519-663-5317 ext. 2330 or visit <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-vaccination-clinics>.*