
2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 17, 2015

Overall assessment: Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower compared to the previous week.

Local Activity:

From March 8th to 14th, 2015, 12 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A and two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza B were reported. Among these cases, there were six hospitalizations. No deaths were reported to the Health Unit in the most recent week.

Since September 1st, 2014, there has been a total of 304 confirmed influenza A cases and 13 influenza B cases reported, 124 of whom have been hospitalized, and six of whom have died.

There were no laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks declared last week. Since September 1st, 2014, there have been 37 influenza outbreaks declared in Middlesex-London facilities.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 317 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

Useful Websites

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin, issued by Public Health Ontario (PHO), is available at: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>
- The latest FluWatch report, issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>.
- 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: <https://www.ontario.ca/health-and-wellness/get-flu-shot/>.

Appendix A

Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London March 17, 2015

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)	Comparison to Previous Week
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Mar. 8-14	Influenza A – 12 cases Influenza B – 2 cases	Influenza A – 304 cases Influenza B – 13 cases	Influenza A: Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 1-7), when 14 cases were reported. Influenza B: Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 1-7), when 5 cases were reported. Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.
Influenza sub-types¹	Mar. 8-14	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 62 cases Not subtyped – 242 cases A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like – 2 cases B/Massachusetts/02/12-like – 1 case	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A (H3). Two samples have been typed as A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like, which is not a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine One sample has been typed as B/Massachusetts/02/12-like, which is a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine.
Hospitalizations¹	Mar. 8-14	6	124	Same as the previous week (Mar. 1-7) when six hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Mar. 8-14	0	6	Same as the previous week (Mar. 1-7) when no deaths were reported among people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Mar. 8-14	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 35 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 2 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 1-7) when three laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were declared in facilities.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Mar. 1-7	Influenza A – 14.0% positivity Influenza B – 2.7% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower compared to 15.9% reported the previous week (Feb. 21-28). Influenza B: Slightly higher compared to 2.2% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 21-28).

Notes:

1 Numbers are subject to change week by week due to the retrospective nature of reporting.

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2014-2015

Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season

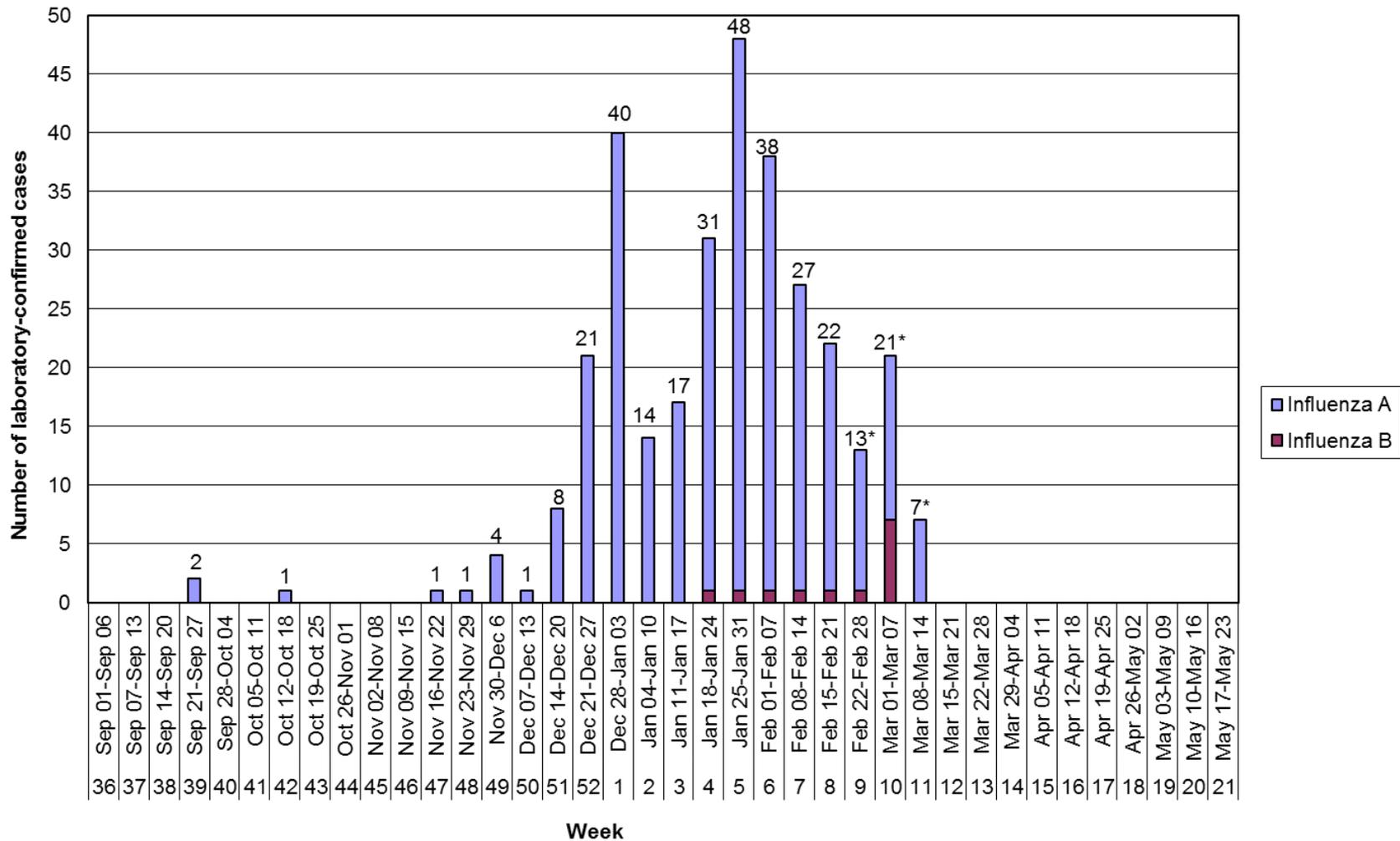
Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness <i>(includes LHSC emergency departments and the SJHC urgent care centre)</i>	Mar. 8-14	<p>An average of 9.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 23.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>Slightly lower than the 9.9% reported the previous week (Mar. 1-7).</p> <p>Same as the 23.2% reported the previous week (Mar. 1-7).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Mar. 9-13	A total of 24 elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	<p>Higher than the previous week (Mar. 2-6), when 15 schools reported increased absenteeism.</p> <p>The greater number of schools reporting increased absenteeism last week may be influenced by factors unrelated to illness, e.g., absenteeism associated with March Break plans.</p>
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Mar. 9-14	An average of 6.7% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Higher than the 5.8% reported the previous week (Mar. 2-7).

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

Appendix B

Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date†
Middlesex-London 2014-2015 influenza season (N=317)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 16, 2015.

† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date.

* Counts may be incomplete and are subject to change, due to the retrospective nature of reporting.