

## **2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 28, 2017**

### **Overall assessment**

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low, which is the same as the previous week. Influenza B activity is increasing, while influenza A continues to decrease.

### **Current Local Activity**

Between March 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, there were five cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and five cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza B reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, as well as six hospitalizations. Additionally, one influenza B outbreak was declared in a facility.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, 437 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported. To date, 14 cases have been identified as influenza B; all other cases have been identified as influenza A. Of the 113 influenza A cases that have been subtyped, 112 have been identified as influenza A(H3), and one has been identified as an influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection. There have been 33 influenza A, one influenza B, and one influenza A and B outbreaks declared in facilities located in the Middlesex-London area, as well as 231 hospitalizations and 15 deaths.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 437 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Appendix C provides a graph showing all institutional influenza outbreaks by week and institution type.

### **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: <http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-flu-shot/>.

## Appendix A

### Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London March 28, 2017

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season**

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date</i> <i>(from September 1, 2016)</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 19-25	Influenza A – 5 cases Influenza B – 5 cases	Influenza A – 423 cases Influenza B – 14 cases	<b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Mar. 12-18) when 11 influenza cases were reported.  <b>Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.</b>
<b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 19-25	Influenza A(H3) – 1 case Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 0 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 4 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 112 cases Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 1 case Influenza A not subtyped – 310 cases	Influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 19-25	6	231	<b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Mar. 12-18) when 9 hospitalizations were reported.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 19-25	0	15	<b>Same</b> compared to the previous week (Mar. 12-18) when no deaths were reported.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Mar. 19-25	1	35	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Mar. 12-18) when no influenza outbreaks were declared.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Mar. 12-18	Influenza A – 13.4% positivity Influenza B – 3.6% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> compared to 15.9% positivity reported in the previous week (Mar. 5-11).  Influenza B: <b>Higher</b> compared to 2.5% positivity reported in the previous week (Mar. 5-11).

**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 2016-2017

**Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season**

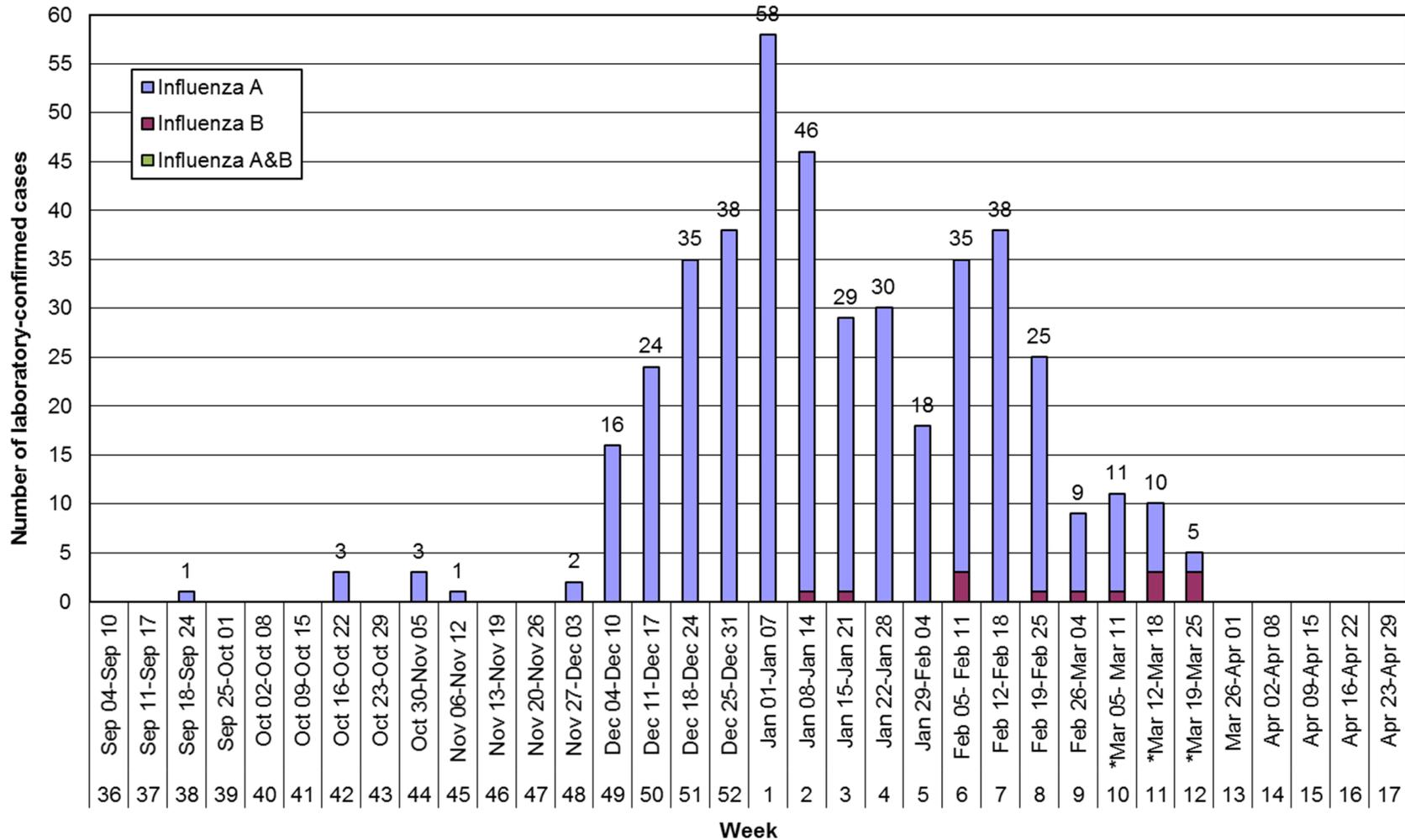
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Mar. 19-25	An average of 7.2% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.  The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 20.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	<b>Similar</b> compared to 6.8% reported in the previous week (Mar. 12-18).  <b>Similar</b> compared to 19.8% reported in the previous week (Mar. 12-18).
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Mar. 20-24	Fifteen elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.	In the previous week (Mar. 13-17), schools were closed for March Break.
<b>Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Mar. 20-25	Data not available.	Data not available.

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 2016-2017 influenza season (N=437)



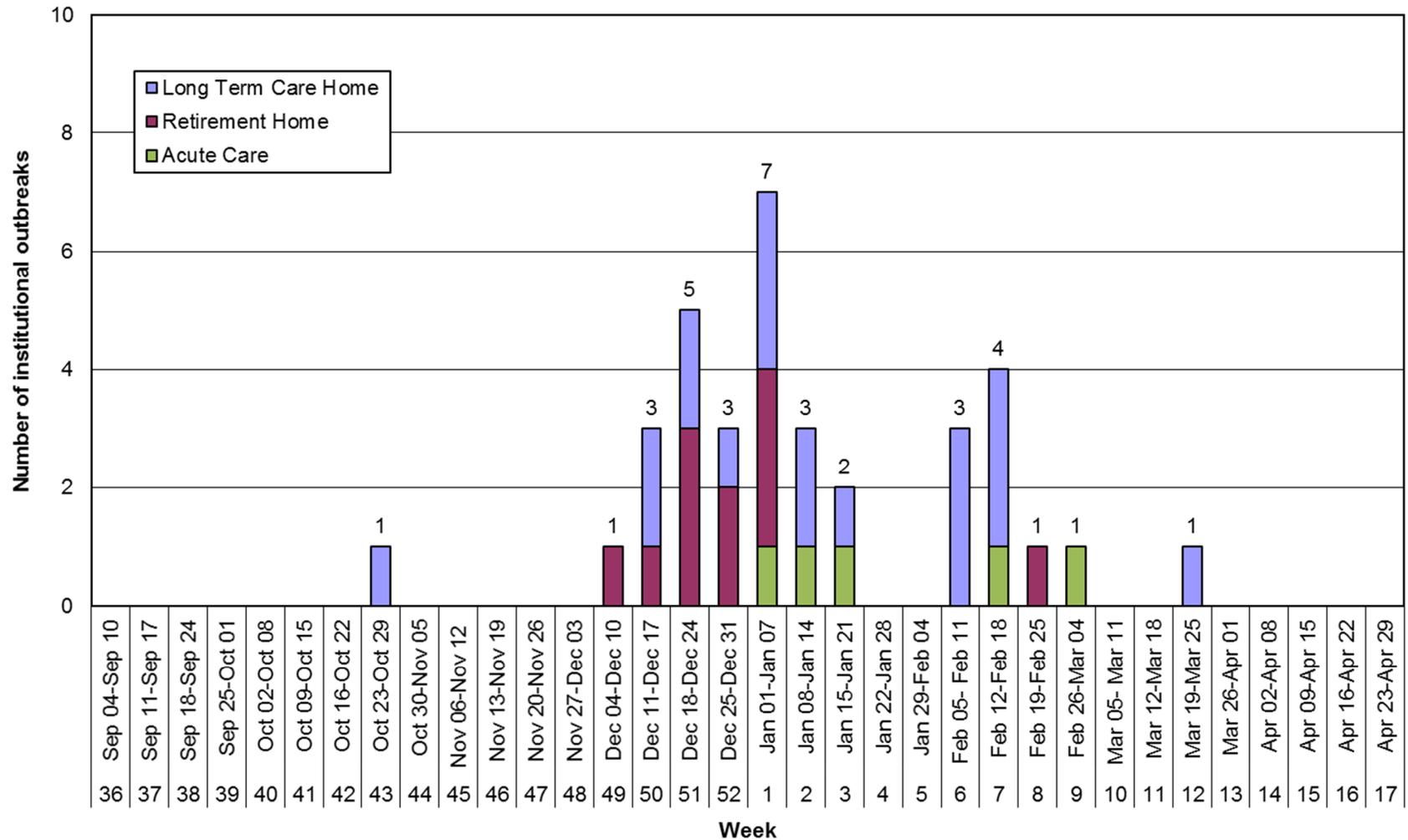
Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Mar. 28, 2017.

† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date. As a result, the weekly counts shown in this section differ from those provided in other sections of this report.

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

## Appendix C

### Institutional influenza outbreaks, by institution type Middlesex-London 2016-2017 influenza season (N=35)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Mar. 28, 2017.

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