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**2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report  
Update of Current Status and Issues  
January 14, 2014**

**Current Local Activity**

Influenza activity continues to be elevated in Middlesex-London. Between January 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 38 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported, including two deaths. These are the first reports of deaths among Middlesex-London residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The 38 cases reported last week are slightly more than the 35 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases that were reported to the Health Unit the previous week. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, a total of 115 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and one case of influenza B have been reported. A chart showing all 116 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Currently, 24 out of 115 influenza A samples have been subtyped, and all 24 have been found to be influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and is a component in the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

To date, the majority (61.2%) of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported in Middlesex-London have been among adults between the ages of 20 and 64 years of age. It is noteworthy that children under the age of five years and seniors 65 years of age and older are over-represented among laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, relative to their representation in the general population. Children under five years represent only 5.5% of the general population in Middlesex-London, but account for 14.7% of cases. Similarly, those 65 years of age and older represent 14.8% of the general population but account for 19.0% of laboratory-confirmed cases in Middlesex-London.

**Hospitalizations and Deaths**

Of the 38 influenza cases identified between January 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 22 (57.9%) were hospitalized. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 62 hospitalizations among the 116 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza (53.4%). As noted above, two deaths were reported last week among Middlesex-London residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza.

**Current Outbreak Activity**

One new influenza A outbreak was declared in a long-term care home. To date, four influenza A outbreaks have been declared in Middlesex-London. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was identified in two of the four outbreaks.

**Influenza Immunization**

The influenza immunization status is known for 97 of 116 reported cases. Among those cases with known immunization status, 78 (80.4%) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

Vaccination for unvaccinated individuals six months of age and over remains strongly recommended. Influenza vaccinations are available at the Middlesex-London Health Unit's walk-in Immunization Clinic 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; the next scheduled Health Unit immunization clinic in Strathroy will take place Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Influenza vaccinations are also available at some health care providers' offices and participating pharmacies. 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**

Influenza activity has continued to increase across Ontario. Between December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 686 cases of influenza A and 16 cases of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types was 29.5%, which is higher than the 24.9% positivity reported the previous week. In total, 1,632 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1st. 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 Influenza Strain Typing**

In Canada, 234 influenza virus samples (22 influenza A(H3N2), 179 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 33 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 234 influenza viruses, 97.9% matched the components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. The components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, A/Victoria/361/2011b (H3N2) virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. The latest *FluWatch* from Public Health Agency of Canada can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

Current and previous Middlesex-London Health Unit *Community Influenza Surveillance Reports* can be found on the Health Unit's website at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-surveillance>.

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London**  
**January 14, 2014**

The level of influenza activity remains elevated in Middlesex London and is similar to the previous week.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory Information</b>				
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 6-12	Influenza A - 38 cases Influenza B - 0 cases	Influenza A -115 cases Influenza B - 1 case	The number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases was higher compared to the 35 cases reported in the previous <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> issued January 6, 2014.
<b>Influenza Subtypes<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 6-12	6 cases subtyped; all influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	24 of 24 cases (100%) of influenza A samples that have been subtyped were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 6-12	22	62	The number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases hospitalized increased compared to the 20 hospitalizations reported the previous week. In total, 53.4% of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been hospitalized to date.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 6-12	2	2	Two deaths have been reported in individuals with laboratory-confirmed influenza this week. These are the first reported deaths among Middlesex-London cases.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Jan. 6-12	1 influenza A outbreak	4	The number of influenza outbreaks declared in facilities was lower than the three influenza A outbreaks reported the previous week.
<b>Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Dec. 29-Jan. 4	Influenza A: 29.1% positivity Influenza B: 0.4% positivity		Influenza A: Increased from 24.6% positivity from the previous week Influenza B: Similar to 0.3% positivity from the previous week

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>	Jan. 5-11	<p>Between January 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, an average of 11.8% of 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. From January 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 24.1% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined is decreased compared to 13.6% from the previous week.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department is high, but is decreased compared to the 29.8% reported the previous week.</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Jan. 6-10	Data not reported due to weather-related school closures and bus cancelations.	Data not available.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Jan. 6-11	From January 6 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> , 4.6% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases is increased compared to the 2.3% reported the previous week.

**Sources:**

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

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2013-2014, retrieved from

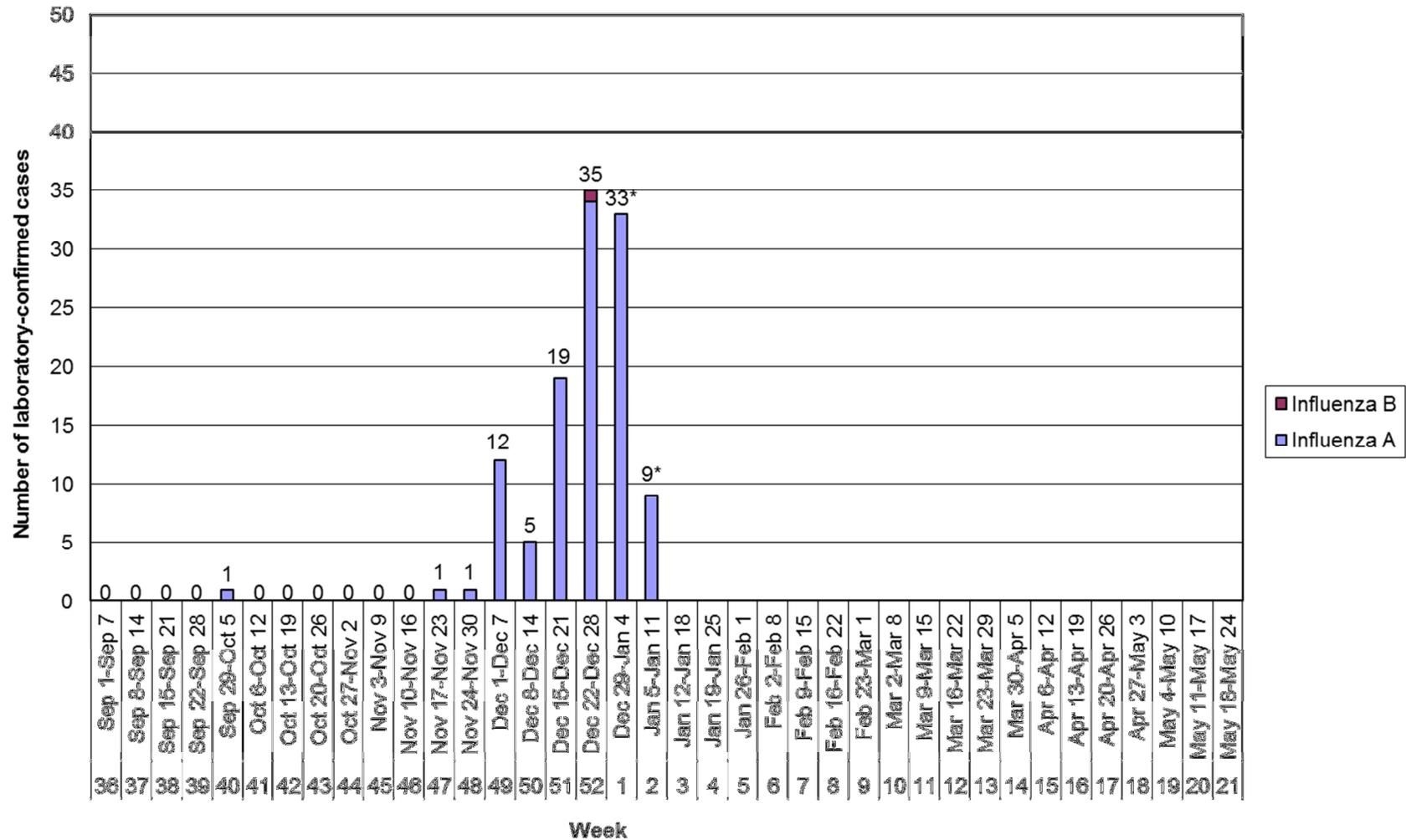
[http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Ontario\\_Respiratory\\_Virus\\_Bulletin\\_Week12014.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Ontario_Respiratory_Virus_Bulletin_Week12014.pdf)

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 2013-2014 influenza season (N=116)



† '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.

Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza case tracking database, extracted January 13, 2014.