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**2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report  
Update of Current Status and Issues  
May 5, 2014****Current Local Activity**

Between April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>, the level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London was lower compared to the previous week. There were 17 new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported last week, including one death. The total number of cases reported last week is lower compared to the 27 cases reported the previous week (April 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>). Two of the newly reported cases were identified as having influenza A and 15 were identified as having influenza B. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, a total of 203 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases, 178 influenza B cases, and two influenza A and B co-infections have been reported to the Health Unit. A graph showing all 383 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B at the end of this report.

To date, the majority (51.4%) of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported in Middlesex-London have been among adults between the ages of 20 and 64. 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 of age represent only 5.5% of the general population in Middlesex-London, but account for 10.7% of confirmed influenza cases; similarly, people 65 years of age and older represent 14.8% of the general population, but account for 27.8% of cases.

**Hospitalizations and Deaths**

Of the 17 new laboratory-confirmed influenza cases identified between April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>, nine were hospitalized. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 195 hospitalizations among the 383 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza (50.9%). Of those hospitalized, 101 people had influenza A (51.8%), 92 people had influenza B (47.2%) and two people were infected with both influenza A and B (1.0%).

As noted above, one death was reported this past week in a Middlesex-London resident previously identified with laboratory-confirmed influenza. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 15 deaths among those in London and Middlesex County who had laboratory-confirmed influenza.

**Current Outbreak Activity**

No influenza outbreaks were declared between April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>. In total, there have been 19 outbreaks this season; influenza A has been identified in seven outbreaks, while influenza B has been identified in 12 outbreaks. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was identified in two of the seven influenza A outbreaks.

**Influenza Immunization**

The influenza immunization status is known for 322 of the 383 reported cases; of these, 224 people were 64 years of age and under, and 98 were 65 years of age and over. Among the 224 cases who were 64 years of age and under, 33 (14.7%) received their influenza immunization this influenza season and 191 (85.3%) did not. Among the 98 individuals who were 65 years of age and older, 69 (70.4%) received their influenza immunization this influenza season and 29 (29.6%) did not. The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) states "In the elderly, vaccine effectiveness is about half of that of healthy adults and varies depending on the outcome and the study population. Systematic reviews have also demonstrated that influenza vaccine decreases the incidence of pneumonia, hospital admissions and deaths in the elderly and reduces exacerbations in persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease."

Influenza vaccinations for unvaccinated individuals six months of age and over are still 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 on the first Tuesday of each month, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The next Strathroy clinic will take place tomorrow, on Tuesday May 6<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**

Overall influenza activity across Ontario was slightly lower compared to the previous week. Between April 20<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>, 16 cases of influenza A, 374 cases of influenza B and one influenza A and B co-infection were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types was 18.0% which is lower than the 22.5% positivity reported the previous week. In total, 8,880 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The latest *Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin* from Public Health Ontario can be accessed at:

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

**Current National Influenza Strain Typing**

In Canada, 1,830 influenza virus samples (94 influenza A(H3N2), 1,325 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 411 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current influenza season. Of the 1,830 influenza samples, nearly all (98.8%) 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 the Public Health Agency of Canada can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>.

The current and previous editions of the Middlesex-London Health Unit *Community Influenza Surveillance Report* are available on the Health Unit website at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-surveillance>.

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**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London**  
**May 5, 2014**

The level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower compared 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>	Apr. 28-May 4	Influenza A – 2 cases Influenza B – 15 cases Influenza A & B – 0 case	Influenza A – 203 cases Influenza B – 178 cases Influenza A & B – 2 cases	The 17 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported between April 28 <sup>th</sup> and May 4 <sup>th</sup> is lower than the 27 cases reported in the previous <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> issued April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2014.
<b>Influenza Subtypes<sup>1</sup></b>	Apr. 28-May 4	No new subtyping results received.	40 of 41 cases (97.6%) of subtyped influenza A samples were influenza A(H1N1) pdm09  One of 41 cases (2.4%) of subtyped influenza A samples were influenza A(H3)  One influenza B subtyped was B/Massachusetts/02/12-like	Almost all influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Apr. 28-May 4	9	195	Between April 28 <sup>th</sup> and May 4 <sup>th</sup> , nine people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were hospitalized, two of whom had influenza A, the remainder were identified as having influenza B.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Apr. 28-May 4	1	15	One death in an individual with laboratory-confirmed influenza was reported to the Health Unit last week.  To date, 15 deaths have been reported among individuals in Middlesex-London with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Apr. 28-May 4	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreak	Influenza A – 7 outbreaks Influenza B – 12 outbreaks	No outbreaks due to influenza were declared between April 28 <sup>th</sup> and May 4 <sup>th</sup> . This is comparable to the previous week, when one influenza-related outbreak was identified.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Apr. 20-26	Influenza A: 1.2% positivity Influenza B: 16.9% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Comparable to the 0.8% reported the previous week. Influenza B: Lower compared to the 21.6% positivity reported 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>	Apr. 27-May 3	Data not available.	Data not available.
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Apr. 28-May 2	Between April 28 <sup>th</sup> and May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , one elementary school from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting absenteeism exceeding 10% was comparable to the previous week, when two schools reported a four-day average absenteeism greater than 10%.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Apr. 28-May 3	From April 28 <sup>th</sup> to May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2.6% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was lower than the 3.7% reported for the week of April 21 <sup>st</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> .

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 2013-2014, retrieved from

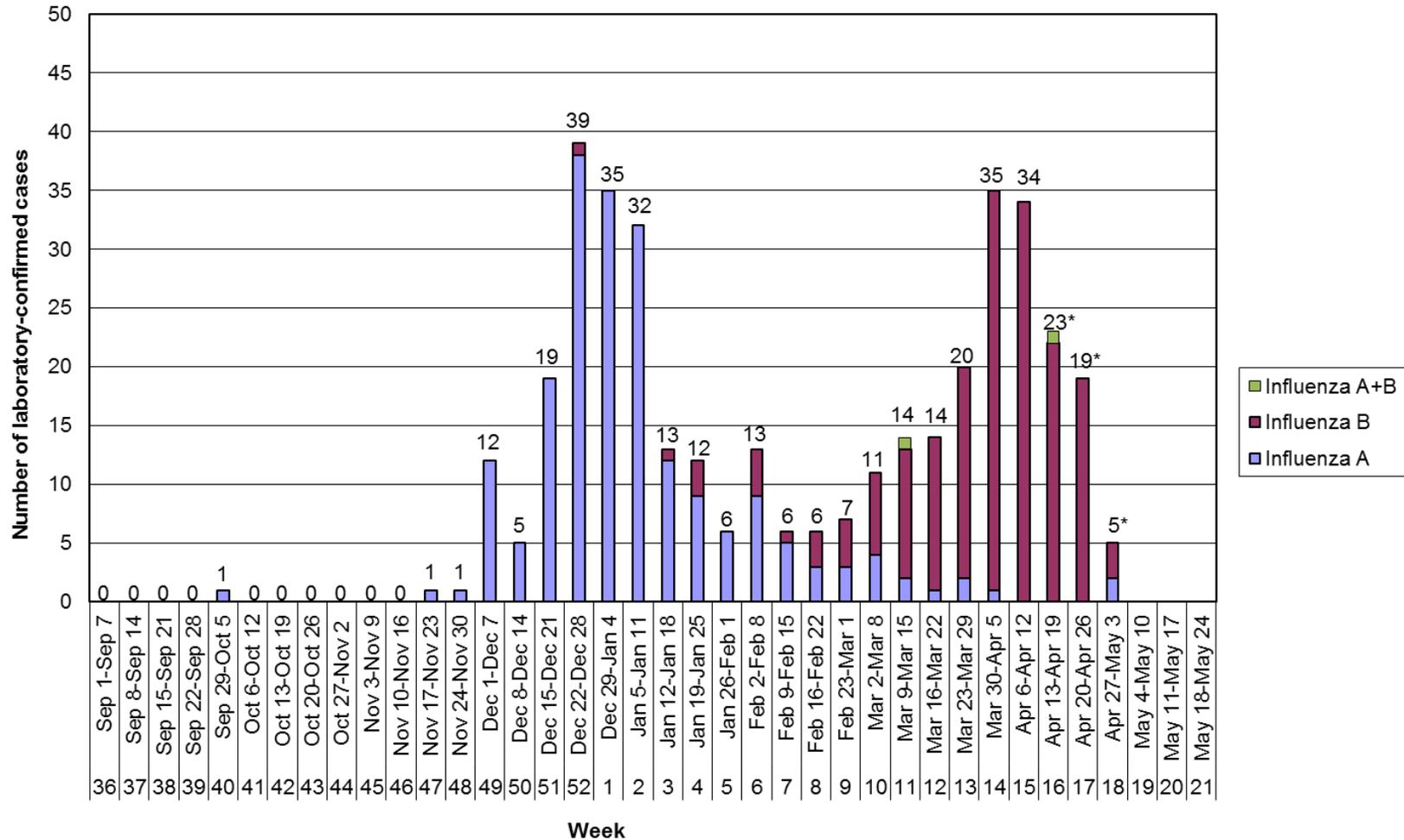
<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>

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  
May 5, 2014**

**Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date†  
Middlesex-London 2013-2014 influenza season (N=383)**



† '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 May 5, 2014.