
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status January 5, 2016

First Influenza Surveillance report for 2016

This report covers the three-week period including December 13th to 19th, December 20th to 26th and December 27th, 2015 to January 2nd, 2016.

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London remains low.

Current Local Activity

From December 13th, 2015 to January 2nd, 2016 there were two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Both of these cases were subtyped as influenza A(H1N1) pdm09. Since September 1, 2015, a total of five laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and one influenza B case has been reported.

No influenza outbreaks have been declared since September 1st, 2015.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness.

Useful Websites

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin (ORPB), 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://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/fluwatch-2015-2016-48-surveillance-influenza/index-eng.php>
- 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 January 5, 2016

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2015)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Dec. 13-19 Dec. 20-26 Dec. 27-Jan. 2	Influenza A – 1 case Influenza B – 0 cases Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 0 cases Influenza A – 1 case Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 5 cases Influenza B – 1 case	Higher in the most recent week (Dec. 27-Jan. 2) compared to the previous week (Dec. 20-26), when no influenza cases were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Dec. 13-Jan. 2	Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09– 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 0 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 1 case	The two most recently subtyped samples were influenza A (H1N1) pdm09. Two samples subtyped as influenza A (H3) were reported earlier in the season.
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 13-Jan. 2	0	2	
Deaths¹	Dec. 13-Jan. 2	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 13-Jan. 2	0	0	
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Dec. 6-12	Influenza A – 1.5% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Similar in the most recent week (Dec. 13-19) compared to 1.5% positivity reported the previous week (Dec. 6-12).
	Dec. 13-19	Influenza A – 2.0% positivity Influenza B – 0.2% positivity		Influenza B: Similar in the most recent week (Dec. 13-19) compared to 0.1% positivity reported the previous week (Dec. 6-12).

Notes:

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

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin 2015-2016

Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Dec. 13-19	All sites – An average of 7.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. Paediatric emergency department (ED) – An average of 19.7% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.	All sites: Higher in the most recent week (Dec. 27-Jan. 2) compared to 7.0% reported the previous week (Dec. 20-26). Paediatric ED: Similar in the most recent week (Dec. 27-Jan. 2) compared to 17.6% reported the previous week (Dec. 20-26).
	Dec. 20-26	All sites – An average of 7.0% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. Paediatric ED – An average of 17.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.	
	Dec. 27-Jan. 2	All sites – An average of 7.7% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. Paediatric ED – An average of 18.1% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.	
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 14-18	Five elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%. Schools were closed from Dec. 21-Jan. 1, therefore absenteeism results for this time period are not available.	Higher than the previous week (Dec. 7-11), when four schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 14-19	An average of 4.4% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Similar in the most recent week (Dec. 28-Jan. 2) compared to 6.8% reported the previous week (Dec. 21-26).
	Dec. 21-26	An average of 6.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	
	Dec. 28-Jan. 2	An average of 7.0% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	

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