
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 22, 2016

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is ongoing, although the number of reported cases is lower compared to the previous reporting week.

Current Local Activity

From March 13th to 19th, 2016, there were 64 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (51 influenza A and 13 influenza B) reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 16 were hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 332 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (262 influenza A, 69 influenza B, one influenza A & B co-infection) reported in London and Middlesex County. The Health Unit was also advised of three deaths during this past reporting week in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza. No new facility outbreaks due to influenza were declared.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 332 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

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/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/fluwatch-reports-rapports-surveillance-influenza-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 March 22, 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</i> <i>(from September 1, 2015)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Mar. 13-19	Influenza A – 51 cases Influenza B – 13 cases Influenza A&B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 262 cases Influenza B – 69 cases Influenza A&B – 1 case	Lower compared to the previous week (March 6-12) when 88 cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Mar. 13-19	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–8 cases Influenza A not subtyped–43 cases	Influenza A(H3)–3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09–64 cases Influenza A not subtyped–194 cases Influenza A(H3) & A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection–1 case Strain typing A/California/07/09-like–4 cases	
Hospitalizations¹	Mar. 13-19	16	120	Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 6-12) when 23 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Mar. 13-19	3	6	Higher compared to the previous week (Mar. 6-12) when two deaths in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Mar. 13-19	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 7 outbreaks Influenza B – 2 outbreaks	Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 5-12) when seven influenza outbreaks were declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Mar. 6-12	Influenza A – 34.3% positivity Influenza B – 7.2% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 29.9% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 28-Mar. 5). Influenza B: Higher compared to 5.8% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 28-Mar. 5).

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

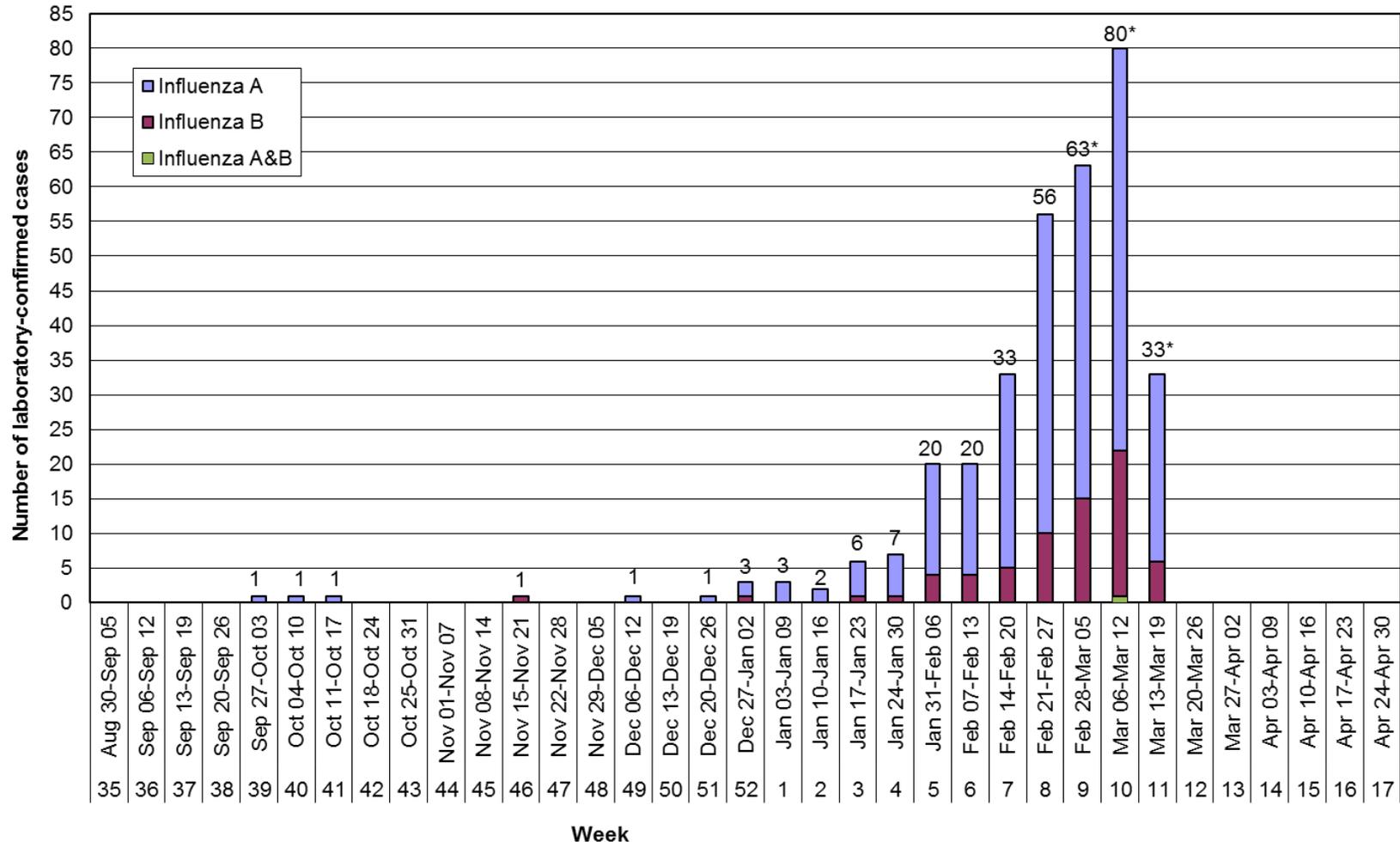
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Mar. 13-19	An average of 12.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 33.1% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Lower than 16.6% reported the previous week (Mar. 6-12). Lower than 37.6% reported the previous week (Mar. 6-12).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Mar. 14-18	Data not reported due to March Break.	
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Mar. 14-19	An average of 3.5% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Lower than 4.1% reported the previous week (Mar. 7-12).

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 2015-2016 influenza season (N=332)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 22, 2016.

† '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.