
2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status November 15, 2016

Overall assessment

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

Current Local Activity

Between November 6th and 12th, two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, both of whom were hospitalized. One of these cases was subtyped as influenza A(H3). No influenza outbreaks were declared during this past reporting week.

Since September 1, 2016, eight laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Six out of eight influenza samples have been subtyped and of those, all six have been identified as influenza A(H3).

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 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 November 15, 2016

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 (from September 1, 2016)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Nov. 6-12	Influenza A – 2 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 8 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Lower compared to the previous week (Oct. 30-Nov. 5) when three influenza A cases were reported. Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.
Influenza sub-types¹	Nov. 6-12	Influenza A(H3) – 1 case Influenza A not subtyped – 1 case	Influenza A(H3) – 6 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 2 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Nov. 6-12	2	5	Same compared to the previous week (Oct. 30-Nov. 5) when two hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Nov. 6-12	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Nov. 6-12	0	1	Lower compared to the previous week (Oct. 30-Nov. 5) when one influenza outbreak was declared in a facility.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Oct. 30-Nov. 5	Influenza A – 1.5% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Similar compared to 1.0% reported in the previous week (Oct. 23-29). Influenza B: Similar compared to 0.0% positivity reported in the previous week (Oct. 23-29).

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
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Nov. 6-12	<p>An average of 7.1% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 20.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>Similar to 6.8% reported the previous week (Oct. 30-Nov. 5).</p> <p>Higher than 18.5% reported the previous week (Oct. 30-Nov. 5).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Nov. 7-11	Four elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism due to all causes exceeding 10%.	Lower than the previous week (Oct. 31- Nov. 4), when 14 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Nov. 7-12	An average of 2.5% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Similar to 2.3% reported the previous week (Oct. 31- Nov. 5).

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