

2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status February 7, 2017

Overall assessment

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower than in the previous week.

Current Local Activity

Between January 29th and February 4th, there were 27 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 14 were hospitalized.

Since September 1st, 2016, 298 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported. To date, two cases have been identified as influenza B; all other cases have been identified as influenza A. Of the influenza A cases that have been subtyped, all 88 have been identified as influenza A(H3). Also, there have been 24 influenza A outbreaks declared in facilities located in the Middlesex-London area.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 298 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Appendix C provides a graph showing all institutional influenza outbreaks by week and institution type.

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 February 7, 2017

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 | Jan. 29- Feb. 4 | Influenza A – 27 cases Influenza B – 0 cases | Influenza A – 296 cases Influenza B – 2 cases | Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 22-28) when 51 influenza 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 | Jan. 29- Feb. 4 | Influenza A(H3) – 4 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 23 cases | Influenza A(H3) – 88 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 208 cases | All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3). |
| Hospitalizations¹ | Jan. 29- Feb. 4 | 14 | 161 | Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 22-28) when 28 hospitalizations were reported. |
| Deaths¹ | Jan. 29- Feb. 4 | 0 | 11 | Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 22-28) when four deaths were reported. |
| Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care | Jan. 29- Feb. 4 | 0 | 24 | Same compared to the previous week (Jan. 22-28) when no influenza outbreaks were declared. |
| Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)² | Jan. 22-28 | Influenza A – 24.6% positivity Influenza B – 0.2% positivity | N/A | Influenza A: Lower compared to 27.8% positivity reported in the previous week (Jan. 15-21). Influenza B: Same compared to 0.2% positivity reported in the previous week (Jan. 15-21). |

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

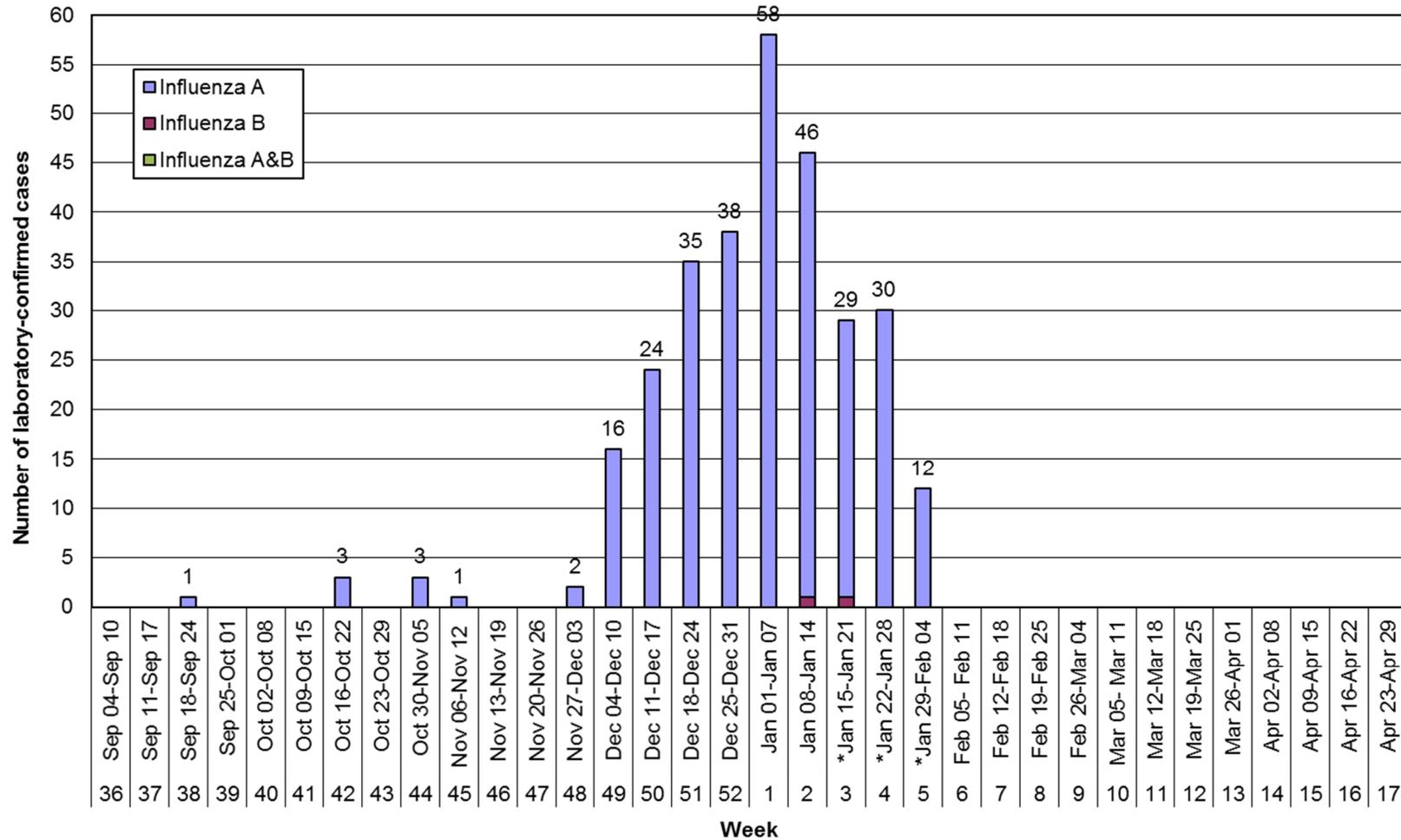
| Indicator | Reporting Period | Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i> | Recent Trends |
|--|------------------|---|---|
| Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness | Jan. 29- Feb. 4 | An average of 9.5% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 25.7% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. | Same compared to 9.7% reported in the previous week (Jan. 22-28). Same compared to 25.3% reported in the previous week (Jan. 22-28). |
| Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%) | Jan. 30- Feb. 3 | Forty-three elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%. | Higher than the previous week (Jan. 23-27), when 30 schools reported increased absenteeism. |
| Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases | Jan. 30- Feb. 4 | Of chest x-rays performed, 5.6% were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. | Same compared to the previous week (Jan. 23-28), when 5.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. |

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 2016-2017 influenza season (N=298)



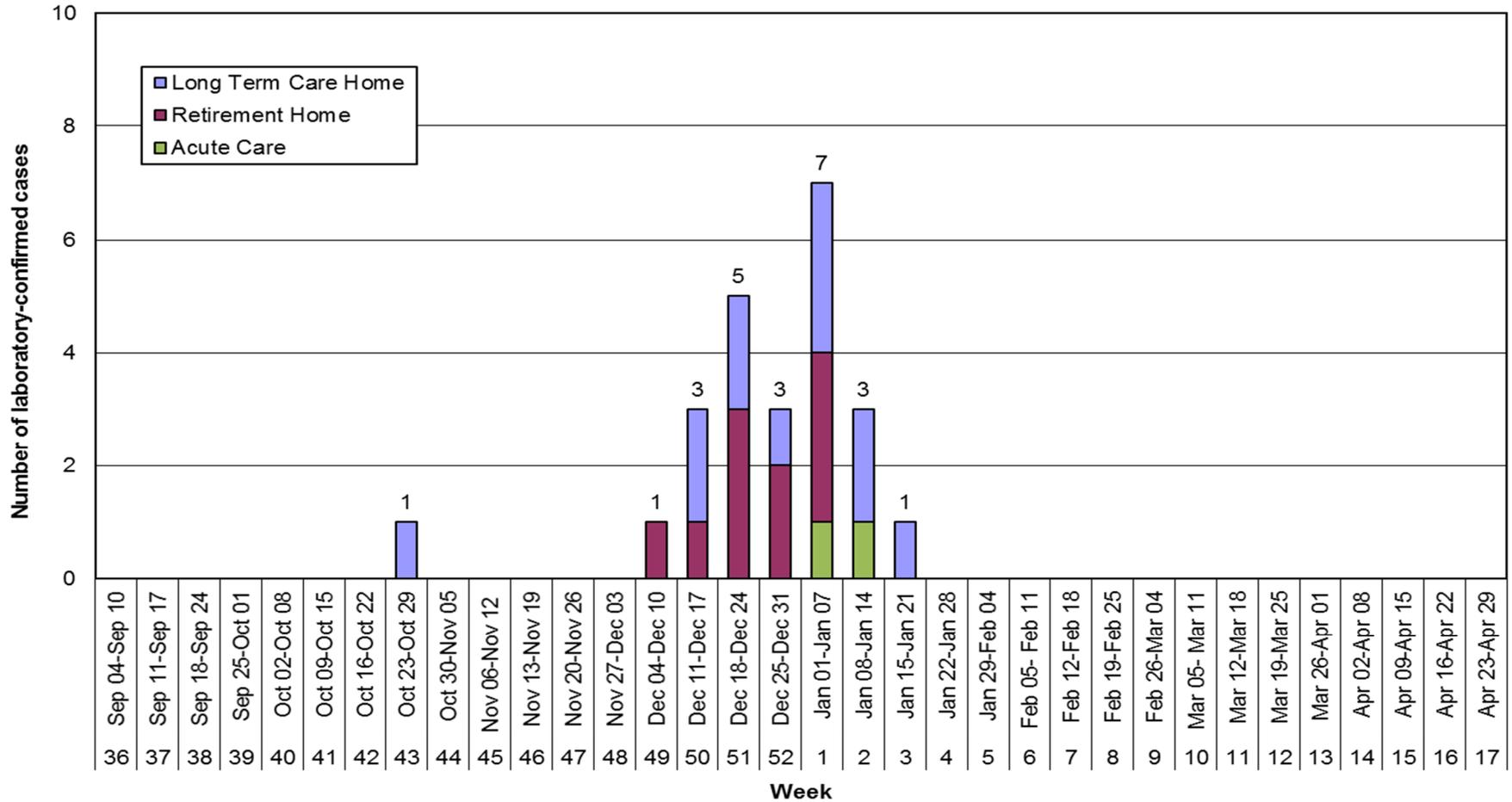
Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Feb. 7, 2017.

† '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.

Appendix C

**Institutional influenza outbreaks, by institution type
Middlesex-London 2016-2017 influenza season (N=24)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Feb. 7, 2017.

* Counts may be incomplete and are subject to change, due to the retrospective nature of reporting.