

2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 21, 2017

Overall assessment

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is the same as in the previous week.

Current Local Activity

Between March 12th and 18th, there were nine cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and two cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza B reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom nine were hospitalized.

Since September 1st, 2016, 427 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported. To date, nine cases have been identified as influenza B; all other cases have been identified as influenza A. Of the 112 influenza A cases that have been subtyped, 111 have been identified as influenza A(H3), and one has been identified as an influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection. There have been 33 influenza A, and one influenza A and B outbreaks declared in facilities located in the Middlesex-London area, as well as 225 hospitalizations and 15 deaths.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 427 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 March 21, 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</i> <i>(from September 1, 2016)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Mar. 12-18	Influenza A – 9 cases Influenza B – 2 cases	Influenza A – 418 cases Influenza B – 9 cases	Same compared to the previous week (Mar. 5-11) when 11 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	Mar. 12-18	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 0 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 7 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 111 cases Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 1 case Influenza A not subtyped – 306 cases	Influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
Hospitalizations¹	Mar. 12-18	9	225	Higher compared to the previous week (Mar. 5-11) when 6 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Mar. 12-18	0	15	Same compared to the previous week (Mar. 5-11) when no deaths were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Mar. 12-18	0	34	Same compared to the previous week (Feb. 26- Mar. 4) when no influenza outbreaks were declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Mar. 5-11	Influenza A – 15.9% positivity Influenza B – 2.5% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower compared to 16.7% positivity reported in the previous week (Feb. 26- Mar. 4). Influenza B: Higher compared to 1.5% positivity reported in the previous week (Feb. 26- Mar. 4).

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

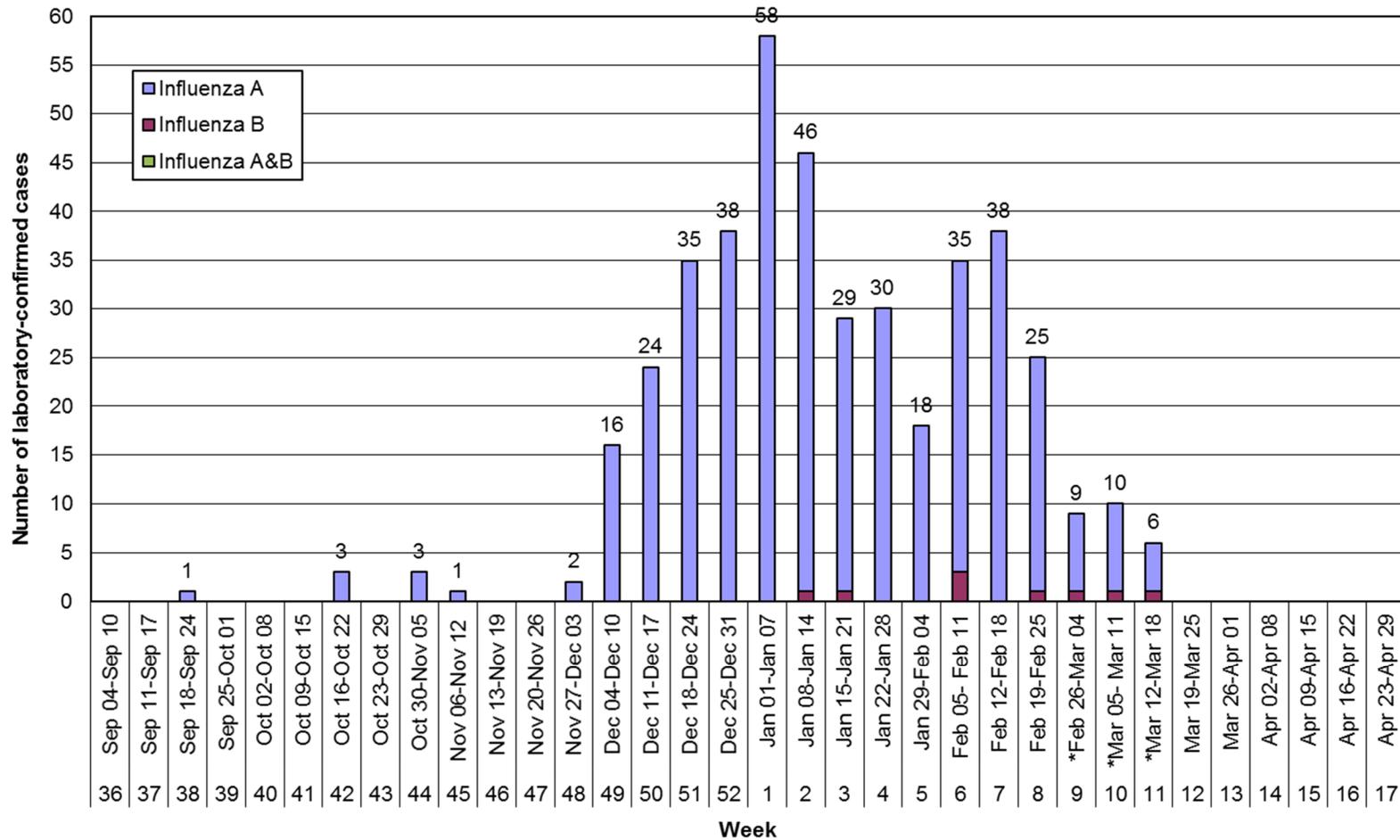
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Mar. 12-18	An average of 6.8% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 19.8% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Lower compared to 8.1% reported in the previous week (Mar. 5-11). Lower compared to 24.0% reported in the previous week (Mar. 5-11).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Mar. 13-17	Schools closed for March Break.	In the previous week (Mar. 6-10), 18 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Mar. 13-18	Data not available.	Data not available.

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=427)



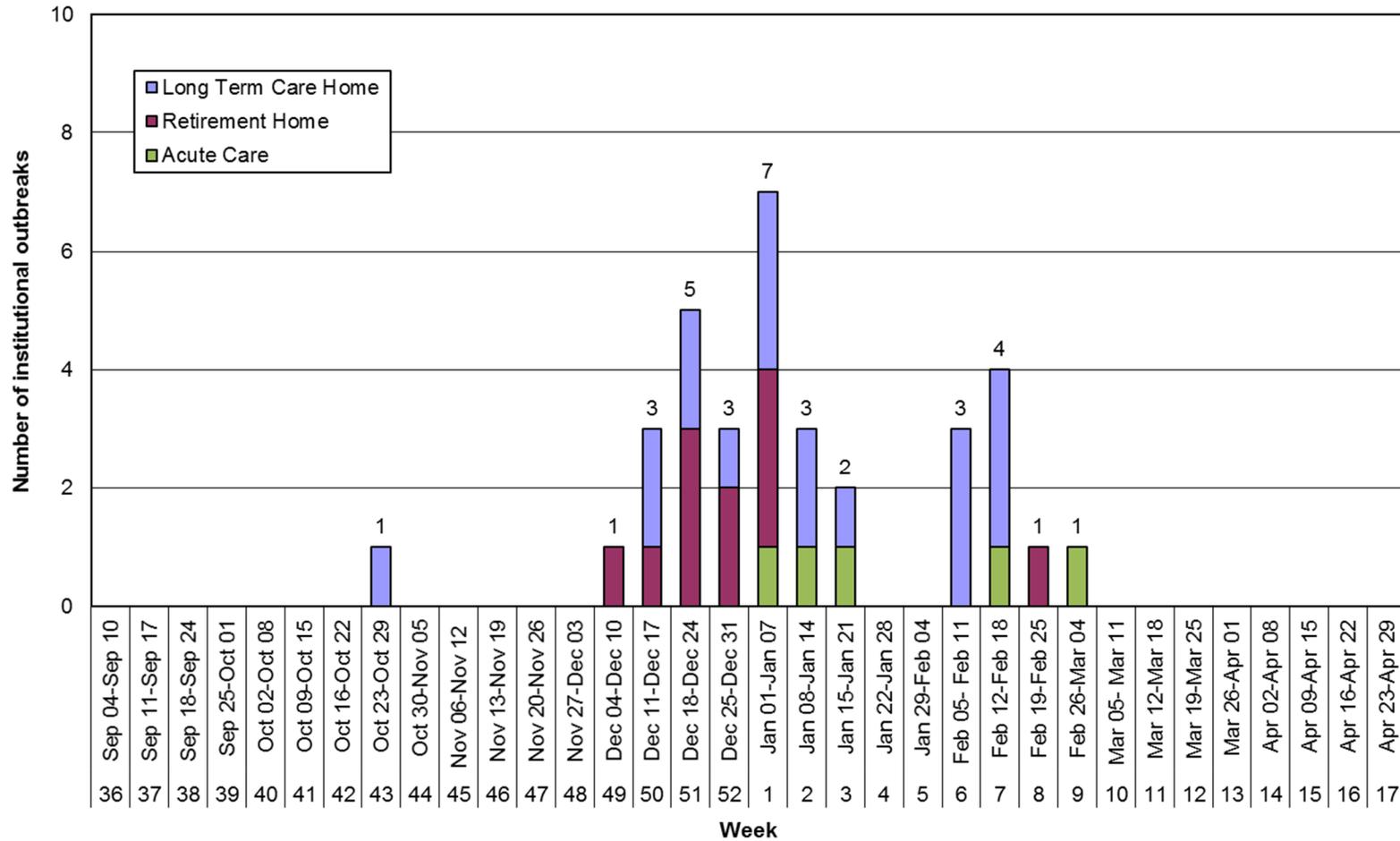
Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Mar. 20, 2017.

† '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=34)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Mar. 20, 2017.

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