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## **2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues January 20, 2014**

### **Current Local Activity**

Influenza activity continues to be elevated in Middlesex-London. Between January 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 27 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported, including two deaths. The number of new cases reported last week is lower than the 38 cases reported to the Health Unit between January 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, a total of 142 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and one case of influenza B have been reported. A chart showing all 143 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Currently, 27 out of 142 influenza A samples have been subtyped, and all have been found to be influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and is a component in the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

To date, the majority (62.2%) of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported in Middlesex-London have been among adults between the ages of 20 and 64. Children under the age of five years continue to be over-represented among laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, relative to their representation in the general population. Children under five years represent only 5.5% of the general population in Middlesex-London, but account for 17.5% of cases.

### **Hospitalizations and Deaths**

Of the 27 influenza cases identified between January 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, eight (29.6%) were hospitalized. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 70 hospitalizations among the 143 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza (49.0%).

As noted above, two deaths were reported in the past week among Middlesex-London residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, four deaths have been reported among cases with laboratory-confirmed influenza.

### **Current Outbreak Activity**

Between January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup>, no new outbreaks due to influenza were declared. To date, four influenza A outbreaks have been declared in Middlesex-London. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was identified in two of the four outbreaks.

### **Influenza Immunization**

The influenza immunization status is known for 135 of the 143 reported cases. Among those cases with known immunization status, 112 (83.0%) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

Vaccination for unvaccinated individuals six months of age and over remains strongly recommended. Influenza vaccinations are available at the Middlesex-London Health Unit's walk-in Immunization Clinic at 50 King Street in London on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clinics also take place at the Kenwick Mall in Strathroy from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month; the next scheduled Health Unit immunization clinic in Strathroy will take place on Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Influenza vaccinations are also available at some health care providers' offices and participating pharmacies. 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://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/publichealth/flu/finder.aspx> .

### **Current Provincial Activity**

Influenza activity has continued to increase across Ontario. Between January 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 906 cases of influenza A and 21 cases of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types was 28.4%, slightly lower than the 29.5% positivity reported the previous week. In total, 2,588 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1<sup>st</sup>. The latest *Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin* from Public Health Ontario can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx> .

### **Current National Influenza Strain Typing**

In Canada, 303 influenza virus samples (24 influenza A(H3N2), 243 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 36 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 303 influenza virus samples, nearly all (98.3%) matched the components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. The components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, A/Victoria/361/2011b (H3N2) virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. The latest *FluWatch* from Public Health Agency of Canada can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/> .

The current and previous editions of the Middlesex-London Health Unit *Community Influenza Surveillance Report* are available on the Health Unit's website at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-surveillance> .

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**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London**  
**January 20, 2014**

Influenza activity continues to be elevated in Middlesex-London.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory Information</b>				
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 13-19	Influenza A - 27 cases Influenza B - 0 cases	Influenza A -142 cases Influenza B - 1 case	The number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases was lower compared to the 38 cases reported in the previous <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> issued January 14, 2014.
<b>Influenza Subtypes<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 13-19	3 cases subtyped as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	27 of 27 cases (100%) of influenza A samples that have been subtyped were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 13-19	8	70	The number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases hospitalized decreased compared to the 22 hospitalizations reported the previous week. In total, 49.0% of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been hospitalized to date.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 13-19	2	4	Two deaths were reported among Middlesex-London residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza. To date, there have been four deaths reported among Middlesex-London residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Jan. 13-19	0	4	There were no influenza outbreaks declared in facilities during this past reporting period, which was lower than the one outbreak that was reported the previous week.
<b>Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Jan. 5-11	Influenza A: 27.8% positivity  Influenza B: 0.6% positivity		Influenza A: Decreased from the 29.1% positivity noted the previous week. Influenza B: Similar to the 0.4% positivity from the previous week.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Recent Trends
<b>Other Community Surveillance Indicators</b>			
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Jan. 12-18	<p>Between January 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, an average of 9.1% of patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) Emergency Departments and the St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) Urgent Care Centre presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department. From January 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 21.1% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined is lower than the 11.8% from the previous week.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department continues to be elevated, but is decreased compared to the 24.1% reported the previous week.</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Jan. 13-16	Between January 13 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> , three elementary schools from one school board reported a four-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Data not available.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Jan. 13-18	From January 13 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> , 4.2% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases is comparable to the 4.6% reported the previous week.

**Sources:**

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

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2013-2014, retrieved from

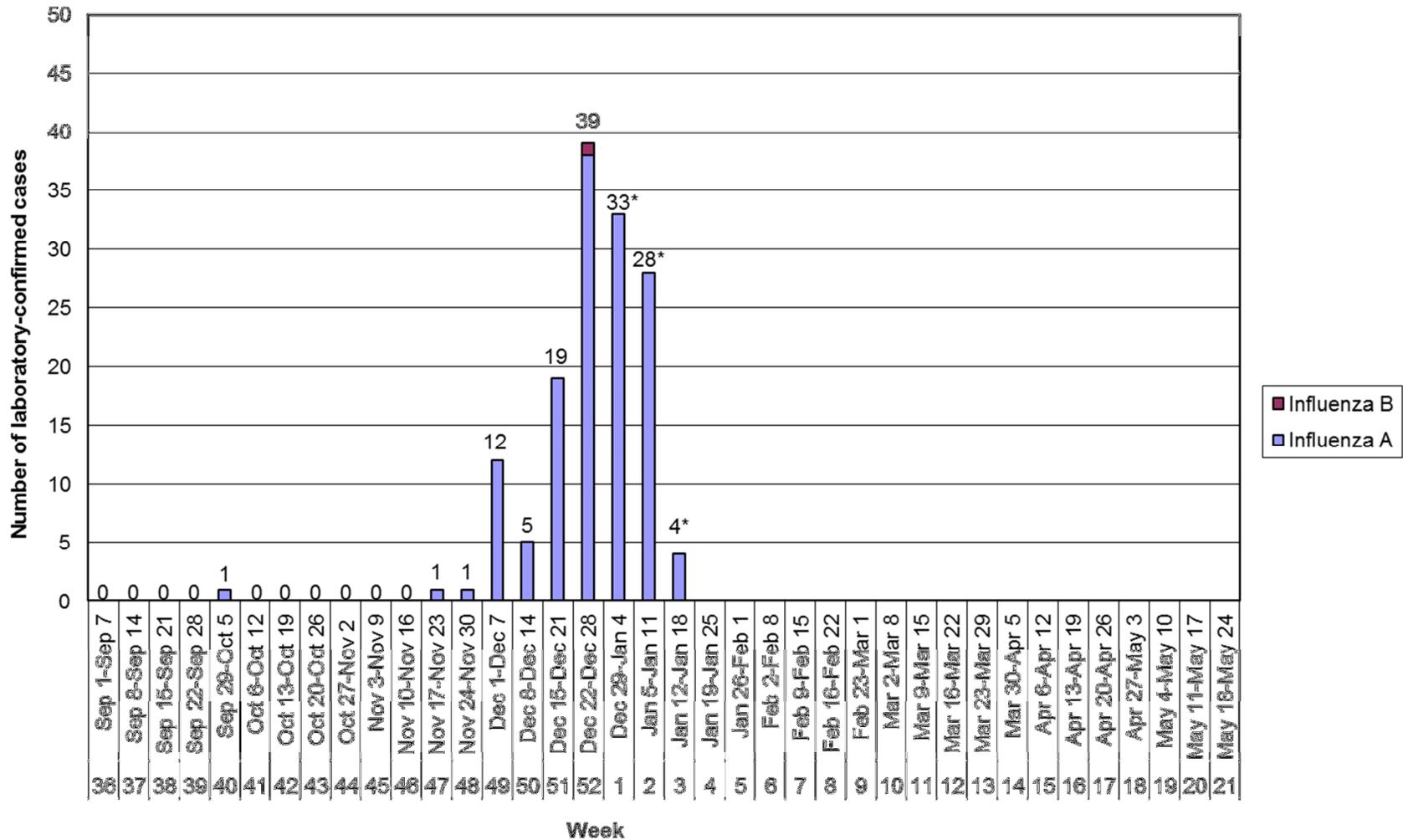
<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>

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 2013-2014 influenza season (N=143)



† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date.

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

Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza case tracking database, extracted January 20, 2014.