
2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 9, 2014

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

Current Local Activity

Between November 30th and December 6th, two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A were reported to the Health Unit, one of whom died. This is the first death reported among laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in Middlesex-London since the beginning of the current influenza surveillance season. Since September 1st, 2014, a total of seven laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported, two of whom have been hospitalized.

One new laboratory-confirmed influenza A outbreak was declared last week. Since September 1st, 2014, two influenza A outbreaks have been declared in facilities within Middlesex-London.

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 <https://www.ontario.ca/health-and-wellness/get-flu-shot/>.

Appendix A

Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London December 9, 2014

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Nov. 30-Dec.6	Influenza A – 2 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 7 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	The two laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported during the current reporting period is similar to the previous week (Nov 23-29), when one influenza A case was reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Nov. 30-Dec.6	N/A	Influenza A(H3) – 5 cases Typing pending – 2 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Nov. 30-Dec.6	0	2	
Deaths¹	Nov. 30-Dec.6	1	1	This is the first death reported among laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in Middlesex-London since the start of the influenza surveillance season.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Nov. 30-Dec.6	Influenza A – 1 outbreak Influenza B – 0 outbreak	Influenza A – 2 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Nov. 23-29	Influenza A – 6.2% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 3.2% reported the previous week (Nov 16-22). Influenza B: Similar to 0% positivity reported the previous week (Nov16-22).

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 2014-2015

Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Current 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. 30-Dec.6	<p>Between November 30th and December 6th, an average of 8.8% 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, where 23.5% 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 was higher than the 7.5% reported the previous week (Nov 23-29).</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department was higher than the 18.6% reported the previous week (Nov 23-29).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 1-5	Between December 1 st and 5 th , five elementary schools from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10% was higher compared to the previous week (Nov 24-28), when two schools reported increased average absenteeism.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Nov. 24-29	From November 24 th to 29 th , 9.0% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was higher compared to the 6.4% reported the previous week (Nov 17-22).

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