

2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 16, 2014

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London remains low.

Current Local Activity

Between December 7th and 13th, two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A, one of whom was hospitalized, were reported to the Health Unit. There were no deaths reported this week.

Since September 1st, 2014, a total of nine laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported, three of whom have been hospitalized, and one of whom has died.

No laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were 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 16, 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	Dec. 7-13	Influenza A – 2 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 9 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	The two laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported during the current reporting period is similar to the previous week (Nov. 30-Dec. 6), when two influenza A cases were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Dec. 7-13	Influenza A(H3) - 2 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 7 cases Typing pending – 2 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 7-13	1	3	
Deaths¹	Dec. 7-13	0	1	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 7-13	Influenza A – 0 outbreak Influenza B – 0 outbreak	Influenza A – 2 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Similar compared to the previous week (Nov. 30-Dec. 6) when one outbreak was declared in a facility.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Nov. 30-Dec. 6	Influenza A – 9.5% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 6.2% reported the previous week (Nov. 23-29). Influenza B: Similar to 0.1% positivity reported the previous week (Nov. 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 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	Dec.7-13	<p>Between December 7th and 13th, an average of 8.9% 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 22.7% 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 similar to the 8.8% reported the previous week (Nov. 30-Dec. 6).</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department was lower than the 23.5% reported the previous week (Nov. 30-Dec. 6).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 8-12	Between December 8 th and 12 th , six 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 similar compared to the previous week (Dec. 1-5), when five schools reported increased average absenteeism.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 8-13	From December 8 th to 13 th , 5.2% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was similar to the 5.0% reported the previous week (Dec. 1-6).

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