
2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status January 13, 2015

Overall assessment: Influenza activity in Middlesex-London remains elevated, but is lower compared to the previous week. This may be due to decreased testing and therefore less detection of illness, and may not reflect a true decrease in the number of influenza infections occurring in the community.

Local Activity:

From January 4th to 10th, 2015, 21 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A were reported to the Health Unit. Among these newly-reported cases, were 12 hospitalizations and one death.

Since September 1st, 2014, there has been a total of 81 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases reported, 34 of whom have been hospitalized, and four of whom have died.

In addition, three laboratory-confirmed influenza A outbreaks were declared last week, bringing to 15 the total number of influenza outbreaks declared in Middlesex-London facilities since September 1st, 2014.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 81 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

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 January 13, 2015

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

Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number Reported: Current Reporting Period	Number Reported: Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases ¹	Jan. 4-10	Influenza A – 21 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 81 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Lower compared to the previous week (Dec. 28-Jan.3) when 38 influenza A cases were reported.
Influenza sub-types ¹	Jan. 4-10	Influenza A(H3) - 4 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 20 cases Typing pending – 61 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3). One sample has been typed as A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like, which is not a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine.
Hospitalizations ¹	Jan. 4-10	12	34	Lower compared to the previous week (Dec. 28-Jan. 3) when 14 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths ¹	Jan. 4-10	1	4	Lower compared to the previous week (Dec. 28-Jan. 3) when two deaths were reported among people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Jan. 4-10	Influenza A – 3 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreak	Influenza A – 15 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Lower compared to the previous week (Dec. 28-Jan 3) when eight outbreaks were declared in facilities.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario) ²	Dec. 28-Jan. 3	Influenza A – 34.5% positivity Influenza B – 0.3% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 30.3% reported the previous week (Dec. 21-27). Influenza B: Similar to 0.4% positivity reported the previous week (Dec. 21-27).

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

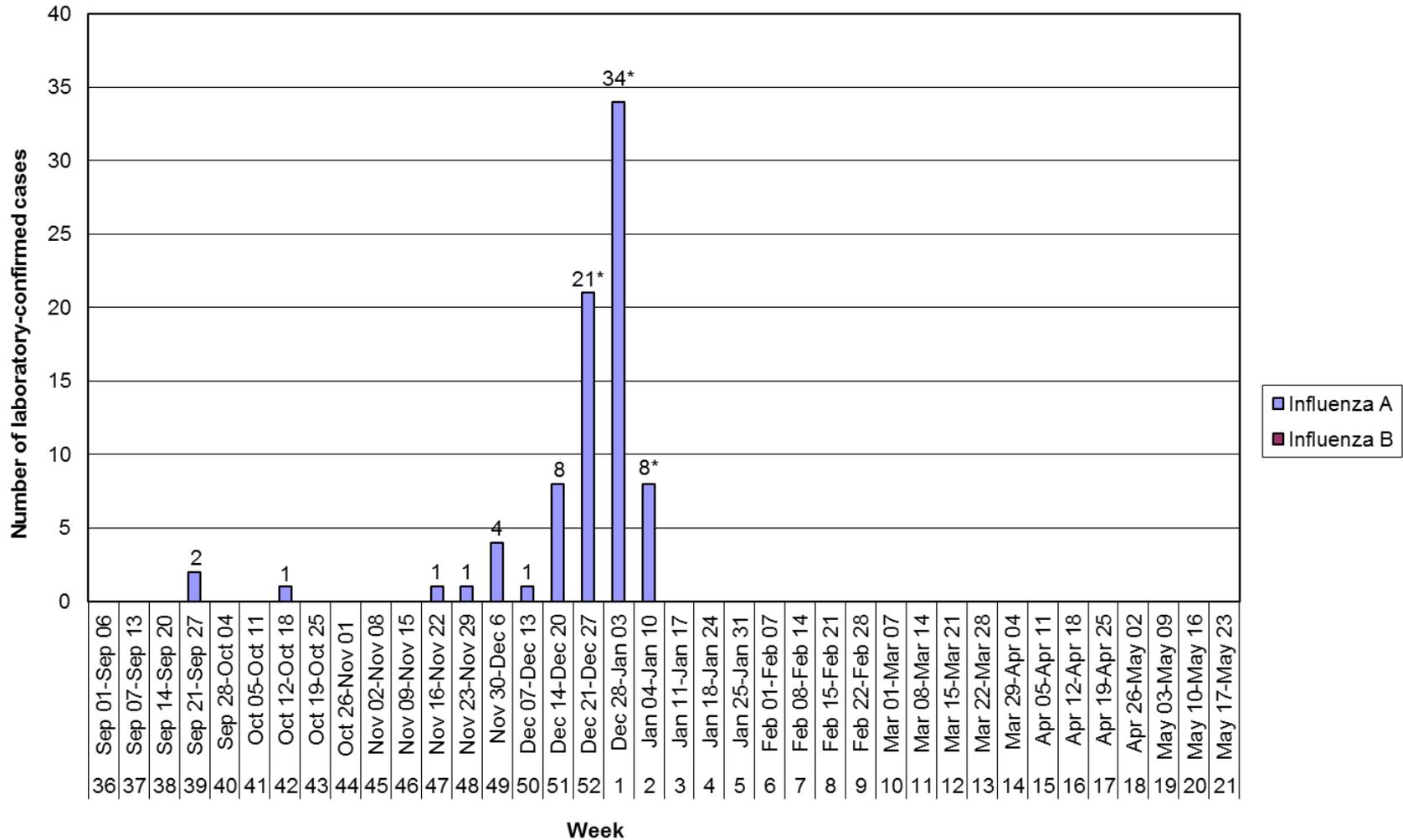
Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Jan. 4-10	<p>Between January 4th and 10th, an average of 10.9% of patients at London Health Sciences 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 26.4% 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 lower than the 13.1% reported the previous week (Dec. 28-Jan. 3).</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department was lower than the 30.2% reported the previous week (Dec. 28-Jan. 3).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Jan. 5-9	Data not reported due to weather-related absenteeism.	Data not currently available.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Jan. 5-10	From January 5 th to 10 th , 7.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was higher than the 3.4% reported the previous week (Dec. 29-Jan. 3)

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 2014-2015 influenza season (N=81)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted January 12, 2015.

† '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.