

2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status February 3, 2015

Overall assessment: Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is higher compared to the previous week. This may be due to increased testing and a corresponding increase in the detection of illness, or it may reflect a true rise in the number of influenza infections occurring in the community.

Local Activity:

From January 25th to 31st, 2015, 40 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A and one laboratory-confirmed influenza B case were reported. Among these cases, there were 14 hospitalizations and no deaths reported to the Health Unit.

Since September 1st, 2014, there has been a total of 162 confirmed influenza A cases and two influenza B cases reported, 59 of whom have been hospitalized, and five of whom have died.

In addition, five laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were declared last week; influenza A was identified in four of these outbreaks, and both influenza A and influenza B were identified in one outbreak. Since September 1st, 2014, there have been 25 influenza outbreaks declared in Middlesex-London facilities.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 164 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 February 3, 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: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Jan. 25-31	Influenza A – 40 cases Influenza B – 1 case	Influenza A – 162 cases Influenza B – 2 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Jan. 18-24), when 28 influenza A cases and 1 influenza B case 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	Jan. 25-31	Influenza A(H3) – 6 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 38 cases Not subtyped – 124 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.
Hospitalizations¹	Jan. 25-31	14	59	Higher compared to the previous week (Jan. 18-24) when 11 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Jan. 25-31	0	5	Similar to the previous week (Jan. 18-24) when one death was reported among people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Jan. 25-31	Influenza A – 4 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 1 outbreak Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 24 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 1 outbreak Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Higher compared to the previous week (Jan. 18-24) when three outbreaks were declared in facilities.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Jan. 18-24	Influenza A – 31.6% positivity Influenza B – 0.2% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 30.2% reported the previous week (Jan. 11-17). Influenza B: Similar to 0.4% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 11-17).

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

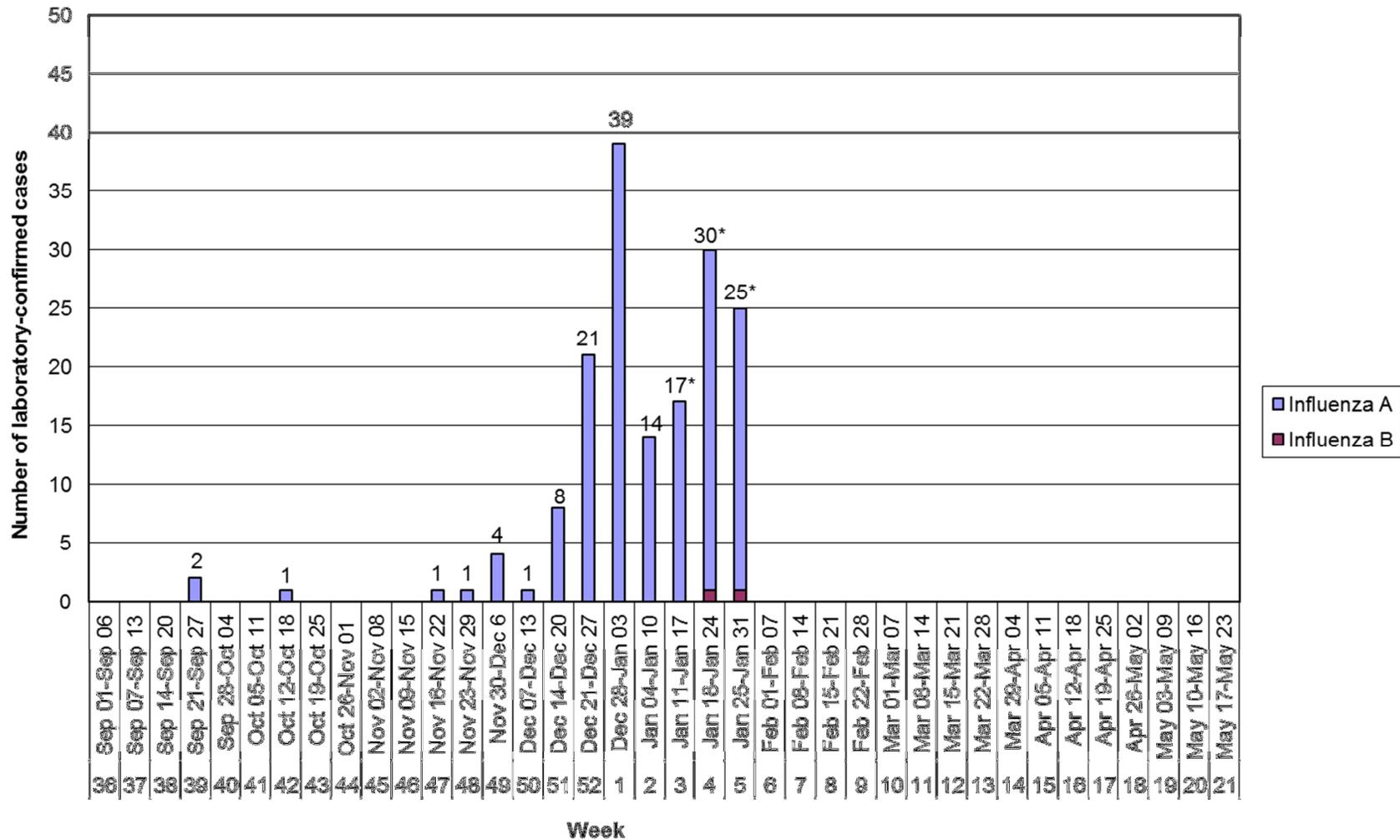
Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Jan. 25-31	<p>Between January 25th and 31st, an average of 12.4% of patients at London Health Sciences 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 30.9% 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 10.9% reported the previous week (Jan. 18-24).</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department was higher than the 27.7% reported the previous week (Jan. 18-24).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Jan. 26-30	Between January 26 th and 29 th , 28 elementary schools from one school board reported a four-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10% was higher than the previous week (Jan. 12-15), when 13 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Jan. 26-31	From January 26 th to 31 st , 3.1% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was lower than the 5.0% reported the previous week (Jan. 19-24).

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=164)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted February 3, 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.