
2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 17, 2015

Overall assessment: Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower compared to the previous week.

Local Activity:

From March 8th to 14th, 2015, 12 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A and two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza B were reported. Among these cases, there were six hospitalizations. No deaths were reported to the Health Unit in the most recent week.

Since September 1st, 2014, there has been a total of 304 confirmed influenza A cases and 13 influenza B cases reported, 124 of whom have been hospitalized, and six of whom have died.

There were no laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks declared last week. Since September 1st, 2014, there have been 37 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 317 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 March 17, 2015

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

Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Mar. 8-14	Influenza A – 12 cases Influenza B – 2 cases	Influenza A – 304 cases Influenza B – 13 cases	Influenza A: Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 1-7), when 14 cases were reported. Influenza B: Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 1-7), when 5 cases 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	Mar. 8-14	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 62 cases Not subtyped – 242 cases A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like – 2 cases B/Massachusetts/02/12-like – 1 case	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A (H3). Two samples have been typed as A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like, which is not a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine One sample has been typed as B/Massachusetts/02/12-like, which is a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine.
Hospitalizations¹	Mar. 8-14	6	124	Same as the previous week (Mar. 1-7) when six hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Mar. 8-14	0	6	Same as the previous week (Mar. 1-7) when no deaths were reported among people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Mar. 8-14	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 35 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 2 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 1-7) when three laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were declared in facilities.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Mar. 1-7	Influenza A – 14.0% positivity Influenza B – 2.7% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower compared to 15.9% reported the previous week (Feb. 21-28). Influenza B: Slightly higher compared to 2.2% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 21-28).

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

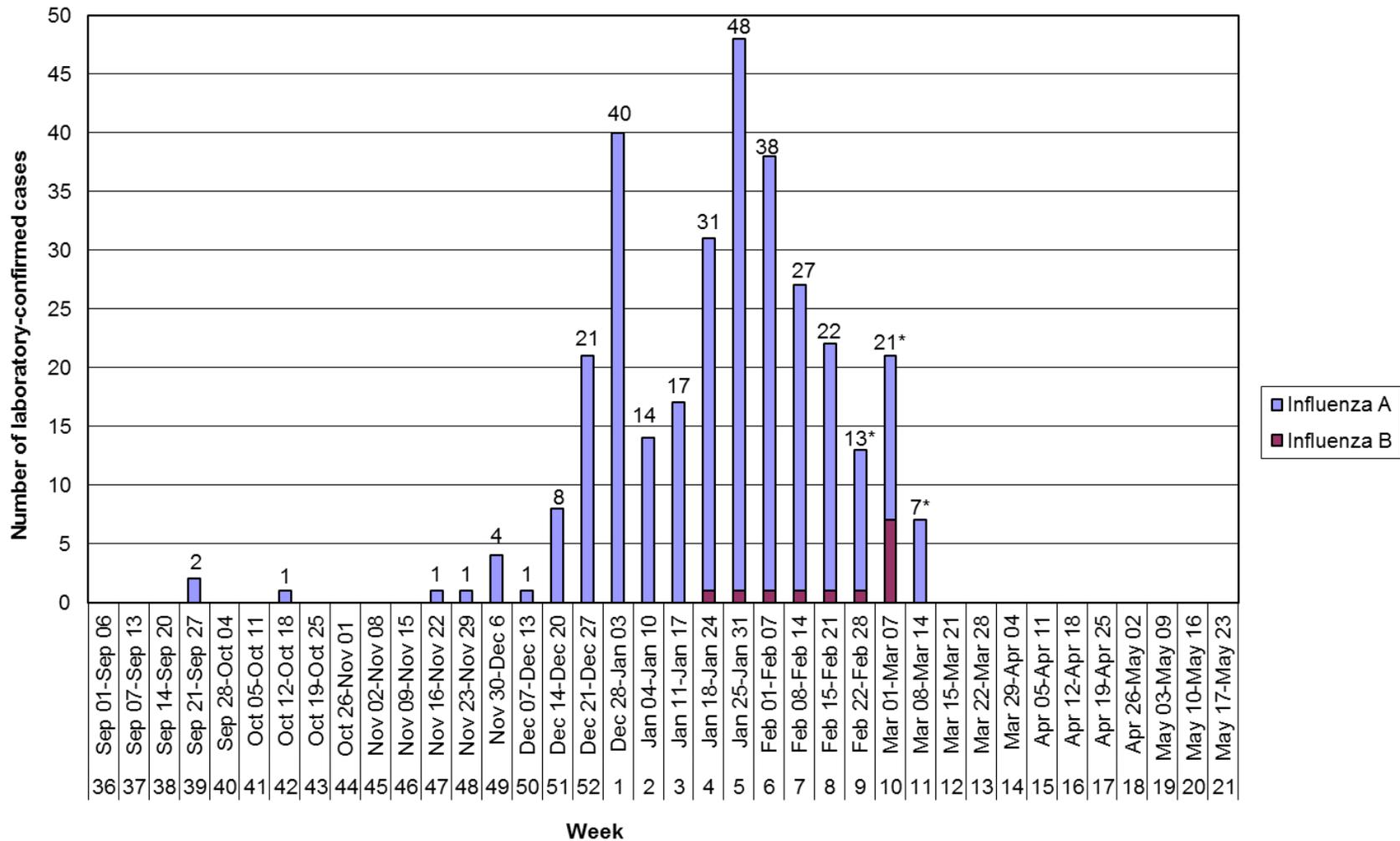
Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness <i>(includes LHSC emergency departments and the SJHC urgent care centre)</i>	Mar. 8-14	An average of 9.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 23.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Slightly lower than the 9.9% reported the previous week (Mar. 1-7). Same as the 23.2% reported the previous week (Mar. 1-7).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Mar. 9-13	A total of 24 elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Higher than the previous week (Mar. 2-6), when 15 schools reported increased absenteeism. The greater number of schools reporting increased absenteeism last week may be influenced by factors unrelated to illness, e.g., absenteeism associated with March Break plans.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Mar. 9-14	An average of 6.7% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Higher than the 5.8% reported the previous week (Mar. 2-7).

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=317)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 16, 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.