

## **2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status May 12, 2015**

**Overall assessment:** Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is similar to the previous week.

### **Local Activity:**

From May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, five laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza B were reported; there were no influenza A cases reported. During this time, two hospitalizations and no deaths were reported among people with laboratory confirmed influenza.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, there have been 328 confirmed influenza A cases and 48 influenza B cases reported, 157 of whom have been hospitalized, and 14 of whom have died.

No laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were declared last week. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, there have been 40 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 376 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 May 12, 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
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	May 3-9	Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 5 cases	Influenza A – 328 cases Influenza B – 48 cases	Influenza A: <b>Same</b> compared to the previous week (Apr. 26-May 2), when no cases were reported.  Influenza B: <b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Apr. 26-May 2), when two cases were reported.  <b>Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness. As a result, the weekly counts shown in this section differ from those provided in the chart in Appendix B.</b>
<b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>	May 3-9	0	Influenza A(H3) – 67 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 261 cases  A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like – 2 cases  B/Massachusetts/02/12-like – 2 case	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A (H3).
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	May 3-9	2	157	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Apr. 26-May 2) when no hospitalizations were reported.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	May 3-9	0	14	<b>Same</b> compared to the previous week (Apr. 26-May 2) when no deaths were reported in a people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	May 3-9	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 37 outbreaks Influenza B – 1 outbreak Influenza A & B – 2 outbreaks	<b>Same</b> compared to the previous week (Apr. 26-May 2) when no laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were declared in facilities.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Apr. 26-May 2	Influenza A – 0.8% positivity  Influenza B – 7.2% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Slightly lower</b> compared to 1.7% reported the previous week (Apr. 19-25). Influenza B: <b>Lower</b> compared to 12.8% positivity reported the previous week (Apr. 19-25).

**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**

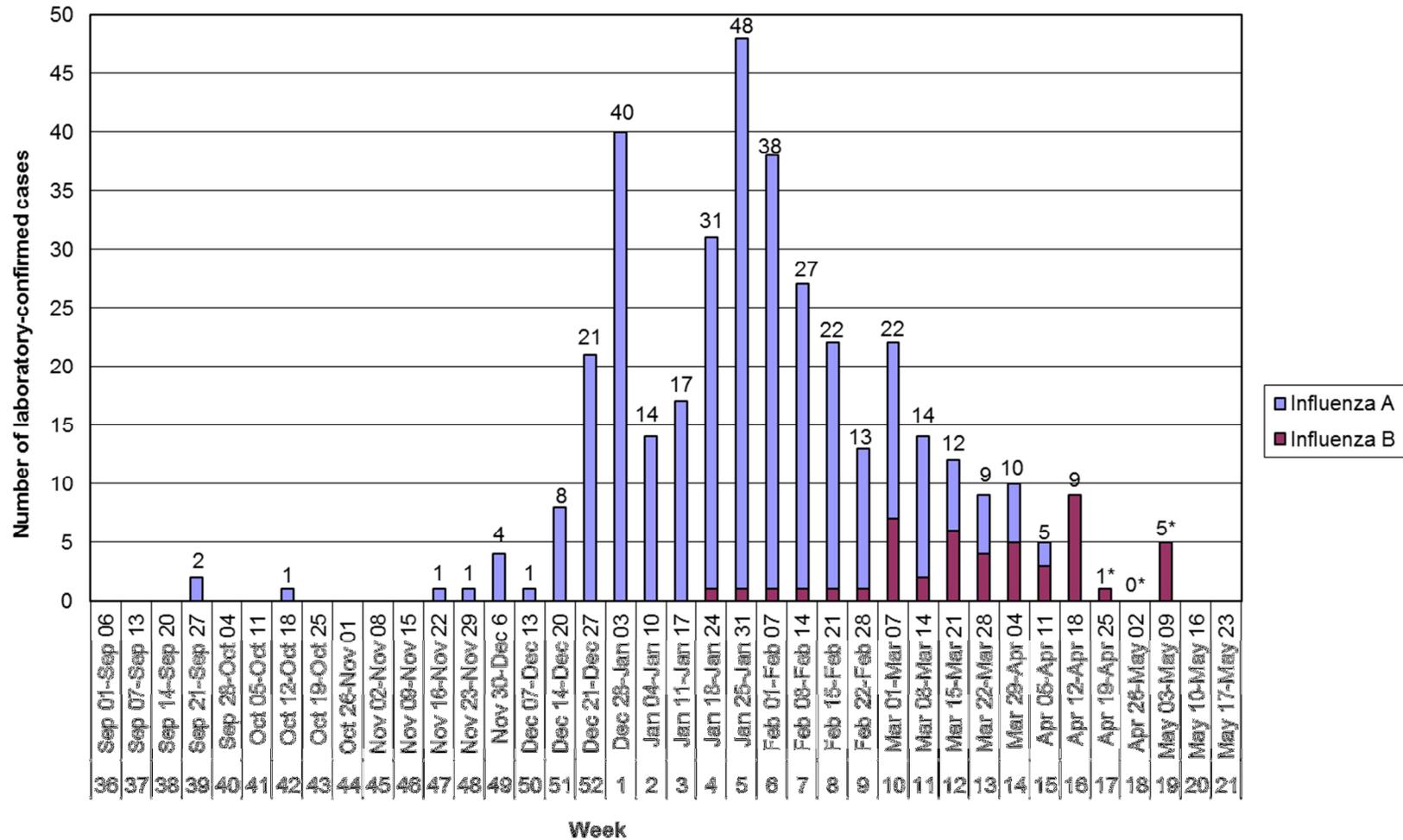
Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b> <i>(includes LHSC emergency departments and the SJHC urgent care centre)</i>	May 3-9	An average of 7.0% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.  The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 16.7% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	<b>Slightly lower</b> than the 7.6% reported the previous week (Apr. 26-May 2).  <b>Slightly higher</b> than the 15.8% reported the previous week (Apr. 26-May 2).
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	May 4-8	A total of 23 elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.  <b>Absenteeism last week was likely influenced by parents who kept their children home from school to protest changes to the publicly funded school curriculum.</b>	<b>Higher</b> than the previous week (Apr. 27-May 1), when 10 schools reported increased absenteeism.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	May 4-9	An average of 5.3% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	<b>Higher</b> than the 3.2% reported the previous week (Apr. 20-25).

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=376)



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

† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date. As a result, the weekly counts shown in this section differ from those provided in other sections of this report.

\* Counts may be incomplete and are subject to change, due to the retrospective nature of reporting.