
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 1, 2016

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is higher compared to previous reporting week.

Current Local Activity

From February 21st to 27th, 2016, 43 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (36 influenza A and seven influenza B) were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 24 were hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 126 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (106 of influenza A and 20 of influenza B) reported in London and Middlesex County.

One influenza B outbreak was declared in a long term care home this past reporting week. This is the first influenza outbreak to occur during the 2015-2016 influenza season.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 126 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

Useful Websites

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin (ORPB), 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://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/fluwatch-reports-rapports-surveillance-influenza-eng.php>
- 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 <http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-flu-shot/>.

Appendix A

Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London March 1, 2016

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2015)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Feb. 21-27	Influenza A – 36 cases Influenza B – 7 cases	Influenza A – 106 cases Influenza B – 20 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when 37 cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Feb. 21-27	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–3 cases Influenza A not subtyped–33 cases Influenza A(H3) & (H1N1)pdm09 co- infection- 1 case Strain typing A/California/07/09-like-0 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 28 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 74 cases Influenza A(H3) & (H1N1)pdm09 co-infection- 1 case A/California/07/09-like- 2 cases	
Hospitalizations¹	Feb. 21-27	24	57	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when 15 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Feb. 21-27	0	1	Same compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when no deaths in a person with laboratory confirmed influenza were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Feb. 21-27	1	1	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when no influenza outbreaks were declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Feb. 14-20	Influenza A –19.4% positivity Influenza B –4.0% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower compared to 20.9% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 7-13). Influenza B: Higher compared to 2.7% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 7-13).

Notes:

1 Numbers are subject to change week by week due to the retrospective nature of reporting.

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin 2015-2016

Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

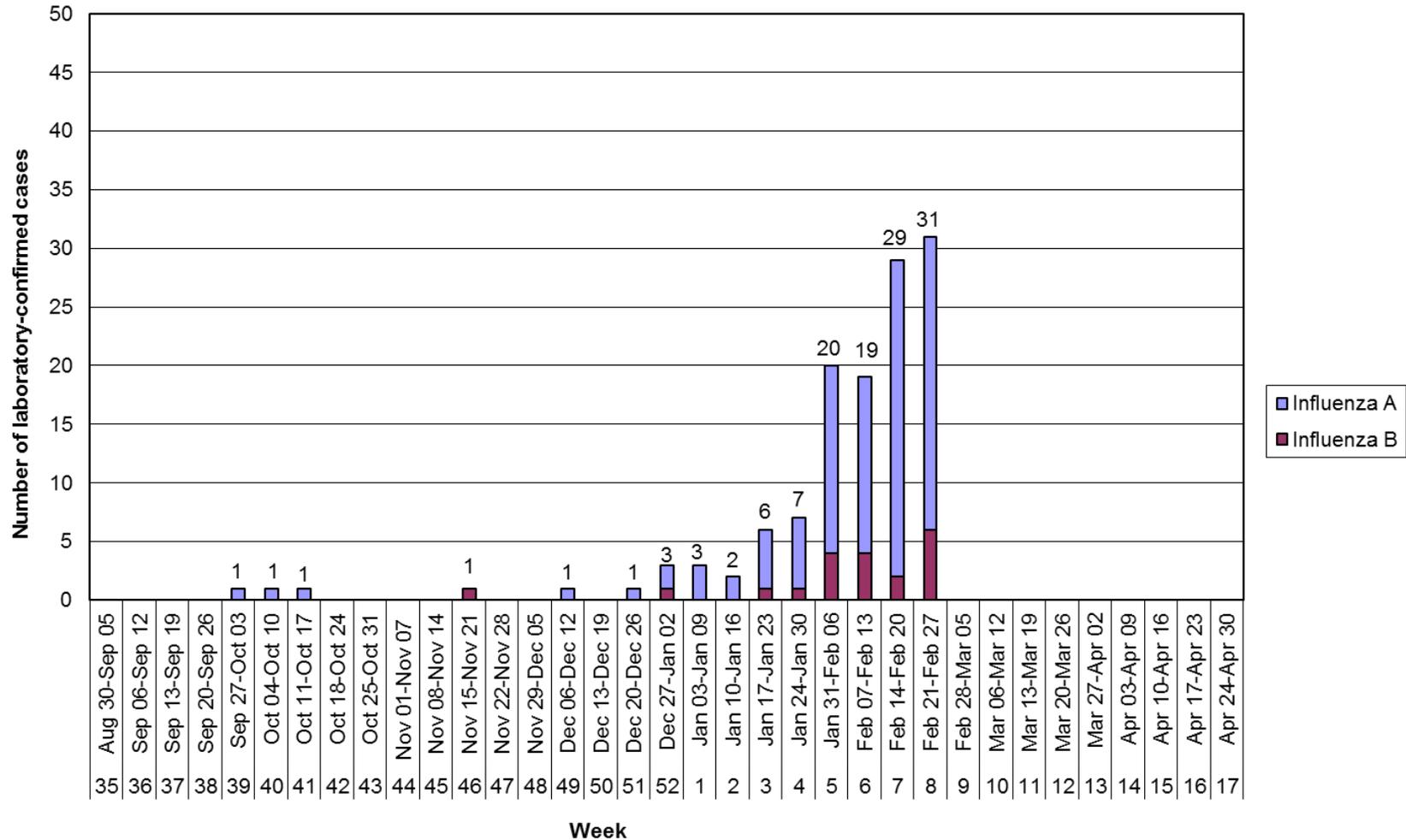
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Feb. 21-27	An average of 12.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 32.8% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Lower than 14.2% reported the previous week (Feb. 14-20). Lower than 33.9% reported the previous week (Feb. 14-20).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Feb. 22-26	37 elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism due to all causes exceeding 10%.	Higher than the previous week (Feb. 15-19), when 30 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Feb. 22-27	An average of 4.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Higher than 4.1% reported the previous week (Feb. 15-20).

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 2015-2016 influenza season (N=126)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 1, 2016.

† '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.