
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 8, 2016

Overall assessment

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

Current Local Activity

From February 28th to March 5th, 2016, 53 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (42 influenza A and 11 influenza B) were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 22 were hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 179 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (148 of influenza A and 31 of influenza B) reported in London and Middlesex County.

No influenza outbreaks or deaths in people with laboratory confirmed influenza were declared this past reporting week.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 179 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 6, 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. 28-March 5	Influenza A – 42 cases Influenza B – 11 cases	Influenza A – 148 cases Influenza B – 31 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 21-27) when 43 cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Feb. 28-March 5	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–3 cases Influenza A not subtyped–39 cases Strain typing A/California/07/09-like-0 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 33 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 111 cases Influenza A(H3) & (H1N1)pdm09 co-infection- 1 case A/California/07/09-like- 4 cases	
Hospitalizations¹	Feb. 28-March 5	22	80	Lower compared to the previous week (Feb. 21-March 5) when 24 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Feb. 28-March 5	0	1	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 21-March 5) when no deaths in a person with laboratory confirmed influenza were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Feb 28-March 5	0	1	Lower compared to the previous week (Feb. 21-March 5) when one influenza outbreak was declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Feb. 21-27	Influenza A –29.0% positivity Influenza B –4.2% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 19.4% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 14-20). Influenza B: Similar compared to 4.0% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 14-20).

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

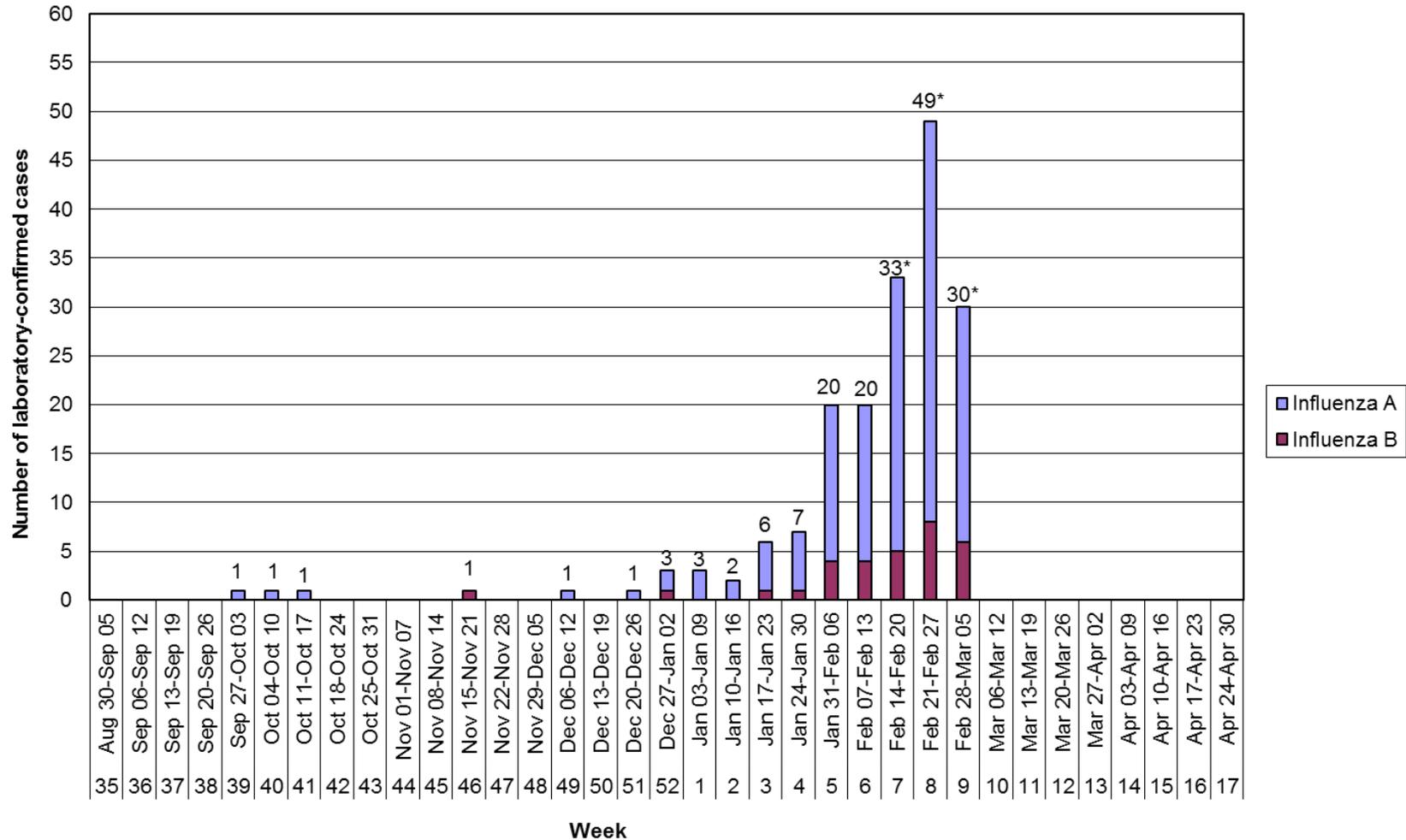
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Feb. 28-Mar. 5	<p>An average of 14.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 36.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>Higher than 12.6% reported the previous week (Feb. 21-27).</p> <p>Higher than 32.8% reported the previous week (Feb. 21-27).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Feb. 29-Mar. 4	<p>55 elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism due to all causes exceeding 10%.</p> <p>Weather-related bus cancellations may have contributed to the number of schools with increased absenteeism.</p>	<p>Higher than the previous week (Feb. 22-26), when 37 schools reported increased absenteeism.</p>
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Feb. 29-Mar. 5	<p>An average of 4.7% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.</p>	<p>Similar to 4.6% reported the previous week (Feb. 22-27).</p>

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=179)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 7, 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.