
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 15, 2016

Overall assessment

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

Current Local Activity

From March 6th to 12th, 2016, there were 88 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (62 influenza A, 25 influenza B, and one influenza A & B co-infection) reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 23 were hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 267 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (210 influenza A, 56 influenza B, one influenza A & B co-infection) reported in London and Middlesex County. There were also two deaths reported this past reporting week in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza as well as six influenza A outbreaks and one influenza B outbreak declared in long-term care homes.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 267 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 15, 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	Mar. 6-12	Influenza A – 62 cases Influenza B – 25 cases Influenza A&B – 1 case	Influenza A – 210 cases Influenza B – 56 cases Influenza A&B – 1 case	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 28-March 5) when 53 cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Mar. 6-12	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–14 cases Influenza A(H3) & A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection–2 cases Influenza A not subtyped–46 cases	Influenza A(H3)–3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09–47 cases Influenza A not subtyped–157 cases Influenza A(H3) & A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection–3 cases Strain typing A/California/07/09-like–4 cases	
Hospitalizations¹	Mar. 6-12	23	103	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 28-March 5) when 22 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Mar. 6-12	2	3	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 28-Mar. 5) when one death in a person with laboratory-confirmed influenza was reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Mar. 6-12	Influenza A – 6 outbreaks Influenza B – 1 outbreak	Influenza A – 7 outbreaks Influenza B – 2 outbreaks	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 28-Mar. 5) when one influenza outbreak was declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Feb. 28-Mar. 5	Influenza A –29.9% positivity Influenza B –5.8% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 29.0% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 21-27). Influenza B: Higher compared to 4.2% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 21-27).

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

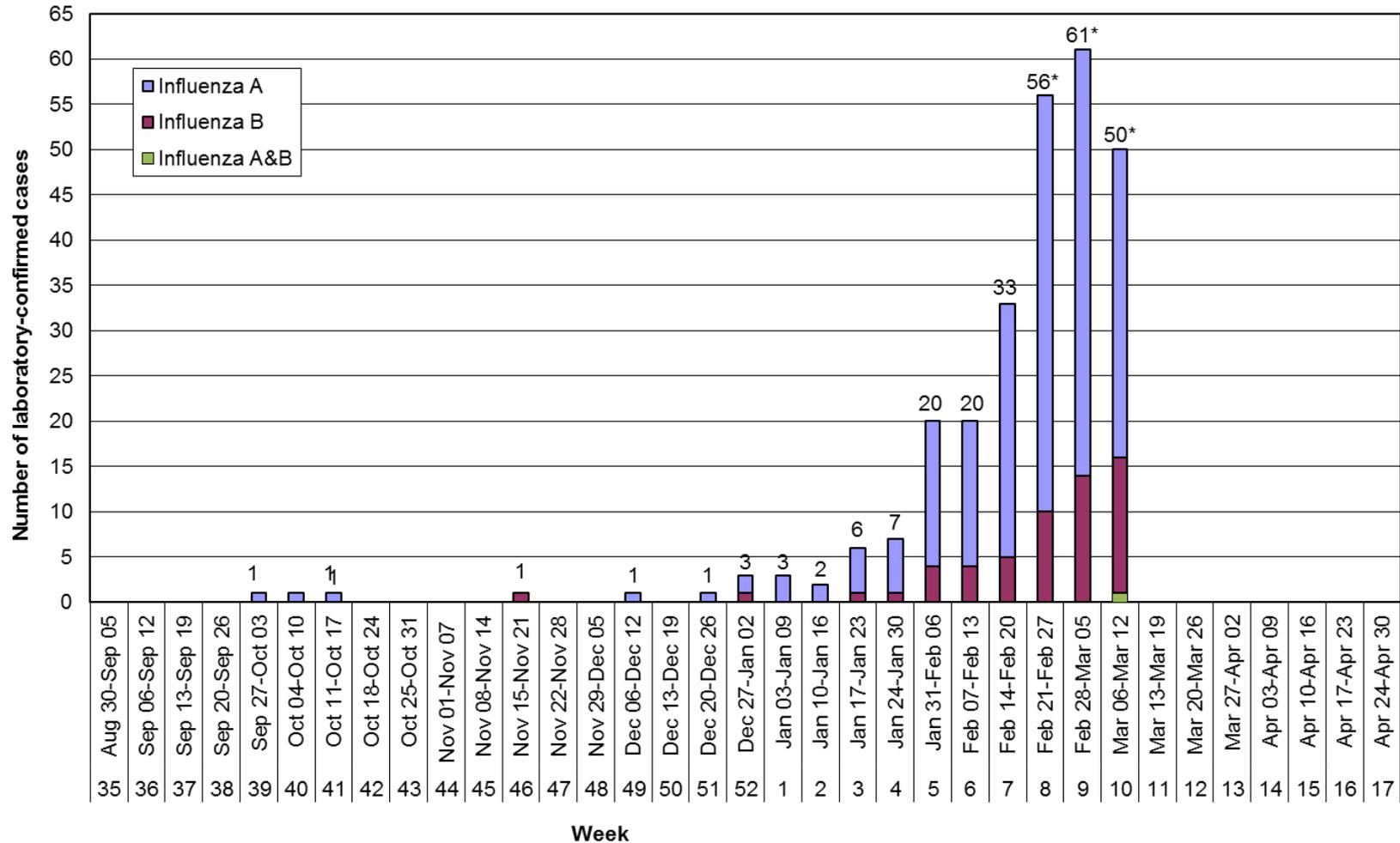
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Mar. 6-12	An average of 16.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 37.6% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Higher than 14.6% reported the previous week (Feb. 28-Mar. 5). Higher than 36.2% reported the previous week (Feb. 28-Mar. 5).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Mar. 7-11	42 elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism due to all causes exceeding 10%.	Lower than the previous week (Mar. 7-11), when 55 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Mar. 7-12	An average of 4.1% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Lower than 4.7% reported the previous week (Feb. 29-Mar. 5).

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=267)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 15, 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.