
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report

Update of Current Status

May 17, 2016

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London remains low, although there has been an increase in some indicators compared to the previous week.

Current Local Activity

From May 8th to 14th, 2016, there were six laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (2 influenza A and 4 influenza B) reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom four were hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 480 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (324 influenza A, 155 influenza B, one influenza A & B co-infection) reported in London and Middlesex County. No new influenza outbreaks were declared in any facilities during this reporting period. One death of a person previously known to have laboratory confirmed influenza was reported this past 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 480 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 May 17, 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	May 8-14	Influenza A – 2 case Influenza B – 4 cases Influenza A&B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 324 cases Influenza B – 155 cases Influenza A&B – 1 case	Lower compared to the previous week (May 1-7) when 10 cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	May 8-14	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–0 cases Influenza A not subtyped–2 cases	Influenza A(H3)– 4 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 75 cases Influenza A not subtyped– 244 cases Influenza A(H3) & A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection– 1 case Strain typing A/California/07/09-like– 4 cases Influenza B/Brisbane60/2008-like- 1 case A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like 1	
Hospitalizations¹	May 8-14	4	190	Lower compared to the previous week (May 1-7) when eight hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	May 8-14	1	19	Higher compared to the previous week (May 1-7) when no deaths in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	May 8-14	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 7 outbreaks Influenza B – 4 outbreaks	Lower compared to the previous week (May 1-7) when one influenza outbreak was declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	May 1-7	Influenza A – 3.9% positivity Influenza B – 9.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower compared to 5.5% positivity reported the previous week (Apr. 24-30). Influenza B: Lower compared to 10.0% positivity reported the previous week (April 24-30).

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

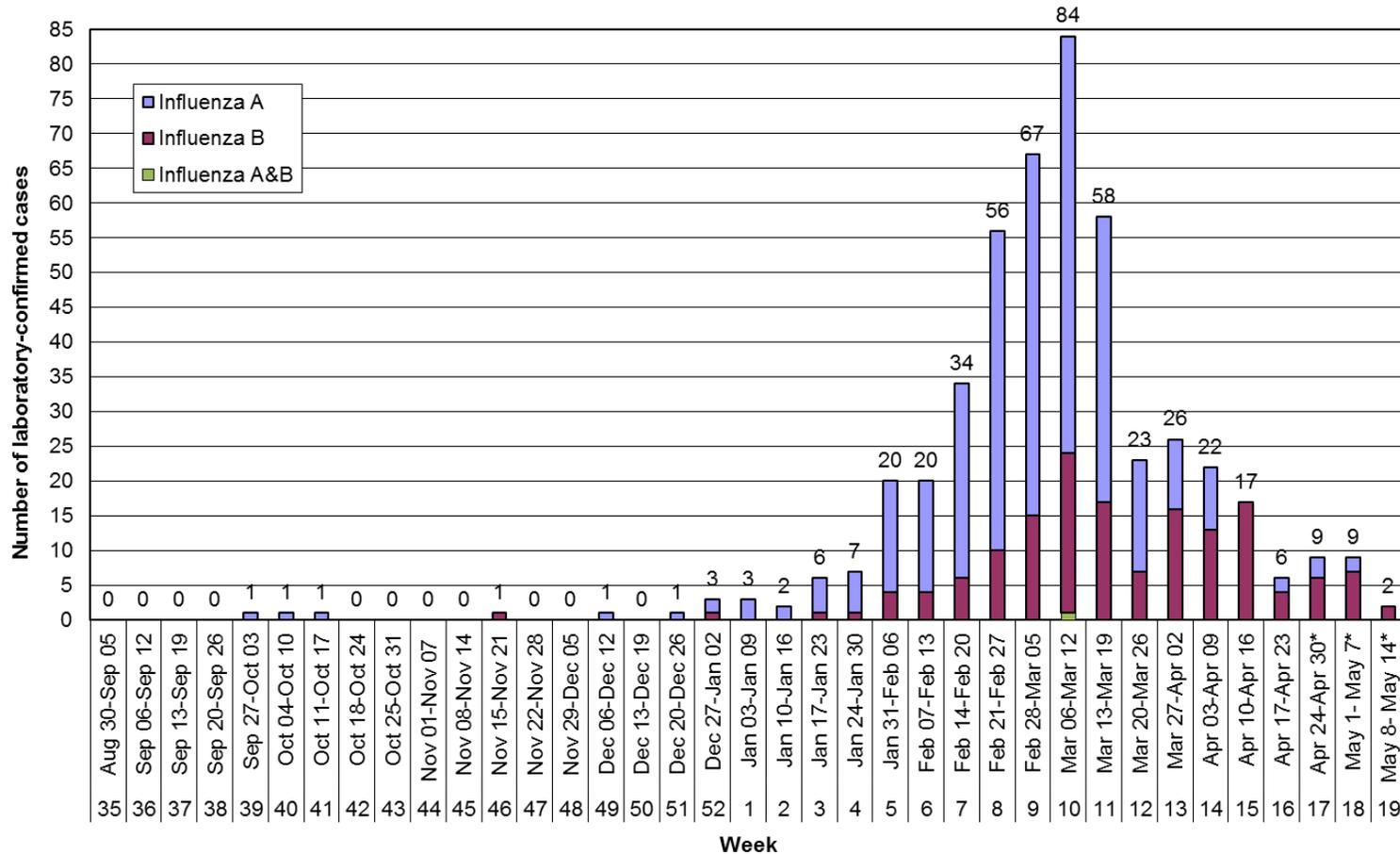
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	May 8-14	An average of 6.7% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 16.3% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Similar compared to 6.3% reported the previous week (May 1-7). Higher than 15.1% reported the previous week (May 1-7).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	May 9-13	Data not available	In the previous week (May 2-6), seven schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	May 9-14	An average of 5.7% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Higher compared to 2.9% reported the previous week (May 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 2015-2016 influenza season (N=480)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted May 17, 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.