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## 2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status November 2, 2016

### Overall assessment

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

### Current Local Activity

This is the first of the Middlesex London Health Unit's *Community Influenza Surveillance Reports* for the 2016-2017 surveillance season. This report will be issued weekly during the influenza surveillance season and will provide an overview of the current status of influenza and respiratory illness observed in Middlesex-London.

Between October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A (H3) were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Both cases were associated with an outbreak in a Long Term Care Home. Since September 1, 2016, a total of three laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. One of the three cases reported in October acquired influenza as a result of travel outside of Ontario. All three samples have been subtyped as influenza A (H3).

One influenza A outbreak was declared at a Long Term Care Home on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness.

### 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 <http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-flu-shot/>.

## Appendix A

### Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London November 2, 2016

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season**

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2016)</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Oct. 23-29	Influenza A – 2 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 3 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	
<b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>	Oct. 23-29	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 0 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A not subtyped – case	All influenza A strains subtyped to date (3/3) have been influenza A(H3).
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Oct. 23-29	0	0	
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Oct. 23-29	0	0	
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Oct. 23-29	1	1	
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Oct 9-22	Influenza A – 0.9% positivity Influenza B – 0.0% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> than 1.5% reported in the previous two week reporting period (Sep. 25-Oct. 8).  Influenza B: <b>Similar</b> to 0.3% positivity reported in the previous two week reporting period (Sep. 25-Oct. 8).

**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 2016-2017

**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
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Oct. 23-29	An average of 6.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.  The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 18.3% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	<b>Similar</b> to 5.9% reported the previous week (Oct. 16-22).  <b>Higher</b> than 15.1% reported the previous week (Oct. 16-21).
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Oct. 24-28	Data not available.	In the previous week (Oct. 17-21), four schools reported increased absenteeism.
<b>Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Oct. 24-29	An average of 3.6% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	<b>Lower</b> than 5.7% reported the previous week (Oct 17-22).

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- London Health Sciences Centre
- London X-Ray Associates
- St. Joseph's Health Care London
- Thames Valley District School Board