
2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 13, 2016

Overall assessment

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is higher than the previous week.

Current Local Activity

Between December 4th and 10th, 13 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom eight were hospitalized. In addition, one outbreak of influenza A (H3) was declared in a local retirement home.

Since September 1st, 2016, 22 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Of those, 15 have been identified as influenza A(H3). To date, two influenza A outbreaks have been declared in facilities located in the Middlesex-London area.

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 December 6, 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
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Dec. 4-10	Influenza A – 13 case Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 22 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Nov. 27-Dec. 3) when one influenza case was reported. Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.
Influenza sub-types¹	Dec. 4-10	Influenza A(H3) – 8 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 5 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 14 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 8 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 4-10	8	14	Higher compared to the previous week (Nov. 27-Dec. 3) when one hospitalization was reported.
Deaths¹	Dec. 4-10	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 4-10	1	2	Higher compared to the previous week (Nov. 27-Dec. 3) when no influenza outbreaks were declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Nov. 27-Dec. 3	Influenza A – 5.4% positivity Influenza B – 0.0% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 3.2% reported in the previous week (Nov. 20-26). Influenza B: Similar compared to 0.1% positivity reported in the previous week (Nov. 20-26).

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, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Dec. 4-10	An average of 9.1% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 24.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Higher compared to 7.5% reported the previous week (Nov. 27- Dec. 3). Higher than 20.3% reported the previous week (Nov. 27- Dec. 3).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 5-9	Nineteen elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.	Higher than the previous week (Nov. 28- Dec. 2), when 16 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 5-10	Of chest x-rays performed, 4.7% were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Same as 4.9% reported the previous week (Nov. 28- Dec. 3).

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