

2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 20, 2016

Overall assessment

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

Current Local Activity

Between December 11th and 17th, 14 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom nine were hospitalized and one died. In addition, three facility outbreaks of influenza A (2 H3 and 1 not yet typed) were declared.

Since September 1st, 2016, 36 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Of those, 16 have been identified as influenza A(H3). To date, five 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 13, 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. 11-17	Influenza A – 14 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 36 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 4-10) when 13 influenza cases were 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. 11-17	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 12 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 16 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 20 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 11-17	9	14	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 4-10) when eight hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Dec. 11-17	1	1	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 4-10) when no deaths were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 11-17	3	5	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 4-10) when one influenza outbreak was declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Dec. 4-10	Influenza A – 8.7% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 5.4% reported in the previous week (Nov. 27-Dec. 3). Influenza B: Similar compared to 0.0% positivity reported in the previous week (Nov. 27-Dec. 3).

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. 11-17	An average of 7.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 21.9% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Lower compared to 9.1% reported the previous week (Dec. 4-10). Lower than 24.2% reported the previous week (Dec. 4-10).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 12-6	Forty-one elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.	Higher than the previous week (Dec. 5-9), when 19 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 12-17	Of chest x-rays performed, 4.7% were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Similar to the 4.7% reported in the previous week (Dec. 5-10).

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