

## **2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 28, 2016**

### **Overall assessment**

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

### **Current Local Activity**

Between December 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 25 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 14 were hospitalized. In addition, five facility outbreaks of influenza A were declared.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, 62 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Of those, 22 have been identified as influenza A(H3). To date, ten 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. A graph showing all 62 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

### **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 28, 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>	Dec. 18-24	Influenza A – 25 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 62 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Dec. 11-17) when 14 influenza cases were reported.  <b>Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.</b>
<b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 18-24	Influenza A(H3) – 6 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 19 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 22 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 40 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 18-24	14	37	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Dec. - 17) when nine hospitalizations were reported.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 18-24	0	1	<b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Dec. 11-17) when one death was reported.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Dec. 18-24	5	10	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Dec. 11-17) when three influenza outbreaks were declared.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Dec. 11-17	Influenza A – 10.3% positivity Influenza B – 0.2% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Higher</b> compared to 8.7% positivity reported in the previous week (Dec. 4-10).  Influenza B: <b>Similar</b> compared to 0.1% positivity reported in the previous week (Dec. 4-10).

**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**

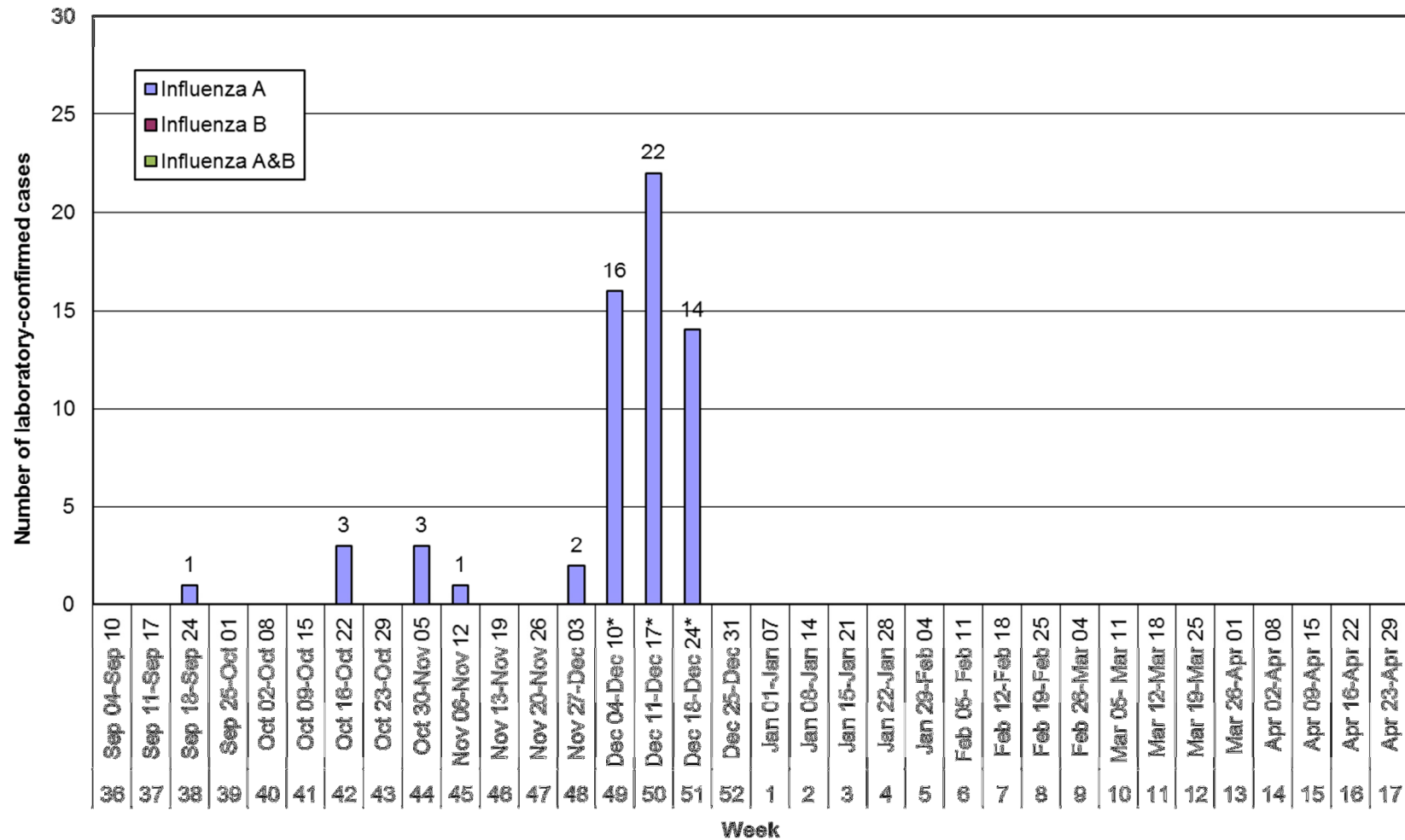
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Dec. 18-24	An average of 10.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.  The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 29.5% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	<b>Higher</b> compared to 7.4% reported the previous week (Dec. 11-17).  <b>Higher</b> than 21.9% reported the previous week (Dec. 11-17).
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Dec. 19-23	Thirty-five elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.	<b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Dec. 12-16), when 41 schools reported increased absenteeism.
<b>Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Dec. 19-23	Of chest x-rays performed, 5.9% were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	<b>Higher</b> than the 4.7% reported in the previous week (Dec. 12-17).

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 2016-2017 influenza season (N=62)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Dec 28, 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.