

2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status January 10, 2017

Overall assessment

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

Current Local Activity

Between January 1st and 7th, 54 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 36 were hospitalized. In addition, five facility outbreaks of influenza A were declared.

Since September 1st, 2016, 158 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported. To date, all cases have been identified as influenza A. Of the cases, 40 have been identified as influenza A(H3). To date, 18 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 158 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B.

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 January 10, 2017

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	Jan. 1-7	Influenza A – 54 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 158 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 25-31) when 39 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	Jan. 1-7	Influenza A(H3) – 4 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 50 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 40 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 118 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Jan. 1-7	36	95	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 25-31) when 19 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Jan 1-7	0	2	Lower compared to the previous week (Dec. 25-31) when one death was reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Jan. 1-7	5	18	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 25-31) when four influenza outbreaks were declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Dec. 25-31	Influenza A – 27.2% positivity Influenza B – 0.2% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 10.3% positivity reported in the previous week (Dec. 11-17). Influenza B: Same compared to 0.2% positivity reported in the previous week (Dec. 11-17).

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

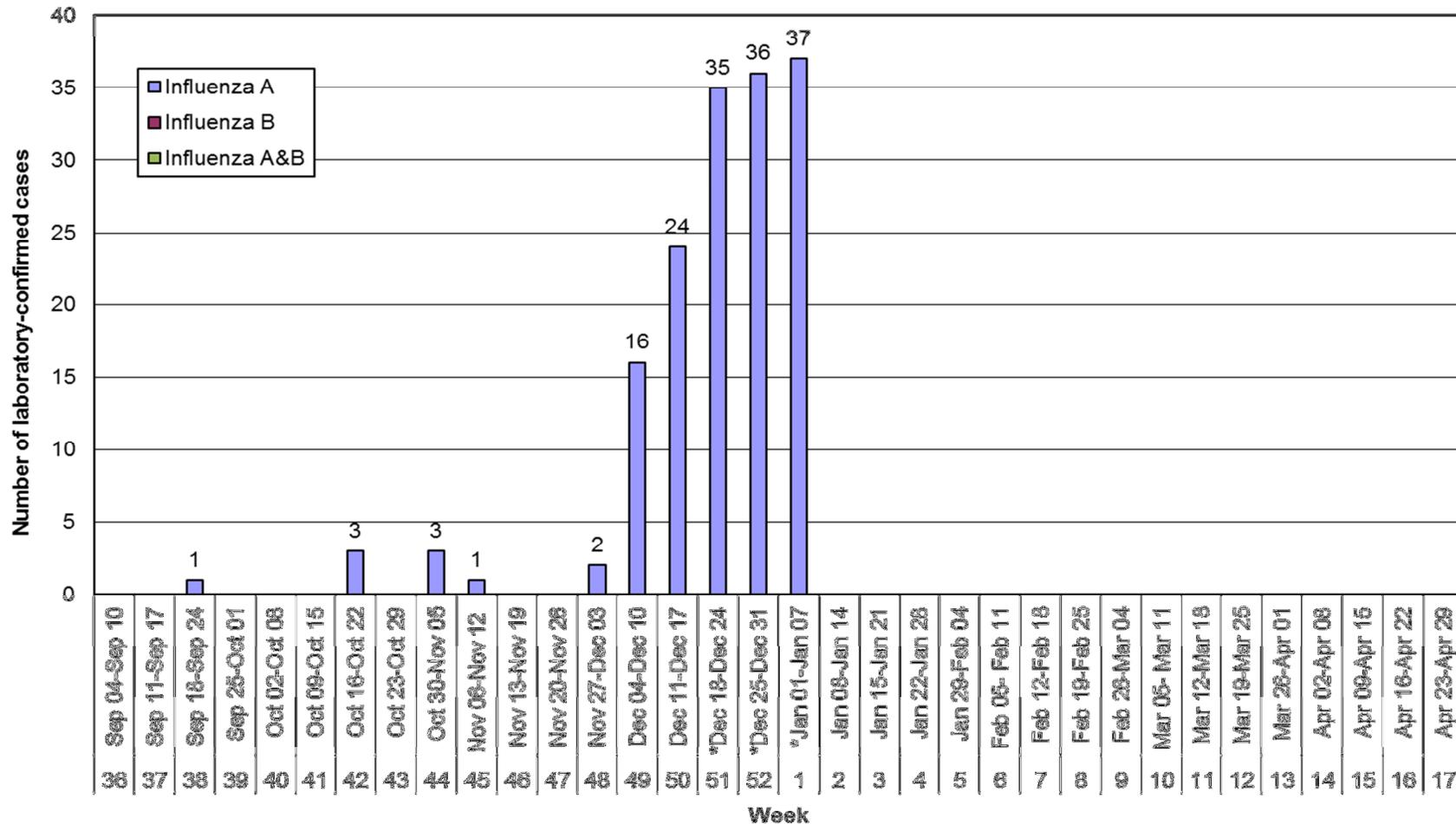
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Jan. 1-7	An average of 12.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 42.5% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Lower compared to 14.7% reported the previous week (Dec. 25-31). Lower than 64.9% reported the previous week (Dec. 25-31).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Jan. 2-6	Schools closed Dec. 26-Jan. 6.	Schools closed Dec. 26-Jan. 6.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Jan. 2-7	Data not available.	In the previous week (Dec. 28-30), 6.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.

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=158)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Jan 10, 2017.

† '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.