
2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status February 28, 2017

Overall assessment

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

Current Local Activity

Between February 19th and 25th, there were 32 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 18 were hospitalized. In addition, one influenza outbreak was declared in a facility and one death was reported.

Since September 1st, 2016, 392 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported. To date, five cases have been identified as influenza B; all other cases have been identified as influenza A. Of the 106 influenza A cases that have been subtyped, 105 have been identified as influenza A(H3), and one has been identified as an influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection. There have been 33 influenza A outbreaks declared in facilities located in the Middlesex-London area as well as 205 hospitalizations and 15 deaths.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 392 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Appendix C provides a graph showing all institutional influenza outbreaks by week and institution type.

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 February 28, 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 | Feb. 19-25 | Influenza A – 32 cases Influenza B – 0 cases | Influenza A – 387 cases Influenza B – 5 cases | Lower compared to the previous week (Feb. 12-18) when 37 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 | Feb. 19-25 | Influenza A(H3) – 6 cases Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 0 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 26 cases | Influenza A(H3) – 105 cases Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 1 case Influenza A not subtyped – 281 cases | Influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. |
| Hospitalizations¹ | Feb. 19-25 | 18 | 205 | Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 12-18) when 14 hospitalizations were reported. |
| Deaths¹ | Feb. 19-25 | 1 | 15 | Lower compared to the previous week (Feb. 12-18) when two deaths were reported. |
| Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care | Feb. 19-25 | 1 | 33 | Lower compared to the previous week (Feb. 12-18) when four influenza outbreaks were declared. |
| Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)² | Feb. 12-18 | Influenza A – 23.1% positivity Influenza B – 1.1% positivity | N/A | Influenza A: Same compared to 22.9% positivity reported in the previous week (Feb. 5-11). Influenza B: Same compared to 0.8% positivity reported in the previous week (Feb. 5-11). |

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

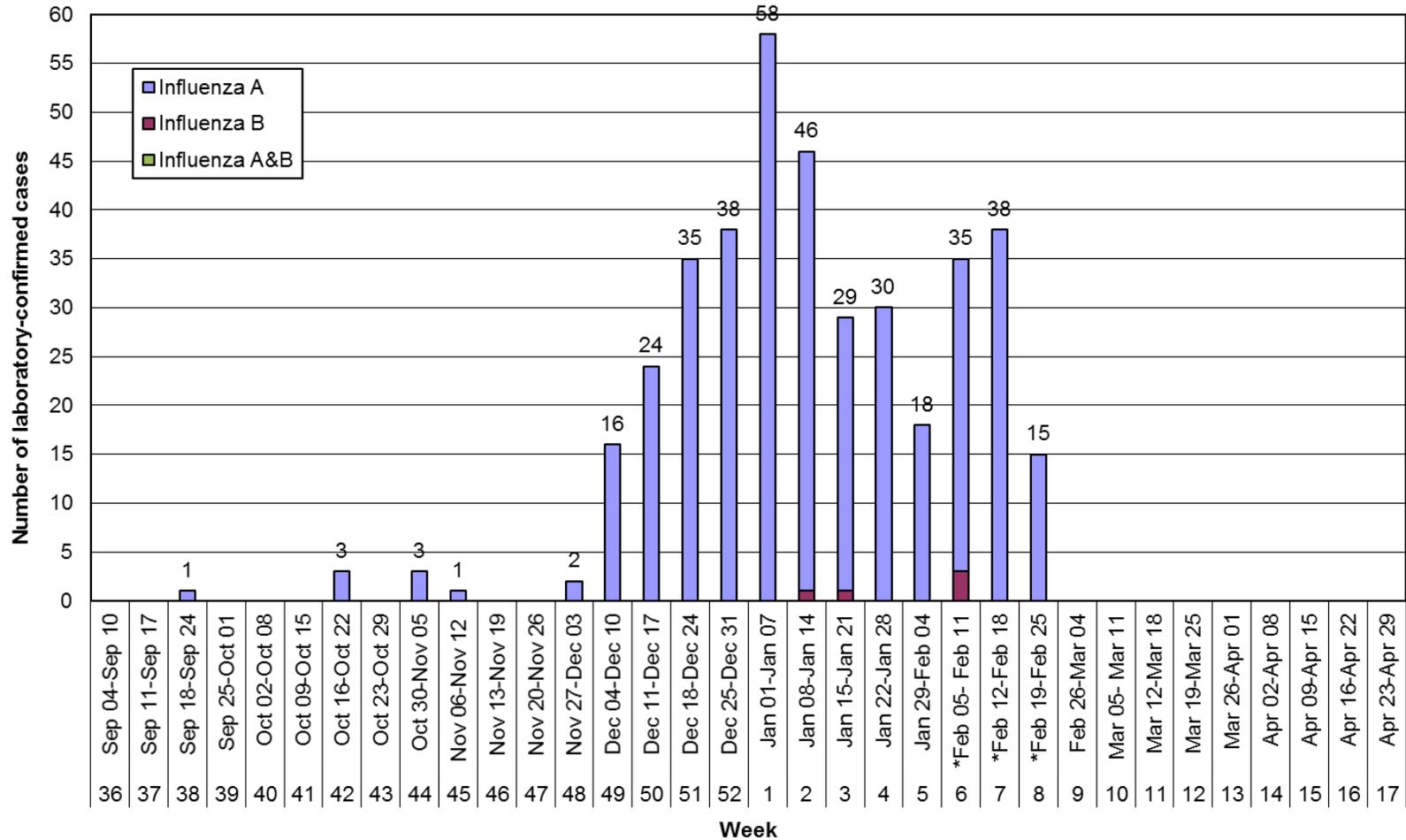
| Indicator | Reporting Period | Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i> | Recent Trends |
|--|------------------|---|--|
| Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness | Feb. 19-25 | An average of 7.7% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 23.6% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. | Lower compared to 8.4% reported in the previous week (Feb. 12-18). Higher compared to 22.1% reported in the previous week (Feb. 12-18). |
| Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%) | Feb. 21-24 | Twenty elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%. | Lower than the previous week (Feb. 13-17), when 40 schools reported increased absenteeism. |
| Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases | Feb. 21-25 | Of chest x-rays performed, 4.2% were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. | Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 13-17), when 2.6% 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=392)**



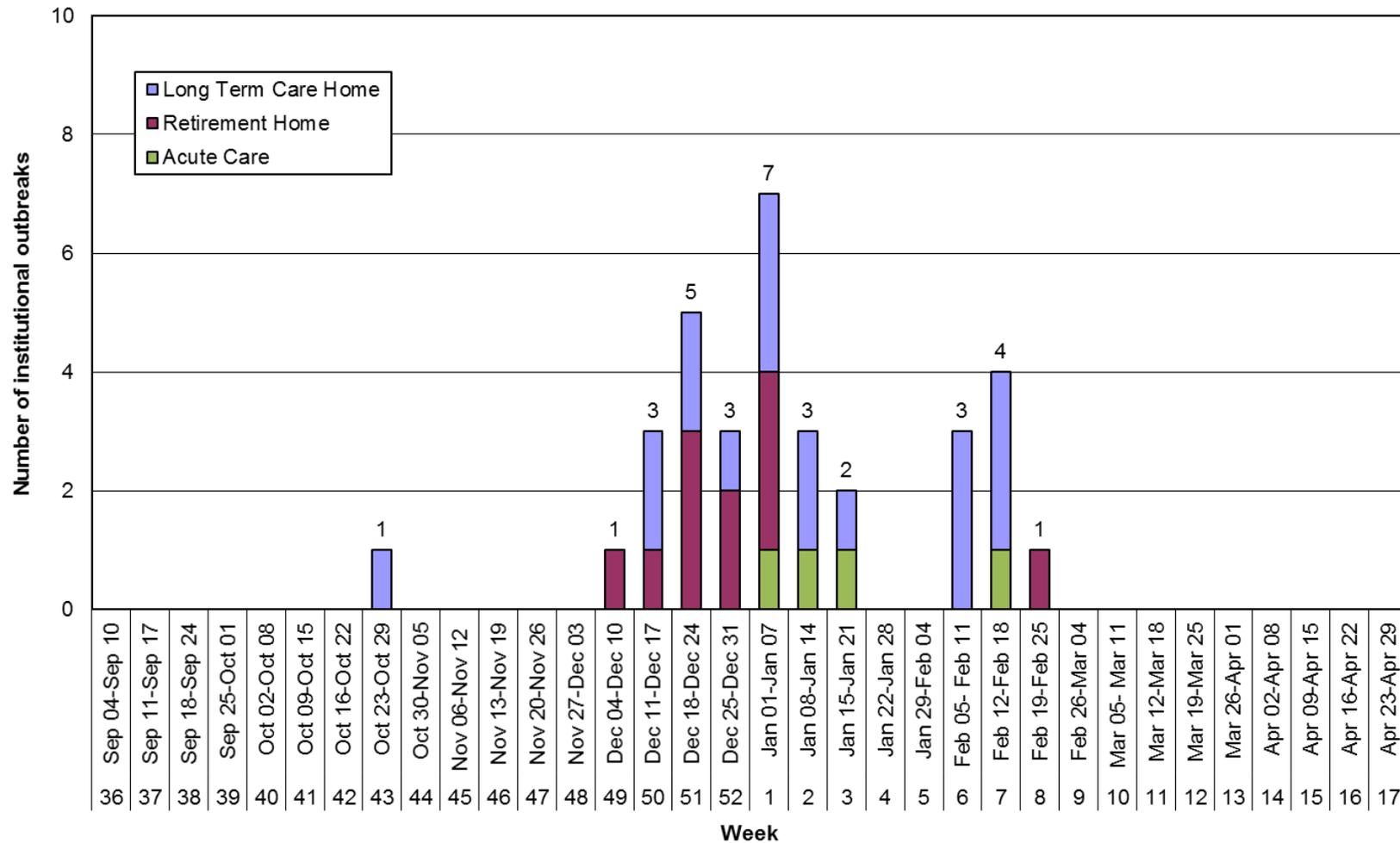
Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Feb. 28, 2017.

† '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.

Appendix C

**Institutional influenza outbreaks, by institution type
Middlesex-London 2016-2017 influenza season (N=33)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Feb. 28, 2017.

* Counts may be incomplete and are subject to change, due to the retrospective nature of reporting.