

## **2017-2018 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status November 22, 2017**

### **Overall assessment**

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low, however, some indicators are higher when compared to the previous reporting week.

### **Analysis and Action**

The influenza season is underway with virus activity increasing gradually. If they haven't done so already, local residents are encouraged to get their seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as possible, well before the arrival of the peak in influenza activity.

### **Details of Current Local Activity**

Between November 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza A and one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza B were reported to the Health Unit; one of these cases was hospitalized.

Since September 1, 2017, there have been six laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and one influenza B case reported. Two influenza A samples have been subtyped as influenza A (H3) while the remaining four samples have not been subtyped.

In addition, there have been no influenza outbreaks declared in long-term care facilities since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

Appendix A provides more detail about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness.

### **Useful Websites**

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Pathogen 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 "Get the flu shot" web page at <http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-flu-shot/>.

## Appendix A

### Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London November 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2017-2018 influenza surveillance season**

| Indicator  | Reporting Period                     | Number Reported:<br><i>Current Reporting Period</i>            | Number Reported:<br><i>Year to Date<br/>(from September 1, 2017)</i> | Recent Trends   |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>                                      | Nov. 12-18<br>(week 46) <sup>2</sup> | Influenza A – 1 case<br>Influenza B – 1 case                   | Influenza A – 6 cases<br>Influenza B – 1 case                        | Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Nov. 5-11) when three cases were reported.<br><br>Influenza B: <b>Higher</b> than the previous week (Nov. 5-11) when zero cases were reported.                              |
| <b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>   | Nov. 12-18                           | Influenza A(H3) – 1 case<br>Influenza A not subtyped – 0 cases | Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases<br>Influenza A not subtyped – 4 cases      |   |
| <b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>  | Nov. 12-18                           | 1  | 4  | <b>Same</b> as the previous week (Nov. 5-11) when one hospitalization was reported.   |
| <b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>  | Nov. 12-18                           | 0  | 0  |   |
| <b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>     | Nov. 12-18                           | 0  | 0  |   |
| <b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>3</sup></b> | Nov. 5-11<br>(week 45) <sup>2</sup>  | Influenza A – 2.2% positivity<br>Influenza B – 0.3% positivity | N/A  | Influenza A: <b>Higher</b> than 1.1% positivity reported in the previous reporting period (Oct. 29-Nov. 4).<br><br>Influenza B: <b>Similar</b> to 0.1% positivity reported in the previous reporting period (Oct. 29-Nov. 4). |

**Notes:**

1 Numbers are subject to change week by week due to the retrospective nature of reporting.

2 Weekly influenza monitoring often uses numbered weeks from 1 to 52 weeks per year. A reference week calendar can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/flu-influenza/influenza-surveillance/fluwatch-weeks-calendar.html>

3 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin 2017-2018

**Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2017-2018 influenza surveillance season**

| Indicator  | Reporting Period | Number Reported:<br><i>Current Reporting Period</i>   | Recent Trends   |
|--|------------------|---|---|
| <b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b> | Nov. 12-18       | An average of 7.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.<br><br>The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 21.3% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. | <b>Similar</b> to 7.1% reported the previous week (Nov. 5-11).<br><br><b>Similar</b> to 21.1% reported the previous week (Nov. 5-11). |
| <b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>                                    | Nov. 13-17       | Eight elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.  | <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Nov. 6-10), when nine schools reported increased absenteeism.                                    |

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