

## 2017-2018 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 13, 2017

### Overall assessment

Influenza continues to circulate in the Middlesex-London region; all new cases reported in the past week have been influenza B.

### Analysis and Action

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

### Details of Current Local Activity

Between December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, five laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza B were reported to the Health Unit, all of whom were hospitalized. No new influenza outbreaks were reported.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, there have been seven laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and 14 influenza B cases reported. Three influenza A samples have been subtyped as influenza A (H3) while the remaining four samples have not been subtyped. There have been two influenza B outbreaks declared in hospitals and long-term care homes 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**  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 9<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: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2017)</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 3-9 (week 49) <sup>2</sup>	Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 5 cases	Influenza A – 7 cases Influenza B – 14 cases	Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Nov. 26-Dec. 2) when one case was reported.  Influenza B: <b>Same</b> as the previous week (Nov. 26-Dec. 2) when five cases were reported.
<b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 3-9	Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 0 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 4 cases	
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 3-9	5	14	<b>Higher</b> than the previous week (Nov. 26-Dec. 2) when three hospitalizations were reported.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 3-9	0	0	
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Dec. 3-9	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 2 outbreaks	Influenza A: <b>Same</b> as the previous week (Nov. 26-Dec. 2) when no outbreaks were reported.  Influenza B: <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Nov. 26-Dec. 2) when two outbreaks were reported.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>3</sup></b>	Nov. 26-Dec. 2 (week 48) <sup>2</sup>	Influenza A – 3.5% positivity Influenza B – 1.6% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Higher</b> than 2.2% positivity reported in the previous reporting period (Nov. 19-25).  Influenza B: <b>Higher</b> than 0.9% positivity reported in the previous reporting period (Nov. 19-25).

**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: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Dec. 3-9	An average of 9.2% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.  The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 27.4% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	<b>Higher</b> than 8.5% reported the previous week (Nov. 26-Dec. 2).  <b>Higher</b> than 23.3% reported the previous week (Nov. 26-Dec. 2).
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Dec. 4-8	Twenty-one elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.	<b>Higher</b> than the previous week (Nov. 27-Dec. 1), when 17 schools reported increased absenteeism.

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