
2017-2018 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 20, 2017

Final Community Influenza Surveillance Report for 2017

This will be the final community influenza surveillance report of 2017; our next report will be issued on January 10th, 2018. We wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

Overall assessment

Influenza continues to circulate in the Middlesex-London region.

Analysis and Action

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

Details of Current Local Activity

Between December 10th and 16th, three laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A and four cases of influenza B were reported to the Health Unit, three of whom were hospitalized. No new influenza outbreaks were reported.

Since September 1st, 2017, there have been 10 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and 18 cases of influenza B reported to the Health Unit. Four influenza A samples have been subtyped as influenza A (H3) while the remaining six samples have not been subtyped. There have been two influenza B outbreaks declared in hospitals and long-term care homes since September 1st, 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 10th to December 16th, 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
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Dec. 10-16 (week 50) ²	Influenza A – 3 cases Influenza B – 4 cases	Influenza A – 10 cases Influenza B – 18 cases	Influenza A: Higher than the previous week (Dec. 3-9) when no cases were reported. Influenza B: Lower than the previous week (Dec. 3-9) when five cases were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Dec. 10-16	Influenza A(H3) – 1 case Influenza A not subtyped – 2 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 4 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 6 cases	
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 10-16	3	17	Lower than the previous week (Dec. 3-9) when five hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Dec. 10-16	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 10-16	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 2 outbreaks	Influenza A: Same as the previous week (Dec. 3-9) when no outbreaks were reported. Influenza B: Same as the previous week (Dec. 3-9) when no outbreaks were reported.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)³	Dec. 3-9 (week 49) ²	Influenza A – 4.1% positivity Influenza B – 1.4% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher than 3.5% positivity reported in the previous reporting period (Nov. 26-Dec. 2). Influenza B: Similar to 1.6% positivity reported in the previous reporting period (Nov. 26-Dec. 2).

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
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Dec. 10-16	<p>An average of 9.5% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 25.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>Similar to 9.2% reported the previous week (Dec. 3-9).</p> <p>Lower than 27.4% reported the previous week (Dec. 3-9).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 11-15	Data not released due to weather-related transportation cancellations that resulted in increased absenteeism.	

The Middlesex-London Health Unit gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following community partners who provide data for this report:

London Health Sciences Centre
 St. Joseph's Health Care London
 Thames Valley District School Board