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## 2017-2018 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Overall assessment

Influenza continues to circulate at low levels in the Middlesex-London region.

### Analysis and Action

As the influenza season is waning, the final Community Influenza Surveillance Report of the season will be issued next week (May 2, 2018). Regardless of the level of influenza activity in the community, local residents can take a number of steps to avoid becoming sick all through the year. While handwashing remains an effective way to prevent many illnesses, including influenza, local residents should cover coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces frequently, and stay home when they feel sick.

### Details of Current Local Activity

Between April 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> there were 8 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A and three cases of influenza B reported to the Health Unit. There were also 6 hospitalizations reported last week, however, there were no deaths reported. Please note that due to the retrospective nature of reporting, the week in which hospitalizations and deaths are reported to the Health Unit may not be the same as the week in which they occurred.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, there have been 420 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases, 425 cases of influenza B, and six people infected with both influenza A and B, reported to the Health Unit. Among these cases there have been 453 hospitalizations and 43 deaths; all deaths to date have been among individuals 50 years of age and over. Over this time period, there have also been 32 influenza A outbreaks, 29 influenza B outbreaks, and seven outbreaks with both influenza A and B declared in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and retirement homes.

Appendix A provides more detail about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 851 laboratory-confirmed cases by week of illness onset is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B.

### 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 April 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**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>1,4</sup></b>	Apr. 15-21 (week 16) <sup>2</sup>	Influenza A – 8 cases Influenza B – 3 cases Influenza A & B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 420 cases Influenza B – 425 cases Influenza A & B – 6 cases	Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Apr. 8-14) when 16 cases were reported.  Influenza B: <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Apr. 8-14) when five cases were reported.
<b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>	Apr. 15-21	Influenza A (H3) – 0 cases Influenza A not yet subtyped – 8 cases  Influenza B not yet subtyped – 3 cases	Influenza A – (H3) – 71 cases (H1N1)pdm09 – 2 cases Not subtyped – 347 cases  Influenza B – Phuket/3073/13-like – 1 case Not subtyped – 424 cases	
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1,5</sup></b>	Apr. 15-21	6	453	<b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Apr. 8-14) when 18 hospitalizations were reported.
<b>Deaths<sup>1,5</sup></b>	Apr. 15-21	0	43	<b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Apr. 8-14) when one death was reported.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Apr. 15-21	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 32 outbreaks Influenza B – 29 outbreaks Influenza A&B – 7 outbreaks	Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Apr. 8-14) when one outbreak was reported.  Influenza B: <b>Same</b> as the previous week (Apr. 8-14) when no outbreaks were reported.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>3</sup></b>	Apr. 8-14 (week 15) <sup>2</sup>	Influenza A – 11.4% positivity Influenza B – 6.0% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Similar</b> to 11.3% positivity reported the previous week (Apr. 1-7).  Influenza B: <b>Higher</b> than 5.4% positivity reported the previous week (Apr. 1-7).

**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

4 The week cases are reported to the Health Unit may not be the same as week of illness onset.

5 The week hospitalizations and deaths are reported to the Health Unit may not be the same as the week in which they occurred, or the same as the week of illness onset.

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

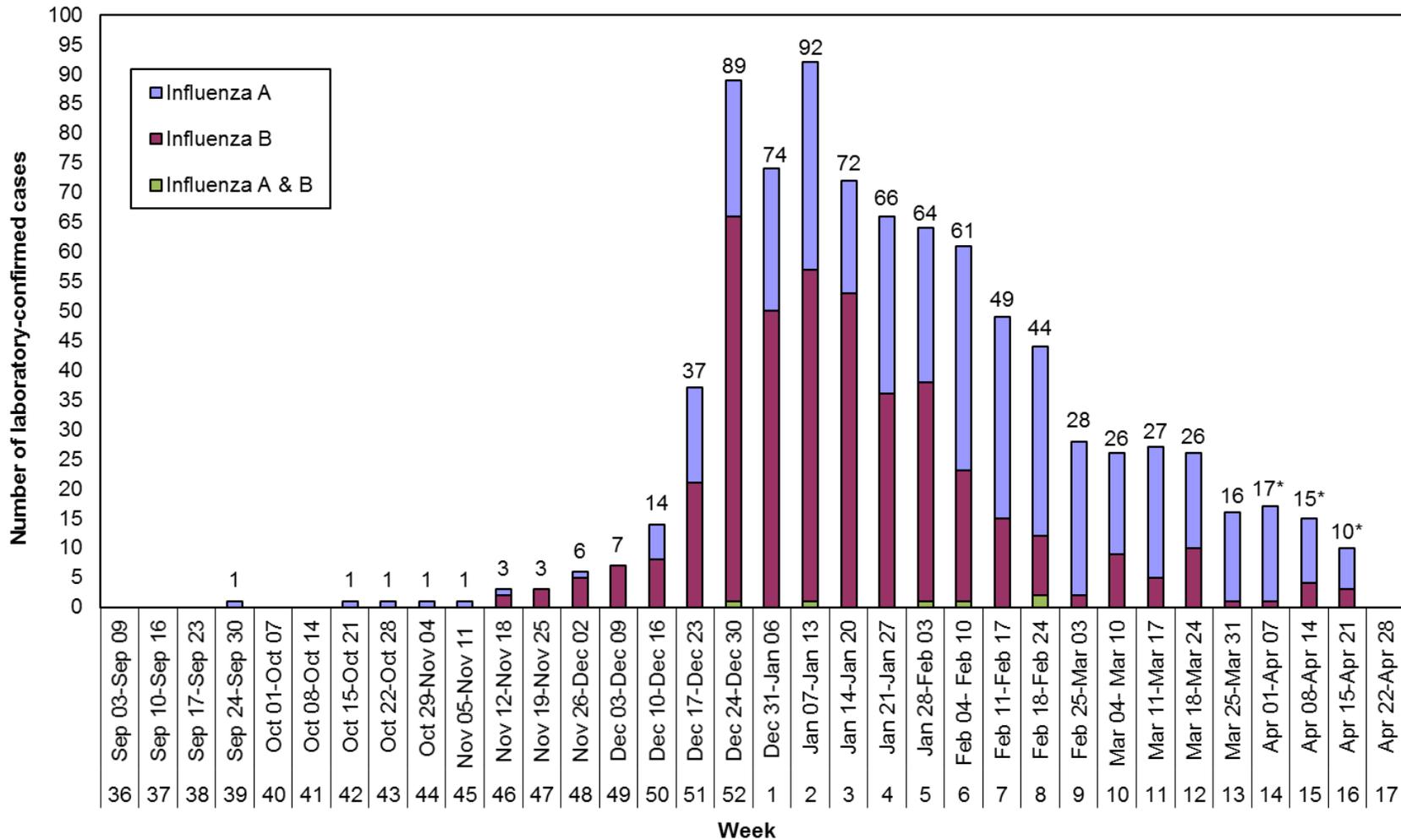
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Apr. 15-21	An average of 5.4% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.  The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 12.6% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	<b>Lower</b> than 7.3% reported the previous week (Apr. 8-14).  <b>Lower</b> than 22.5% reported the previous week (Apr. 8-14).
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Apr. 16-20	Nineteen elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.	<b>Higher</b> than the previous week (Apr. 9-13) when 14 elementary schools reported 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

## Appendix B

### Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date† Middlesex-London 2017-2018 influenza season (N=851)



Data source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted April 24, 2018.

† '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.