



**Healthcare Provider Webinar**  
Middlesex and London Region  
December 19, 2023

# Welcome

Presenter:

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Middlesex-London Health Unit

December 19, 2023

# Outline

- Respiratory Season Updates
- COVID-19 Vaccination Locations
- Updated Public Health Ontario (PHO) briefs on PPE and IPAC for Respiratory Virus Transmission for Healthcare Workers
- Alcohol Updates ("Less is Better", New Clinical Guideline, Resources)

## Respiratory Transmission Risk Assessment

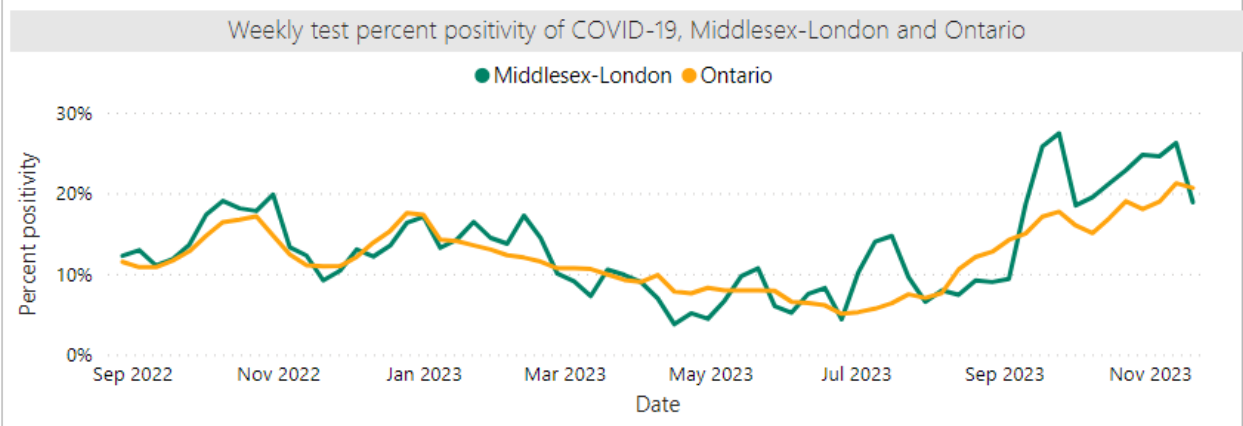
**Middlesex-London region is in a High Risk Period for Respiratory Illness**

Indicator	Status
1. Respiratory virus outbreaks in health care facilities	Frequent and ongoing
2. COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU admissions	Stable
3. % positivity for COVID-19	High
4. Wastewater surveillance trend of COVID-19	High

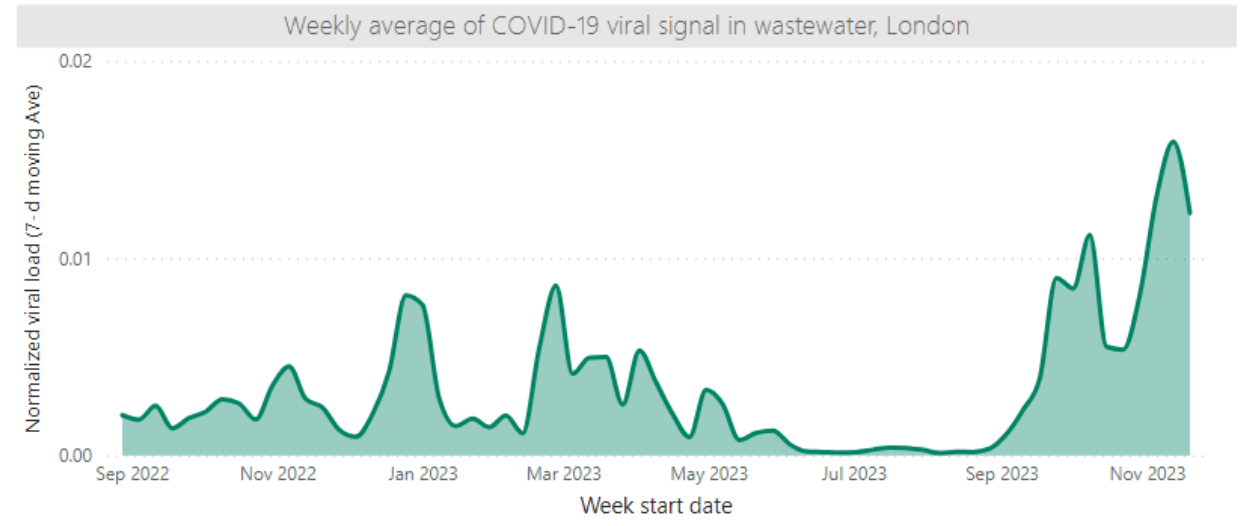
### COVID-19 Summary

<u>Local metrics</u>	Week 47 (Nov 19 - Nov 25, 2023)	Season to date (Aug 27 - Nov 25, 2023)	Trend (compared to previous week)
Laboratory-confirmed cases	106	1,471	Decreased
Deaths	0	23	Same
Active outbreaks	As of the end of Nov 27, 2023:		Decreased
		10	
Local test positivity	Percent of tests positive: <b>18.9%</b> Positivity level: <b>High</b>		Decreased
<u>Provincial metrics</u>	Week 46 (Nov 12 - Nov 18, 2023)		
Provincial weekly indicator change			Higher

**Data source:** Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2023-11-28. Data current as of the end of day 2023-11-28. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiMzE5MzZJOTItOWE2ZS00MDNlTikNDEtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZzOWQwZiJ9>



Source: Visual Analytics Hub, Capacity Planning and Analytics Division, Ontario Ministry of Health.



Source: Ontario Wastewater Surveillance Initiative Data and Visualization Hub.

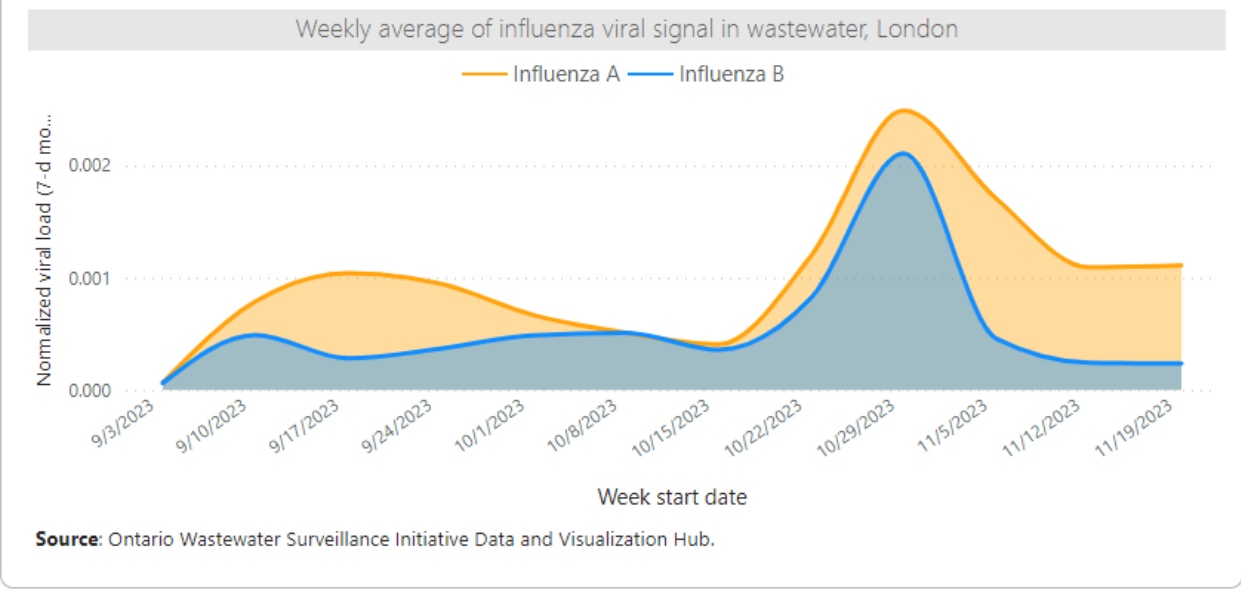
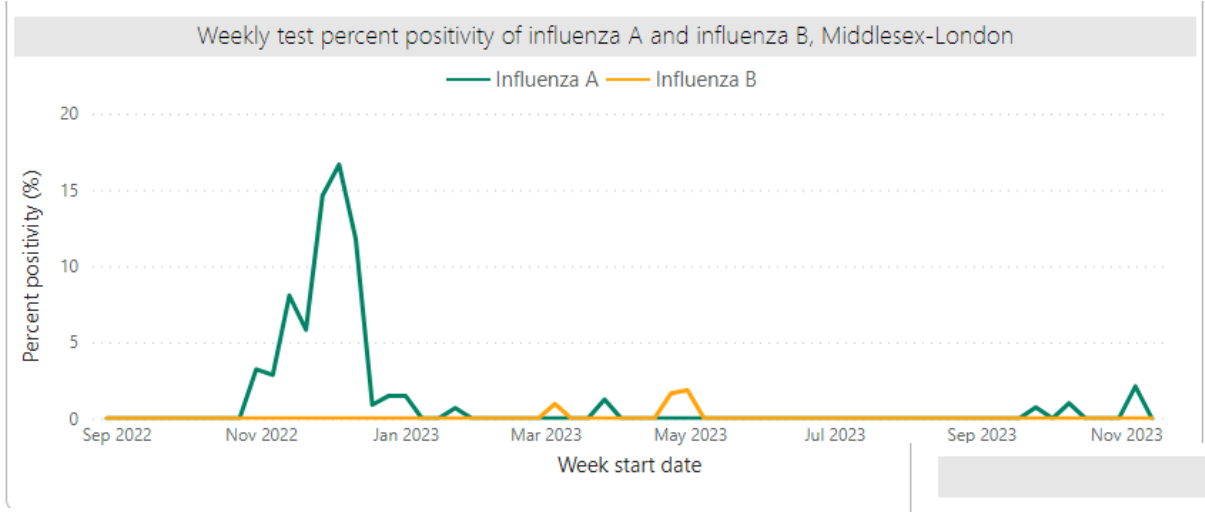
**Data source:** Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2023-11-28. Data current as of the end of day 2023-11-28. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiMzE5MzZJOTItOWE2ZS00MDNlTikNDEtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZiJ9>

### Influenza Summary

Local metrics	Week 47 (Nov 19 - Nov 25, 2023)	Season to date (Aug 27 - Nov 25, 2023)	Trend (compared to previous week)
Laboratory-confirmed cases	6	21	Same
Influenza sub-types	Influenza A: 6 Influenza B: 0	Influenza A: 21 Influenza B: 0	Same Same
Deaths	0	0	Same
Active outbreaks	As of the end of Nov 27, 2023:	1	Increased
<b>Provincial metrics</b>	<b>Week 46 (Nov 12 - Nov 18, 2023)</b>		
Local influenza activity level	Activity level: <b>Sporadic</b>		
Provincial test positivity	Percent of tests positive: <b>2.9%</b> Positivity level: <b>Low</b>		
Provincial weekly indicator change			Higher

**Data source:** Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2023-11-28. Data current as of the end of day 2023-11-

28. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMzE5MzZJOTItOWE2ZS00MDNILTikNDEtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZiJ9>

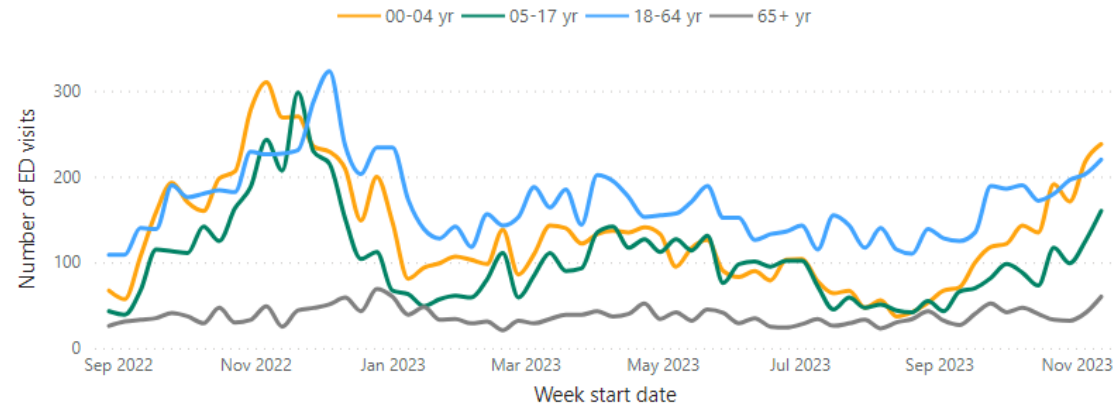


**Data source:** Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2023-11-28. Data current as of the end of day 2023-11-28. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiMzE5MzZJOTItOWE2ZS00MDNlTlIkNDEtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZiJ9>

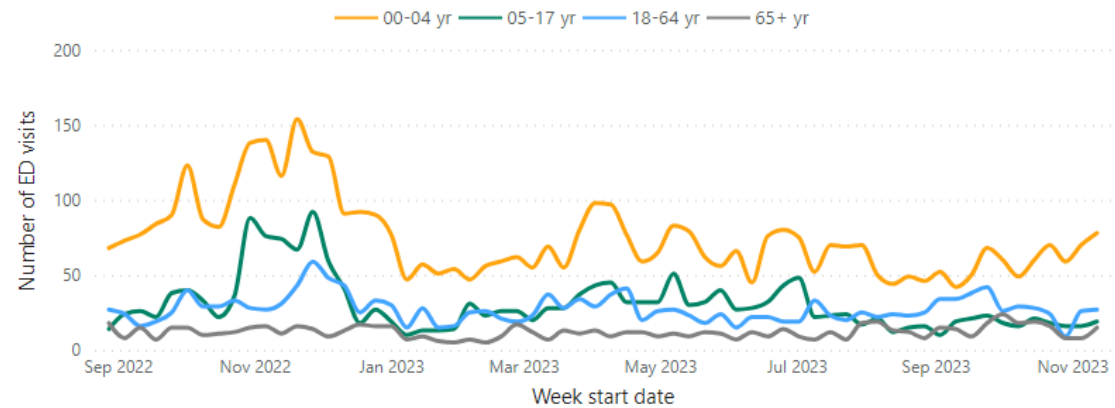


## Clinical Syndromic Surveillance

Weekly ED visits due to respiratory syndrome by age group in Middlesex-London



Weekly ED visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome by age group in Middlesex-London



**Data source:** Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2023-11-28. Data current as of the end of day 2023-11-28. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiMzE5MzJlOTItOWE2ZS00MDNlLTlkNDUtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZlJ9>

## COVID-19 Vaccination Locations

- MLHU's mass vaccination clinic will be permanently closing on December 16, 2023.
- Patients will be directed to pharmacies and to participating HCPs for COVID-19 vaccination.
- Pharmacies: licensed to provide the vaccine to children >2 years. Many only vaccinate children 5 years and older. Encourage families with young children to visit MLHU's Western Fair (prior to closure) or pop-up vaccination clinics: [www.healthunit.com/covid-19-vaccine-clinics](http://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-vaccine-clinics)

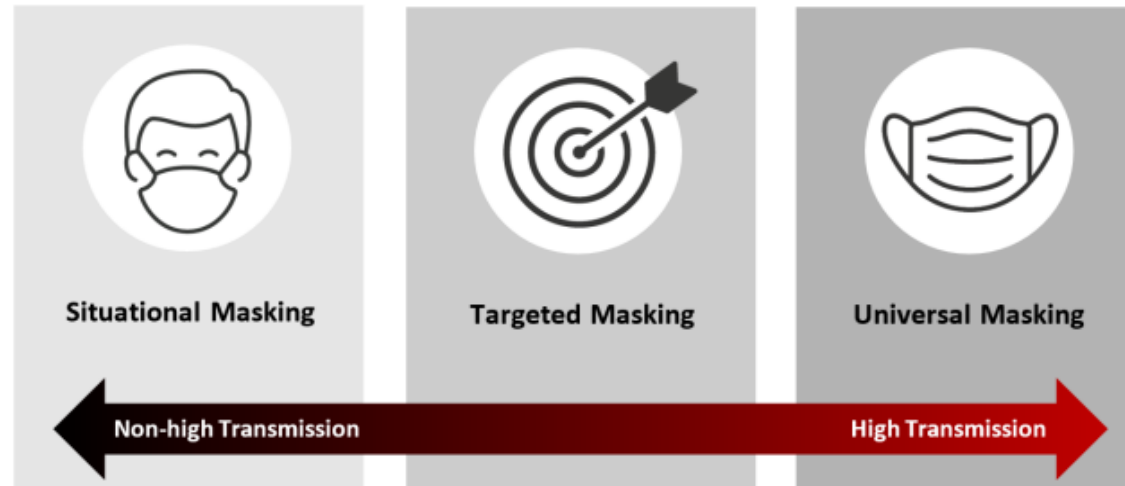
## Updated PHO Technical Briefs on PPE and IPAC for Respiratory Virus Transmission for Healthcare Workers

- [Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#). Highlights:
  - For routine care: Mask choice best decided by point-of-care-risk assessment (PCRA).
  - For direct care: A well fitted medical mask (surgical/procedure) or a fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respiratory (or equivalent), eye protection, gown and gloves
  - Selection of appropriate PPE should include: PCRA, fit, tolerability of mask and equipment

# Updated PHO Technical Briefs on PPE and IPAC for Respiratory Virus Transmission for Healthcare Workers

- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) Measures Based on Respiratory Virus Transmission Risks in Health Care Settings](#). Highlights:
  - As respiratory virus activity (and transmission risk) changes, IPAC measures within healthcare settings can be adjusted.
  - The application of masking recommendations for non-high to high-risk periods have been updated.

Figure 1. Spectrum of masking recommendations for non-high to high transmission risk periods





## Alcohol Updates

## New – Canadian Clinical Guideline

- High-risk drinking and alcohol use disorder (AUD) often go unrecognized and untreated in the health care system.
- HCPs play a role in:
  - the early detection and treatment of high-risk drinking and AUD
  - connecting patients and families with specialized care services, including recovery-oriented support.
- The [Canadian Clinical Guideline - High Risk Drinking and Alcohol Use Disorder](#) supports HCPs with prevention, harm reduction, and treatment interventions.
  - [recorded webinar](#) on the new guideline: strategies for screening and diagnosis, and treatment options.

# Talking to Patients about Alcohol – Less is Better

"Less is better" is the best message when talking to patients about alcohol  
encourages HCPs to increase awareness amongst patients on:

- alcohol consumption, even at low levels, has adverse health effects (noting that many are likely unaware of its health risks, such as cancer),
- any reduction in alcohol consumption can be beneficial to health.

## Resources to Facilitate Alcohol Related Conversations with Patients

We welcome you to order the following resources from MLHU by emailing [healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca):

- [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health brochure](#) – up to 50 copies
- [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health wallet card](#) – up to 50 copies
- [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health public summary poster \(11x17\)](#) – up to 10 copies

Additional online resources:

- [MLHU Know Before You Pour infographic \(8.5x11\)](#)
- [CCSA Knowing Your Limits with Alcohol booklet](#)
- [CCSA Youth & Alcohol poster](#)
- [CCSA General Key Messages poster](#)



# **ENewsletter and Webinar Schedule**

- eNewsletters will continue twice a month.
- Webinars will resume January 16th.

# Thank you for joining us!

## Questions?

- Ask using chat function now, or after the webinar at:  
[healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca)
- For urgent matters please call the Health Unit's  
main line at **519-663-5317**
- For more information  
[www.healthunit.com/healthcare-providers](http://www.healthunit.com/healthcare-providers)

