
2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues December 17, 2013

Current Local Activity

Influenza activity continues in Middlesex London. Since the last report, five cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported to the Health Unit. Since September 1st, 2013, 12 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Eight out of 12 samples have been subtyped as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, indicating that this is the predominant strain circulating in Middlesex London. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and is a component in the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

Hospitalizations and Deaths

Two of the newly reported cases of influenza A have been hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2013, there have been 6 hospitalizations and no deaths reported among laboratory-confirmed cases in Middlesex-London.

Current Outbreak Activity

No outbreaks due to influenza have been declared in Middlesex-London since September 1st, 2013.

Influenza Immunization

The influenza immunization status of all 12 reported cases is known. Among the Middlesex-London cases, 11(91.7%) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

This year's community influenza immunization clinics, organized by the Middlesex-London Health Unit have now ended. Influenza vaccinations remain available at the Middlesex London Health Unit's walk-in Immunization Clinic at 50 King Street in London on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clinics also take place at the Kenwick Mall in Strathroy from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Influenza vaccinations are also available at some health care providers' offices and participating pharmacies. To find a free flu shot clinic near you, visit the Ministry of Health and Long Term-Care's "Find a Flu Shot Clinic" web page at:

<http://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/publichealth/flu/finder.aspx>

Current Provincial Activity

Influenza activity in Ontario continues to increase. Between December 1st and 7th, 65 cases of influenza A and one case of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types is 6.9% which is higher than 4.0% positivity the previous week. In total, 182 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1st. The latest *Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin* from Public Health Ontario can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>.

Current National Activity

Influenza activity continued to increase in Canada. Between December 1st and 7th, 186 cases of influenza A and 14 cases of influenza B were reported across the country. From August 25th through December 7th, 2013, 498 Influenza A and 74 influenza B cases were identified. Of the influenza A strains that have been subtyped to date this season, 83.2% are the 2009 pandemic strain influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

In Canada, 82 influenza viruses (58 influenza A and 24 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 82 influenza viruses, 93.9% matched the components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. The components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, A/Victoria/361/2011b (H3N2) virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. The latest *FluWatch* report can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

Current and previous Middlesex London Health Unit *Community Influenza Surveillance Reports* can be found on the Health Unit's website at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-surveillance>.

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Appendix A
Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London
December 17, 2013

Influenza activity continues to be observed in Middlesex London.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
Laboratory Information				
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	Influenza A - 5 cases Influenza B – no cases	Influenza A - 12 cases Influenza B - no cases	Five new laboratory-confirmed cases were reported this week, which is the same number of new cases that had been reported in the previous <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> .
Influenza Subtypes¹	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 5 cases	Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 8/12 cases (66.7%) Influenza A Not yet subtyped 4/12 cases (33.3%)	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	2	6	Similar to last week when three hospitalizations were reported among laboratory-confirmed cases.
Deaths¹	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no deaths of people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no influenza outbreaks have been reported.
Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Dec. 1-7	Ontario: Influenza A 6.9 % positivity Influenza B 0% positivity		Influenza A: increased from 4.0% positivity the previous week Influenza B: Unchanged from 0% positivity the previous week

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Recent Trends
Other Community Surveillance Indicators			
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Dec. 1-7 Dec. 8-14	<p>Between December 1st and 7th, an average of 7.4% of patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) Emergency Departments and the St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) Urgent Care Centre presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. From Dec 8th to 14th, this proportion was 8.7%</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department. From December 1st to 7th, 16.4% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms, while from December 8th to 14th, 17.5% of patients presented with febrile respiratory illness.</p>	<p>The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined increased between the weeks of December 1st to 7th and Dec 8th to 14th.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department increased between the week of December 1st to 7th and December 8th to 14th.</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 2-6 Dec. 9-13	Between December 2 nd and 6 th , three elementary schools from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%. From December 9 th to 13 th , five elementary schools reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10% increased slightly between the week of December 2 nd to 6 th and December 9 th to 13 th .
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 2-7 Dec. 9-14	From December 2 nd to 7 th , 3.0% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia. From December 9 th to 14 th , this proportion was 3.7%.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases increased slightly between the weeks of December 2 nd to 7 th and December 9 th to 14 th .

Sources:

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

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2013-2014, retrieved from

http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Ontario_Respiratory_Virus_Bulletin-Week%2049.pdf

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