
2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues December 23, 2013

Last Influenza Surveillance report for 2013

Due to the holiday season, this will be the last community influenza surveillance report issued for 2013; the next community influenza surveillance report will be issued January 6, 2014. We wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Current Local Activity

Influenza activity continues in Middlesex-London. Since the last report, 13 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A have been reported to the Health Unit. Since September 1st, 2013, a total of 25 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Currently, 13 out of 25 samples have been subtyped, and all 13 have been found to be 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. This indicates that the vaccine is an excellent match to what is circulating in the community.

Hospitalizations and Deaths

Two of the newly reported cases of influenza A have been hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2013, there have been eight 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 is known for 21 out of the 25 reported cases. Among those cases, 18 of 21 (85.7%) 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. The clinic will be closed for the holidays on Wednesday December 25, 2103 and Wednesday January 1, 2014. 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 8th and 14th, 132 cases of influenza A and seven cases of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types is 11.7% which is higher than 6.9% positivity the previous week. In total, 323 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 8th and 14th, 340 cases of influenza A and 27 cases of influenza B were reported across the country. From August 25th through December 14th, 2013, 847 influenza A and 101 influenza B cases were identified. Of the influenza A strains that have been subtyped to date this season, 88.0% are the 2009 pandemic strain influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

In Canada, 117 influenza viruses (14 influenza A(H3N2), 79 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 24 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 117 influenza viruses, 95.7% 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 23, 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. 16-22	Influenza A—13 cases Influenza B—no cases	Influenza A - 25 cases Influenza B - no cases	13 new laboratory-confirmed cases were reported this week, which is higher than five reported cases in the previous weekly <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> .
Influenza Subtypes¹	Dec. 16-22	5 cases have been subtyped as: Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	13 of 25 cases (52%) have been subtyped as: Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 12 of 25 cases (48%) have not been subtyped	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 16-22	2	8	Similar to last week when two hospitalizations were reported among laboratory-confirmed cases.
Deaths¹	Dec. 16-22	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. 16-22	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no influenza outbreaks have been reported.
Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Dec. 8-14	Ontario: Influenza A 11.2% positivity Influenza B 0.5% positivity		Influenza A: Increased from 6.9% positivity the previous week Influenza B: Increased 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 15-21	<p>Between December 15th and 21st, an average of 11.5% 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.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 26.0% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined is higher compared to 8.7% from the previous week. The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department is higher compared to 17.5% from the previous week.</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 16-19	Data not available this week due to school holidays.	Data not available.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 16-21	From December 16 th to 21 st , 4.3% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia. From December 9 th to 14 th , this proportion was 4.0%.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases is comparable to the previous week of 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_5013.pdf

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