
2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues December 9, 2013

Current Local Activity

Since the last report, five cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported to the Health Unit. Since September 1st, 2013, seven laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Three samples have been typed as influenza A (H1N1) pdm09; this is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic.

The current level of activity indicates the arrival of influenza in the community.

Hospitalizations and Deaths

Three of the newly reported cases of influenza A were hospitalized. To date, no deaths of anyone with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported in Middlesex-London.

Current Outbreak Activity

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

Upcoming Flu Clinics

The last Middlesex-London Health Unit community influenza clinic is scheduled for December 10th, 2013 at the Lambeth Community Centre, 7112 Beattie Street West, London, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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 rise. Between November 24th and 30th, 32 cases of influenza A and two cases of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types is 4.0% which is higher than 2.8% positivity the previous week. In total, 116 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 increased sharply in Canada, as evidenced by increasing laboratory reports. Between November 24th and 30th, 102 cases of influenza A and 12 cases of influenza B were reported across the country. From August 25th through November 30th, 2013, 311 Influenza A and 60 influenza B cases were identified. Of the influenza A strains that have been subtyped, 77% are the 2009 pandemic strain - A(H1N1)pdm09.

In Canada, 57 influenza viruses (41 influenza A and 16 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 57 influenza viruses, 91.2% 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>.

Appendix A
Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London
December 9, 2013

Influenza activity in Middlesex London has increased indicating that influenza has arrived in the community.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
Laboratory Information				
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Nov 28-Dec 8	Influenza A - 5 cases Influenza B – no cases	Influenza A - 7 cases Influenza B - no cases	Increase from previous week.
Influenza Subtypes¹	Nov 28-Dec 8	Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 3 cases	Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 3 cases	Typing to date: Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 - 3 cases
Hospitalizations¹	Nov 28-Dec 8	3	3	Increase from last week when no hospitalizations were reported. Since the beginning of September, four hospitalizations of people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported.
Deaths¹	Nov 28-Dec 8	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	Nov 28-Dec 8	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no influenza outbreaks have been reported.
Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)	Nov 24-30	Ontario: Influenza A 4.0% positivity Influenza B 0% positivity ²		Influenza A: increased from 2.4% positivity the previous week Influenza B: Similar to 0.4% 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	Nov 24-30	<p>An average of 7.2% 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 19.5% 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 than the 6.4% observed the previous week.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department is higher than the 14.1% observed the previous week.</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Nov 25-29	Nine elementary schools from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%. The level of absenteeism may be influenced by other causes.	The number of schools reporting a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10% is higher than it was the previous week, when one elementary school reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Nov 25-30	3.5% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia.	The proportion is similar to the 3.8% observed the previous week.

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_48.pdf

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