



Healthcare Provider Webinar
Middlesex and London Region
January 16, 2024

Welcome

Presenter:

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Middlesex-London Health Unit

January 16, 2023

Outline

- Respiratory Season Updates
- Measles and Varicella: Criteria for Immunity and Immunization
- Mpox: Update and Importance of Full-Series Vaccines
- COVID-19 Vaccination Options for Children Under 12 Years of Age
- RSV Vaccine Updates
- 2024 Publicly Funded Vaccine Program Extensions
- Discontinuation of Provincial Funding for the Looksee Developmental Screening Tool



Respiratory Season Updates

Respiratory Transmission Risk Assessment

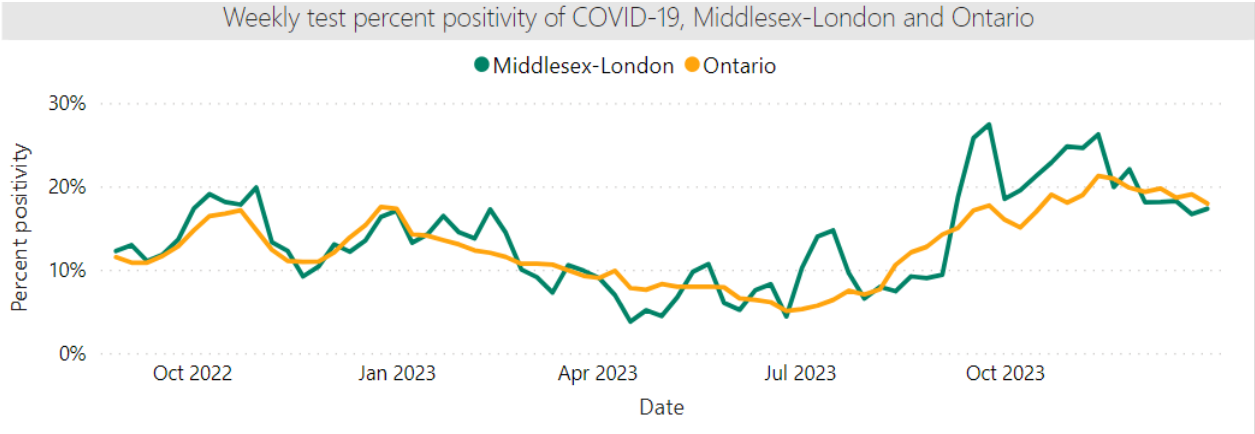
Middlesex-London region is in a High Risk Period for Respiratory Illness

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

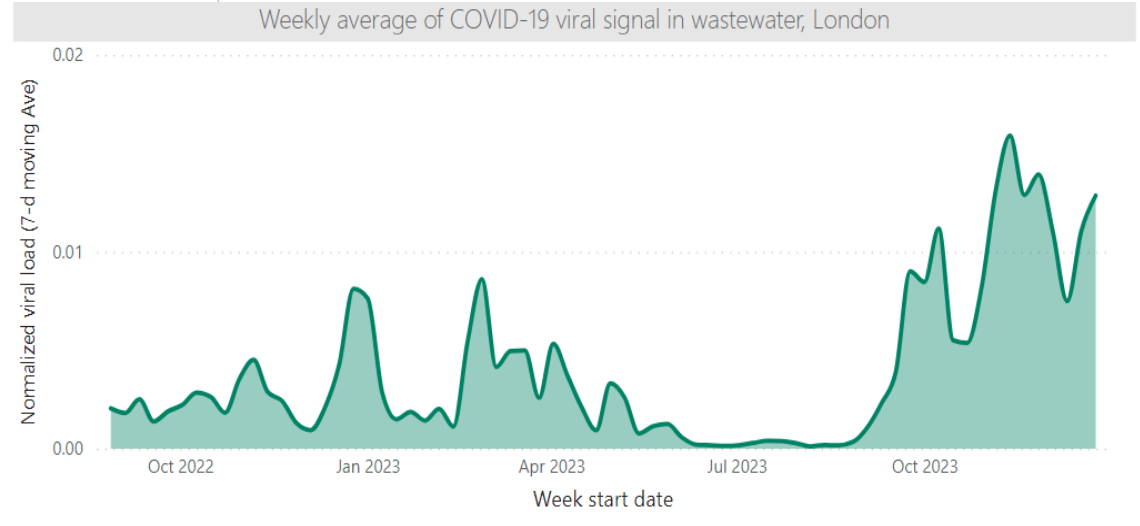
COVID-19 Summary

<u>Local</u> metrics	Week 01, 2024 (Dec 31, 2023 - Jan 06, 2024)	Season to date (Aug 27, 2023 - Jan 06, 2024)	Trend (compared to previous week)
Laboratory-confirmed cases	126	2,224	Increased
Deaths	0	33	Same
Active outbreaks	As of the end of Jan 08, 2024:		Increased
Local test positivity	Percent of tests positive: 17.3% Positivity level: High		Increased
<u>Provincial</u> metrics	Week 52, 2023 (Dec 24 - Dec 30, 2023)		
Provincial weekly indicator change			Similar

Data source: Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2024-01-09. Data current as of the end of day 2024-01-09. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiMzE5MzZJOTItOWE2ZS00MDNlTikNDEtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZiJ9>



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



Source: Ontario Wastewater Surveillance Initiative Data and Visualization Hub.

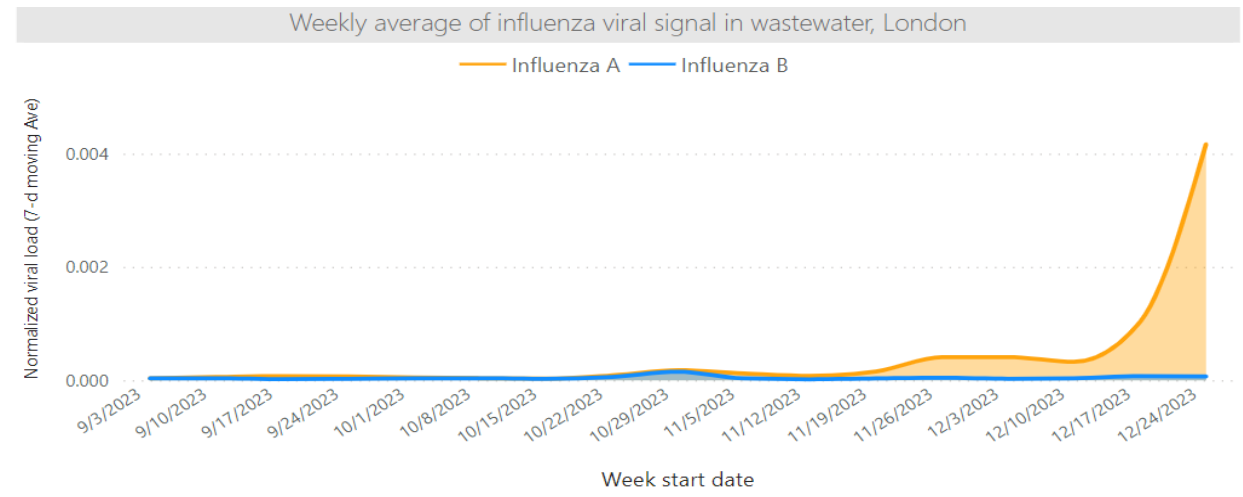
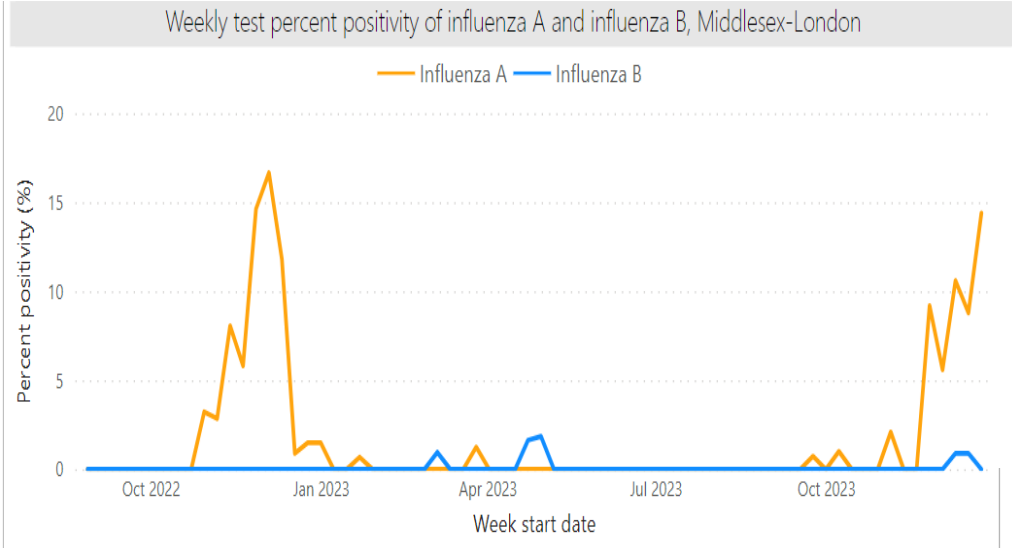
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Influenza Summary

Local metrics	Week 01, 2024 (Dec 31, 2023 - Jan 06, 2024)	Season to date (Aug 27, 2023 - Jan 06, 2024)	Trend (compared to previous week)
Laboratory-confirmed cases	66	308	Decreased
Influenza sub-types	Influenza A: 62 Influenza B: 4	Influenza A: 293 Influenza B: 15	Decreased Decreased
Deaths	0	0	Same
Active outbreaks	As of the end of Jan 08, 2024:	3	Increased
Provincial metrics	Week 52, 2023 (Dec 24 - Dec 30, 2023)		
Local influenza activity level	Activity level: Localized		
Provincial test positivity	Percent of tests positive: 16% Positivity level: Moderate		
Provincial weekly indicator change			Higher

Data source: Middlesex-London Health Unit – *Middlesex-London Respiratory Surveillance Report*, extracted 2024-01-09. Data current as of the end of day 2024-01-

09. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMzE5MzZJOTItOWE2ZS00MDNlTikNDEtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDFhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZiJ9>

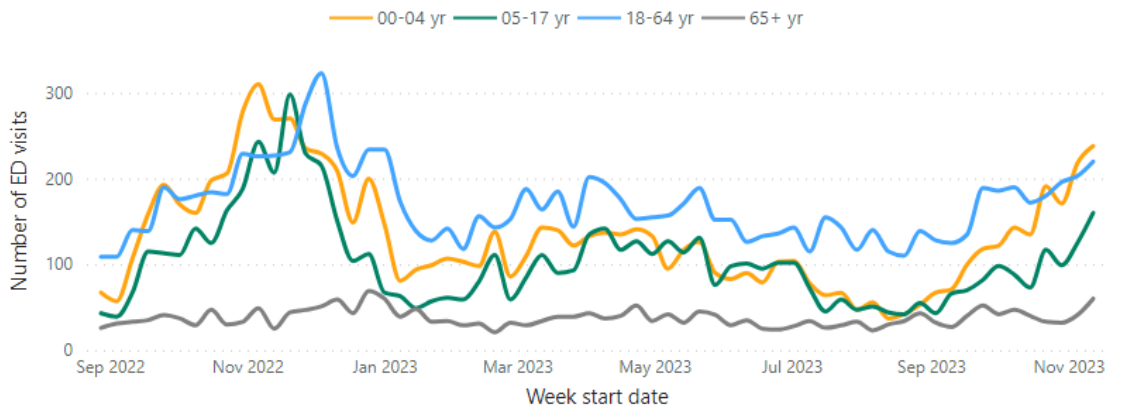


Source: Ontario Wastewater Surveillance Initiative Data and Visualization Hub.

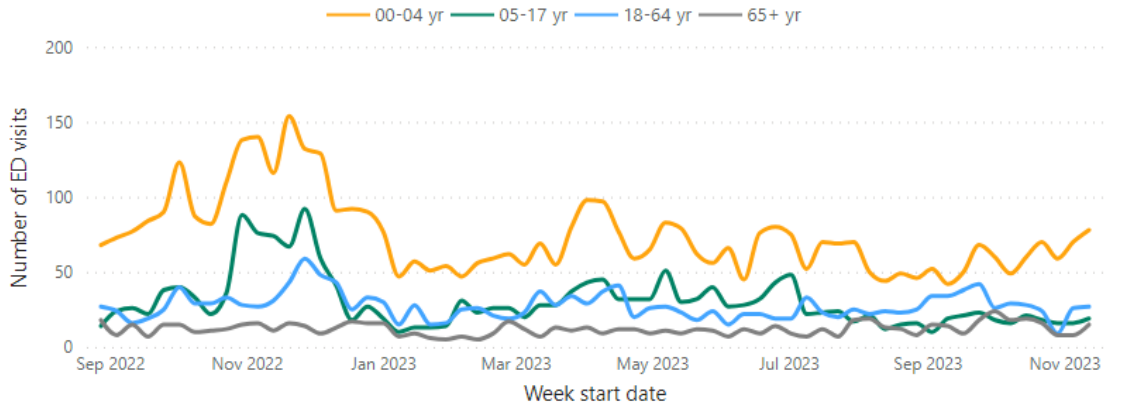
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Clinical Syndromic Surveillance

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 2024-01-09. Data current as of the end of day 2024-01-09. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojMzE5MzZJOTItOWE2ZS00MDNlLTlkNDUtMTcyYTg5OGFhMTFiliwidCI6ImRjNTYxMjk1LTdjYTktNDZhOS04M2JmLTUwODM0ZDZhOWQwZiJ9>



Measles and Varicella: Immunization and Criteria For Immunity

Measles:

Support patients in staying up to date with the measles vaccinations.

Routine criteria:

- \geq 1 year of age

High risk criteria:

- 6 months to 11 months old and **travelling to areas where disease is of concern (2 additional doses are required at $>$ 1 year of age)**

Individuals **26 years of age and over** are eligible for a second dose:

- If they are health care workers
- If they are post-secondary students
- If they are **travelling to areas where disease is of concern**
- Based on HCP judgement

Varicella: Publicly Funded Immunization

- Thirty-one cases of varicella disease were reported in the Middlesex-London area in 2023, compared to a typical annual average of seven.
- Many of the affected were newcomers to Canada.
- While varicella vaccine has been added in recent years to many universal childhood immunization programs worldwide, there remains adolescents and adults who missed this vaccination and may still be susceptible.
- Varicella-related complications are more frequent in adolescents, adults, immunocompromised, and pregnant individuals.

See eNewsletter for full details.



Mpox: Update and Importance of Full-Series Vaccination

Mpox: Update

- Ongoing low-level community transmission
- In Ontario, January 1 – November 13, 2023:
 - 31 cases reported
 - 80.6% of these cases reported by Toronto Public Health
- Mpox continues to be seen in wastewater surveillance in Toronto and Hamilton

Imvamune® Available at the Health Unit

- Important for eligible patients to complete a two-dose series.
- Eligibility: See <https://www.healthunit.com/mpox#monkeypox-vaccine>
- Please direct eligible patients to call the Health Unit (519-663-5317) to make an appointment with our vaccine clinics.



COVID-19 Vaccination Options for Children Under 12 Years of Age

COVID-19 Vaccination Options for Children Under 12 Years of Age

- Children may receive the vaccine at a participating pharmacy or HCP location
- If your office does not provide this vaccine:
 - Families with children between 2-5 years of age: please direct to call pharmacies to assess whether they provide vaccine to this age group
 - Families with children between 6 months – 2 years of age: please direct to call the Health Unit (519-663-5317) to discuss options.



RSV Vaccine Updates

RSV Vaccines: Expanded Eligibility for Arexvy

Publicly funded for individuals 60 years and older who are:

- Living in LTC homes; Elder Care Lodges or retirement homes licensed to provide dementia care
- Receiving alternate level of care (ALC) in hospital
- Receiving peritoneal or hemodialysis
- Have had a solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplant
- Experiencing homelessness
- Identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis

Second RSV Vaccine Approved for Use in Canada: Abrysvo

Uses:

- Pregnant individuals from 32 through 36 weeks gestation for the prevention in infants from birth through 6 months of age
- Individuals 60 years and older

Guidance Information:

- NACI and provincial guidance is **pending**

Publicly Funded Criteria:

- **Not** currently publicly funded

Availability:

- Individuals with a prescription from their HCP may be able to obtain the vaccine at a cost from select pharmacies.



2024 Publicly Funded Vaccine Program Extensions

2024 Publicly Funded Vaccine Program Extensions

The province extending the eligibility for:

- School-based program vaccines: Hepatitis B, HPV, Men-C-ACWY135
- Adult vaccines: Herpes Zoster (Shingles)
- High-risk age-based program vaccines: HPV, Men-C-ACYW135, Men-B

HCPs can refer to the Ministry's updated [Guidance for Routine and Catch-Up Immunization Services](#) for eligible cohorts and timing for individuals to receive missed doses.

Guidance on catch-up vaccine schedules can also be under the Immunization Section of the [Health Unit's Tools for Healthcare Providers](#) webpage.



Discontinuation of Provincial Funding for the Looksee Developmental Screening Tool

Discontinuation of Provincial Funding for the Looksee Developmental Screening Tool

However, the 18-month Looksee checklist remains available as a free download to HCPs as part of the Enhance 18-Month Well Baby Visit.

Health Unit Website

For more information, including vaccine schedules, visit the Health Unit's website:

- [Infectious Diseases A-Z](#)
- [Point of Care Tools - Immunization](#)

ENewsletter and Webinar Schedule

- eNewsletters will continue twice a month.
- Upcoming webinars:
 - February 21
 - March 19

Thank you for joining us!

Questions?

- Ask using chat function now, or after the webinar at:
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

