



Healthcare Provider Webinar
Middlesex and London Region
May 2, 2023

Welcome

Presenter:

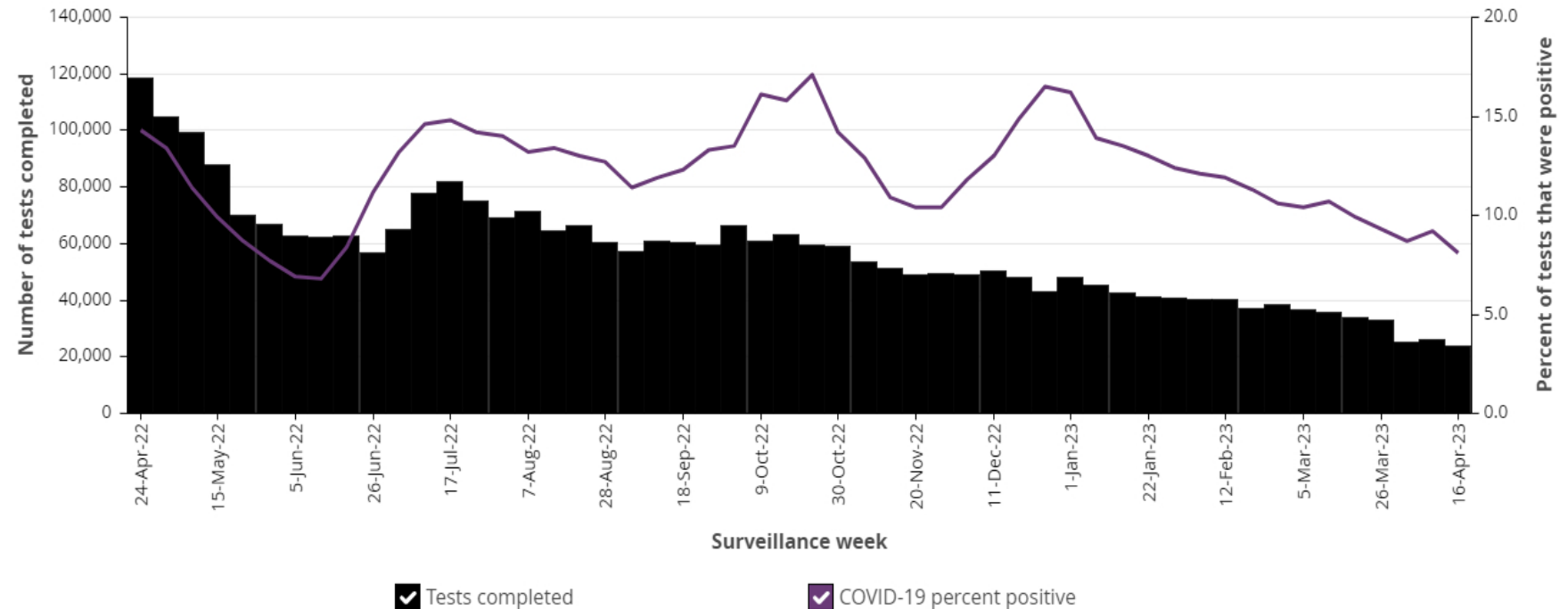
Dr. Joanne Kearon

Resident Physician

Middlesex-London Health Unit

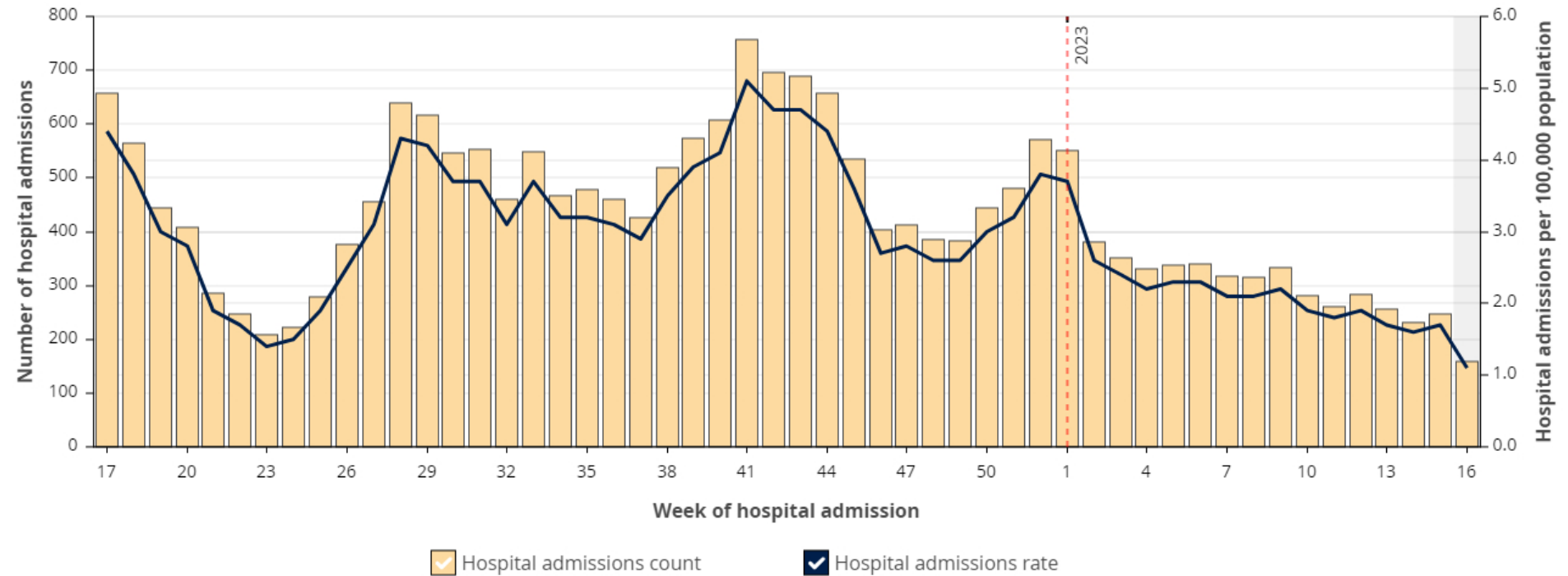
IPAC Based on Respiratory Virus Transmission in Healthcare Settings

Number of COVID-19 tests completed and percent positive by surveillance week April 24, 2022 to April 22, 2023



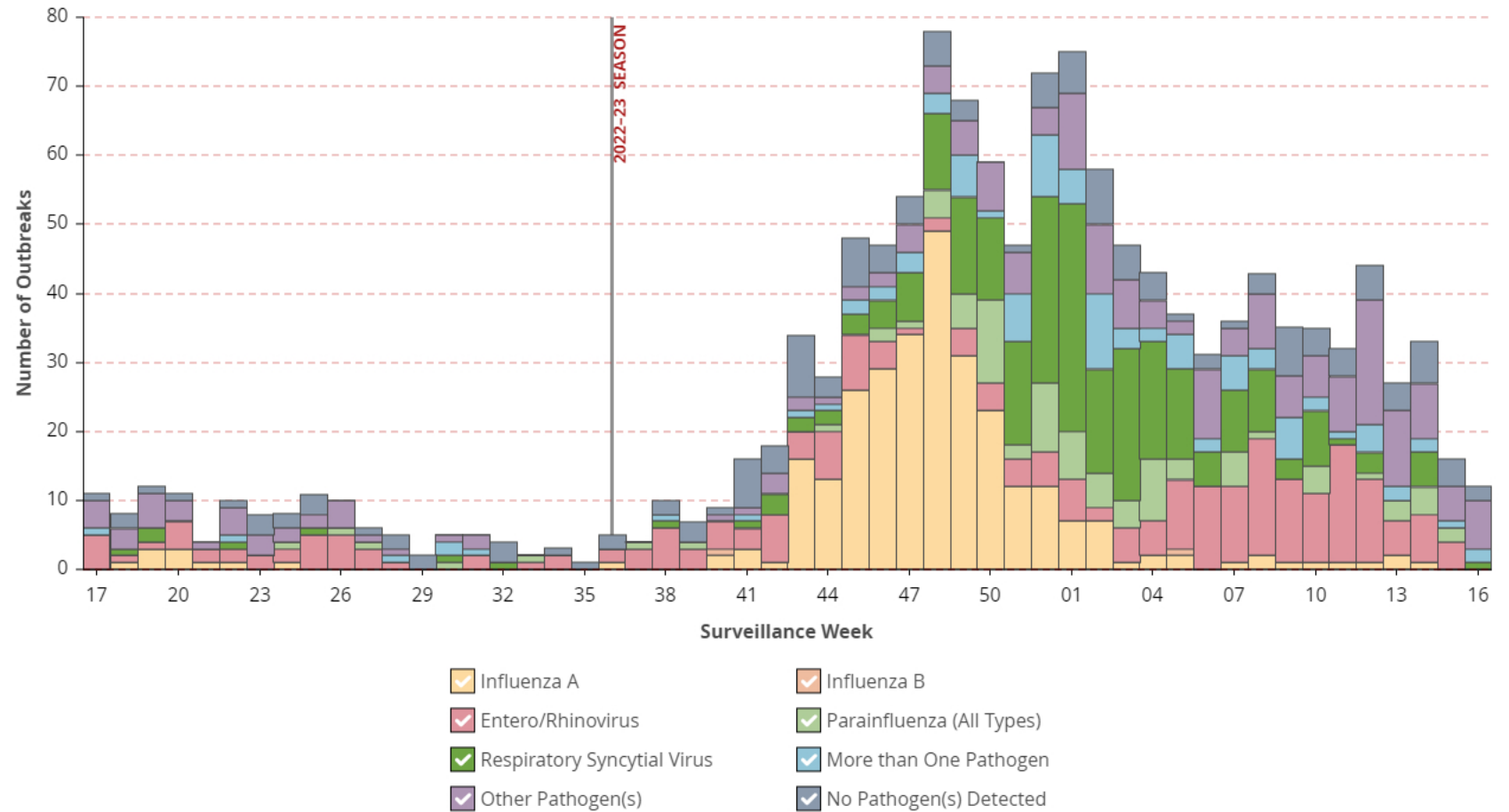
**Hospitalizations
for COVID-19 is
decreasing**

COVID-19 weekly hospital admission counts and rates by admission date in Ontario



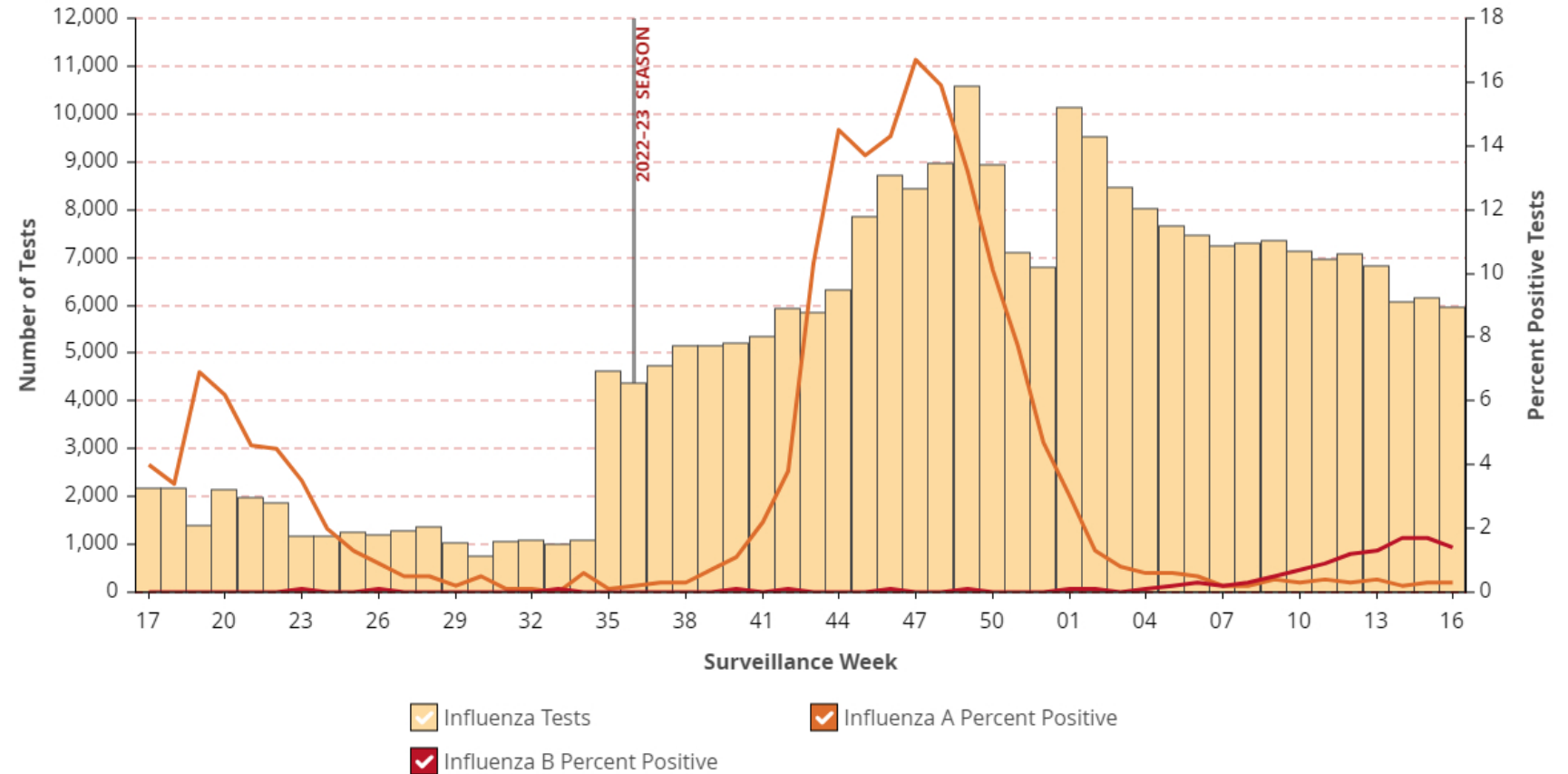
**Number of respiratory
outbreaks are
decreasing**

Number of Institutional Respiratory Infection Outbreaks by Viral Pathogen Detected by Surveillance Week



**Percent positivity for
influenza is low and
stabilizing**

Number of Influenza Tests Performed and Percent Positive for Influenza by Surveillance Week



How should IPAC adjust based on risk of transmission?

- In April, PHO released *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Measures Based on Respiratory Virus Transmission Risk in Health Care Settings*
- Primarily for acute care settings, but provides some guidance for community outpatient settings
- Provides guidance on
 - Transmission risk assessment
 - PPE
 - Environmental Controls
 - Screening

Table 1: Framework for Transmission Risk Periods

Indicator	High Risk Period	Non-High Risk Period
Respiratory virus outbreaks in health care facilities	Frequent and ongoing	Infrequent or baseline
Hospitalizations and ICU admissions*	High and /or upward trajectory	Baseline and stable
Community transmission**	High and /or increasing	Low to moderate and stable

We are entering a non-high risk period

**Within a non-high risk period,
PPE is based on situational
assessment**

Table 2: Routine Practices for Risk Periods

Routine Practices for Respiratory Viruses	High Risk Period	Non-High Risk Period
HCW Masking for direct patient care	Recommend	Situational^^
HCW Masking in inpatient clinical areas	Strongly consider^	Situational^
HCW Masking in outpatient clinical areas	Consider^	Situational**
HCW Masking in non-clinical areas (i.e., no patient care activities performed/delivered)	Consider*	Situational**
Eye protection when within 2 metres of an asymptomatic patient	As per Personal Risk Assessment (Routine Practices)	As per Personal Risk Assessment (Routine Practices)
Asymptomatic Patient masking†	Recommend when ambulatory. Consider when in bedspace while receiving care.	Situational***
Visitor/essential caregiver masking in clinical areas	Recommend**	Situational**

Data source: Public Health Ontario- *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Measures Based on Respiratory Virus Transmission Risk in Health Care Settings*. 2023-04. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/I/2023/ipac-measures-transmission-risks-technical-brief.pdf>

Recommendations

- Continue with routine precautions (point-of-care risk assessment; hand hygiene)
- Masking: move away from universal masking to situational
 - Staff: Optional when in non-clinical settings; optional when providing outpatient care
 - Patients: Optional for asymptomatic patients
- Eye protection: based on point-of-care risk assessment
- Screening:
 - Staff: Move from active to passive screening
 - Patients: Active or passive screening can be considered, dependent on context
- Vaccination: stay up-to-date with COVID-19 boosters

Closure of the LHSC COVID, Cold and Flu Care Clinic (CCFCC)

- CCFCC closed April 28th
- Home and Community Care Support Services South West is working with pharmacy provider, Yurket's Specialty Services, and Nursing Service Provider, Saint Elizabeth Healthcare, to provide COVID-19 antiviral infusions to two Community Nursing Clinics:
 - SOUTH | 1100 Dearness Ave, London
 - NORTH | 267 Fanshawe Park Rd W, London

Closure of the LHSC COVID, Cold and Flu Care Clinic (CCFCC)

- Home and Community Care Support Services will reserve clinic appointments for Remdesivir based on the volume of need.
- Care Coordinators will provide system navigation for home care patients who need a COVID-19 test, assessment, or treatment by directing them to:
 - contact a pharmacy that provides COVID-19 testing or administers therapeutics such as Paxlovid OR
 - contact their primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner)

Prescribers referring for Remdesivir infusions

- Prescribers can leverage the existing processes found on the Home and Community Care website to refer a patient for Remdesivir infusions by following these steps:
 - Complete a HCCSS SW Remdesivir Referral (live April 28th) to order full, or partial Remdesivir treatments in a Community Nursing Clinic.
 - Support the Community Nursing Clinic care team by responding to any questions related to patients' needs.
- Questions can be sent to Home and Community Care Support Services South West at sw.patientsafety@hccontario.ca

Avian influenza surveillance in hospitalized patients

- Memo from Chief Medical Officer of Health is included in this week's eNewsletter regarding the highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza (HPAI; H5N1) that has been circulating in Canada and internally since 2022.
- While rare, human cases have been reported internationally, highlight the importance of surveillance and vigilance for potential infections in humans.

Avian influenza surveillance in hospitalized patients

If you work in a hospital setting: cooperation is requested in maintaining a heightened index of suspicion for individuals ADMITTED to hospital with influenza. This includes:

- Obtaining a history regarding potential exposures to infected birds or to their contaminated environmental surfaces, or to mammals that may have been infected by birds, in the past 14 days prior to illness onset.
 - Notify your hospital infection prevention and control AND the health unit if a relevant exposure is identified.
- Ensure all positive influenza A samples from all admitted patients are forwarded to PHOL for sub-typing.

Note: Due to the overall low risk of transmission to humans, sub-typing is not recommended for all individuals positive for influenza A (e.g., out-patients or patients in the E.D.)

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

