

## **2011-2012 Influenza Surveillance Update of Current Status and Issues**

June 5, 2012

Due to the low level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London, this will be the last update for this season, unless there is evidence of increasing influenza activity in the community. Influenza surveillance information will continue to be available at the following websites:

- Public Health Ontario: <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/flubulletin.html> (Ontario Influenza Bulletin) and <http://www.oahpp.ca/services/pho-laboratories-surveillance-updates.html> (Laboratory-Based Respiratory Pathogen Surveillance Report)
- Public Health Agency of Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/> (FluWatch)

### **Influenza activity in Middlesex-London:**

From May 29 to June 4, no new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported to the Health Unit. Additionally, there were no new hospitalizations, deaths or influenza outbreaks reported.

To date, there have been 34 influenza A cases and 72 influenza B cases identified in Middlesex-London for the 2011-2012 influenza surveillance season. This total count includes an influenza B case that occurred in April that was not reported previously. Nine of the influenza A samples have been typed as human influenza A (H3) and six as influenza A (H1N1) pdm09. One of the H3 samples has been strain typed as A/Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2) which is the H3N2 component for this year's influenza vaccine. Two influenza B samples have been strain typed as B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like, which belongs to a different lineage than the influenza B strain that is in this year's vaccine.

The number of newly identified laboratory-confirmed influenza cases has declined in the most recent week. The overall proportion of patients presenting to London emergency departments and urgent care with fever and respiratory symptoms was lower than the previous week, as was school absenteeism. Based on the available information, influenza activity in Middlesex London is low.

### **Provincial and National Influenza Activity:**

**Influenza:** Based on testing at the Public Health Ontario laboratory from May 20 to 26, 11 of 110 samples tested for influenza B were positive, for a positivity rate of 10.0% which was similar to the percent positivity from the previous week. None of the specimens tested positive for influenza A.

According to the latest Ontario Influenza Bulletin, 33 new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported across the province between May 20 and 26, compared to 57 the previous week. In total, 3,877 influenza cases have been reported in the province for the 2011-2012 surveillance season. The majority of the cases reported were influenza B, which accounts for 74.8% (2,900/3,877) of cases reported to date.

Provincially, no new influenza outbreaks were reported between May 20 and 26. In total, 133 institutional influenza outbreaks have been reported across the province this season, 103 of which were influenza B, 27 influenza A (all subtypes) and three combined influenza A and B.

Between May 20 and 26, national influenza activity continued to decline however, localized influenza activity was still reported in some regions of Ontario and Quebec.

**Other Respiratory Pathogens:** Based on testing at the Public Health Ontario laboratory between May 20 and 26, the most notable virus other than influenza continues to be entero/rhinovirus, with a percent positivity of 15.0%.

## Appendix A Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators

Based on the available information, influenza activity in Middlesex London is low.

Indicator	Recent trends / data	Comments
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Lower	<p>From May 27 to June 2, an average of 4.4% of patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) emergency departments and the St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) urgent care centre presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. This value is lower than 5.1% from the previous week.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 9.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. This value is lower compared to 13.1% from the previous week.</p>
<b>Absence reports from schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Lower	<p>From May 28 to 31, one elementary school in the two main English language public school boards reported a 5-day average absenteeism exceeding 10%. This number is lower than the previous week, when two schools reported increased absenteeism.</p>
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases</b>	None	<p>From May 29 to June 4, no new cases of influenza were reported to the Health Unit.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the influenza surveillance season, 34 influenza A (nine influenza A H3, six influenza A pdm09, the remainder untyped) and 72 influenza B cases have been reported in Middlesex-London. One influenza A has been strain typed as A/Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2) and two influenza B sample was strain typed as B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like</p>
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	None	<p>From May 29 to June 4, there were no reports of individuals with laboratory-confirmed influenza being hospitalized.</p> <p>Since the start of the influenza surveillance season, 34 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been hospitalized.</p>
<b>Deaths</b>	None	<p>No deaths were reported from May 29 to June 4, 2012.</p> <p>Since the start of the influenza surveillance season, five individuals with laboratory-confirmed influenza have died.</p>
<b>Long-term care facility outbreaks</b>	None	<p>From May 29 to June 4, no new institutional outbreaks of influenza were reported.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the influenza surveillance season, seven influenza outbreaks (three A and four B) have been reported.</p>

<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Lower	Between May 28 and June 2, 3.8% of chest x-rays performed by the sentinel x-ray provider were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. This proportion is lower than 4.9% from the previous week.
<b>Calls to Telehealth Ontario related to respiratory and influenza-like illness</b>	None reported	
<b>Percentage of influenza tests performed by the Ontario Public Health Laboratory that are positive from across the province</b>	Influenza A Lower  Influenza B Similar	Based on provincial testing done by the Ontario Public Health Laboratory from May 20 to 26, no samples tested positive for influenza A.  For influenza B, 11 of 110 samples tested positive, for a positivity of 10.0% which was similar to 9.4% in the previous week.