

## 2012-2013 Influenza Surveillance Update of Current Status and Issues

November 19, 2012

This is the first issue of the 2012-2013 Influenza Surveillance Report for the Middlesex-London Health Unit. This report will be generated approximately weekly during the influenza season and will provide an overview of the current status of influenza and respiratory illness being observed in Middlesex-London.

On November 6, 2012 two laboratory confirmed influenza A cases were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. These were the first influenza cases identified in Middlesex London since the start of the surveillance season, which began on September 1, 2012. Two additional cases of influenza A (H3) have since been reported, bringing the total number of local cases to four. The Middlesex-London Health Unit will be following this closely to see if this is an indication of the beginning of an early influenza season.

In September and October, provincial influenza activity was low. In recent weeks, indicators have shown evidence of increasing activity in Ontario, particularly for influenza A. The predominant virus causing respiratory illness is currently entero/rhinovirus.

In Canada, since the beginning of September, nine influenza viruses have been antigenically characterized. Seven influenza A(H3N2) viruses were similar to A/Victoria/361/2011, while two B viruses were similar to B/Wisconsin/01/2010. The components of the 2012/2013 influenza vaccine are A/California/7/2009-like virus (an H1N1pdm09-like virus), A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus, and B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus.

The uptake of influenza vaccine in Middlesex-London appears to be lower than last year. Please continue to promote the influenza vaccine for your patients, residents and staff.

The remaining community influenza vaccinations clinics are as follows:

<b>LUCAN COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 263 Main Street, Lucan	<b>Thursday November 22, 2012</b> 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
<b>CARLING HEIGHTS OPTIMIST COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> 656 Elizabeth Street, London	<b>Saturday November 24, 2012</b> 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
<b>NORTH DORCHESTER OPTIMIST YOUTH CENTRE</b> 1653 Richmond Street, Dorchester	<b>Thursday November 29, 2012</b> 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Information on the Health Unit's community vaccination clinics is also available on our web site at <http://www.healthunit.com/article.aspx?ID=18400>

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators**  
**November 19, 2012**

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Recent trends / data</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Low	From November 4 – 10, an average of 6.1% 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.  The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 15.5% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.
<b>Absence reports from schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Low	From November 5 – 9, one elementary school in the two main English public school boards reported a 5-day average absenteeism exceeding 10%.
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases</b>	Low	Four laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A have been identified since September 1, 2012. The first reports were received on November 6, 2012.
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	Low	Two of the four laboratory confirmed cases were hospitalized.
<b>Deaths</b>	None reported	
<b>Long-term care facility influenza outbreaks</b>	None reported	
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Low	From November 5 – 10, 3.4% of chest x-rays performed by the sentinel x-ray provider were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.
<b>Percentage of Ontario laboratory samples that are positive for influenza</b>	Low	In Ontario, from November 4 – 10, 28 of 572 tests were positive for influenza A (4.9% positivity) and 3 of 572 tests were positive for influenza B (0.5% positivity).  From November 4 – 10, entero/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity among circulating respiratory viruses, at 16.5%.