

2012-2013 Influenza Surveillance Update of Current Status and Issues

December 6, 2012

Since the previous Influenza Surveillance Report was issued on November 27, 2012, and up to the end of day on Monday December 3, there have been 26 new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Seventeen hospitalizations were reported among these cases. Three cases are associated with an influenza outbreak declared in an acute care hospital. Two deaths were reported among the laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.

As Monday December 3, 2012, a total of 41 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and no influenza B cases were reported in Middlesex-London. Fifteen of the reported influenza A cases have been subtyped as human influenza A(H3) and one has been subtyped as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. Influenza immunization status is known for 34 of the 41 reported cases. Of these, 28 (82.4%) have not received influenza immunization for the 2012/2013 season, and six (17.6%) have been immunized.

Public Health Ontario reported that in Ontario, influenza activity continued to increase for the week of November 18 to 24, which is the most recent information available. Across the province, the percent positivity for influenza A has been above 5% for two consecutive weeks, which is an indication that seasonal influenza activity has commenced. However, the percent positivity for influenza B remains low.

In Canada, since the beginning of September, 35 influenza viruses have been antigenically characterized. Twenty-two influenza A(H3N2) viruses were similar to A/Victoria/361/2011 and four A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses were similar to A/California/07/09. Seven B viruses were similar to B/Wisconsin/01/2010 and two were similar to B/Brisbane/60/2008. 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.

It is very important to continue to promote the influenza vaccine for your patients, residents and staff. Influenza vaccinations will continue to be available at the Health Unit's Walk-in Immunization Clinics, which take place as follows:

50 King Street, London

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- First and third Wednesdays of each month – 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Kenwick Mall, Strathroy

- First Tuesday of each month – 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Influenza vaccinations are also available at some health care providers' offices and at some pharmacies.

Additional information about where influenza vaccinations are offered can be found on the Health Unit website at <http://www.healthunit.com/article.aspx?ID=10920>.

Appendix A
Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators
December 6, 2012

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London continues to increase.

Indicator	Recent trends / data	Comments
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Increased	<p>From November 25 – December 1, an average of 9.8% 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 is an increase compared to 7.6% from the previous week.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 25.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. This is an increase compared to 20.9% from the previous week.</p>
Absence reports from schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Increased	<p>From November 26 – 30, six elementary schools in the two main English public school boards reported a 5-day average absenteeism exceeding 10%. This number is slightly greater than the previous week, when five elementary schools reported a 5-day average absenteeism exceeding 10%.</p> <p>Several schools have reported absenteeism due to influenza-like illness, as well as Norovirus-like illness, which causes diarrhea and vomiting.</p>
Laboratory-confirmed cases	Increased	<p>From November 27 to December 3, 26 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported, including three associated with an influenza outbreak in an acute care hospital.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the surveillance season on September 1, a total of 41 laboratory confirmed influenza A cases have been reported to the Health Unit.</p>
Hospitalizations	Increased	<p>Since the previous report, 17 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to be hospitalized. To date, 23 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were hospitalized.</p>
Deaths		<p>Two deaths have been reported among cases with laboratory-confirmed influenza.</p>
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/acute care	Increased	<p>Since the previous report, one new influenza A outbreak was declared, in an acute care setting. To date, two influenza A outbreaks have been reported, one in a long-term care home and one in an acute care hospital.</p>
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Increased	<p>From November 26 – December 1, 4.5% of chest x-rays performed by the sentinel x-ray provider were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. This is an increase compared to 3.3% from the previous week.</p>
Percentage of Ontario laboratory samples that are positive for influenza	Increased for influenza A	<p>In Ontario, from November 18 – 24, 109 of 961 tests were positive for influenza A (11.34% positivity) and 0 of 961 tests were positive for influenza B (0% positivity). Compared to the previous week, this represents an increase of 4.54% for influenza A.</p> <p>From November 18 – 24, entero/rhinovirus had the highest percent positivity among circulating respiratory viruses, at 13.74%, which is comparable to 13.55% from the previous week.</p>