

2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues November 28, 2013

Current Local Activity

Since the last report, one laboratory confirmed case of locally acquired influenza A was reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. To date, two laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit since September 1, 2013.

Current Outbreak Activity

No outbreaks due to influenza have been declared locally since September 1, 2013. Only one respiratory outbreak, which was due to parainfluenza, was declared in November this year.

Upcoming Flu Clinics

Community influenza immunization clinics organized by the Middlesex-London Health Unit began on October 19, 2013 and run until December 10, 2013. A list of the Middlesex London Health Unit's remaining community influenza clinics is attached to the end of this report and is also available on our web site at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-vaccination-clinics>

In addition to the community influenza immunization clinics, influenza vaccination remains available at some health care providers' offices, participating pharmacies and at the Health Unit's walk-in immunization clinic. Clinics happen at 50 King Street in London on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clinics also take place at the Kenwick Mall in Strathroy from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

To find a free flu shot clinic near you, visit the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's "Find a Flu Shot Clinic" web page at <http://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/publichealth/flu/finder.aspx>

Current Provincial Activity

There has been little influenza activity in Ontario to date but influenza activity is increasing. Between November 10-16, 21 cases of influenza A and one case of influenza B were reported; these cases were reported from the North West, Eastern, Central East, Toronto, Southwest and Central West regions. The percent positivity for all influenza types is 2.4%. In total, 59 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1. The latest Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin from Public Health Ontario can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>.

Current National Activity

Influenza activity continues to increase in Canada, as evidenced by increasing laboratory detections of influenza. Between November 10-16, 51 cases of influenza A and 12 cases of influenza B were reported across Canada. From August 25- November 16, 2013, 154 Influenza A and 37 influenza B cases have been identified.

In Canada, 20 influenza viruses (nine influenza A and 11 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the season. Of the 20 influenza viruses, 16 matched the components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. The components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, A/Victoria/361/2011b (H3N2) virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. The latest FluWatch report can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

Current and previous reports of the Middlesex London Health Unit's Community Influenza Surveillance report can be found on the Middlesex London Health Unit's website at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-surveillance>

Appendix A
Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators
November 28, 2013

Influenza activity in Middlesex London is low but indicators are suggesting the possibility that influenza has arrived in the community.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
Laboratory Information				
Laboratory-confirmed cases	Nov 17-27	1 influenza A	Influenza A- 2 cases Influenza B- no cases	Increase from last week when no cases of influenza were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit.
Hospitalizations	Nov 17-27	0	0	No change from last week. Since the beginning of September, no hospitalizations of people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported locally.
Deaths	Nov 17-27	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no deaths of people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported locally.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Nov 17-27	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no local influenza outbreaks have been reported.
Percentage samples that are positive for influenza	Nov 10-16	Ontario: Influenza A 2.3% positivity Influenza B 0.1% positivity ¹		Influenza A: increased from 1.5% positivity the previous week Influenza B: no change from previous week

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Recent Trends
Other Community Surveillance Indicators			
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Nov 17-23	<p>An average of 6.4% of patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) emergency departments and the St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) urgent care centre presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 14.1% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined is slightly lower than 6.8% from the previous week.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department is lower than 15.9% from the previous week.</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Nov 18-22	One elementary school in one of the two main English public school boards reported a five-day average absenteeism exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting a five-day average absenteeism exceeding 10% is lower than the previous week, when three elementary schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Nov 18-23	3.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia.	The proportion is slightly higher than 3.3% from the previous week.

Sources:

1 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2013-2014, retrieved from http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Ontario_Respiratory_Virus_Bulletin-Week_46.pdf

The Middlesex-London Health Unit gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following community partners who provide data for this report:

London Health Sciences Centre
London X-Ray Associates
St. Joseph's Health Care London
Thames Valley District School Board

INFLUENZA VACCINATION CLINICS

*The influenza vaccine is free and available to anyone 6 months of age and older.
If possible, please bring your Health Card or Driver's License*

CLARKE ROAD SECONDARY SCHOOL 300 Clarke Road, London	Thursday November 28, 2013 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
LAMBETH COMMUNITY CENTRE 7112 Beattie Street West, London	Tuesday December 10, 2013 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

For more information about the influenza vaccine or vaccination clinics, call 519-663-5317 ext. 2330 or visit <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-vaccination-clinics>.