



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Bryna Warshawsky, Acting Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2012 October 18

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## 2011-2012 INFLUENZA SEASON IN MIDDLESEX-LONDON

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that Report No. 127-12 re “2011-2012 Influenza Season in Middlesex-London” be received for information.*

### **Key Points**

- The 2011-2102 influenza season was mild; there were 106 laboratory-confirmed cases, 6 outbreaks in long term care facilities and 3 deaths.
- Of the 106 laboratory confirmed cases, 60% were not immunized.
- The strains infecting people and those in the vaccine matched well for influenza A but not as well for influenza B.
- Influenza vaccination is encouraged for all.

### **Overview**

The 2011-2012 influenza season for Middlesex London was mild compared to previous years, with only 106 laboratory confirmed cases (Table 1).

**Table 1: Influenza Cases, Middlesex-London Health Unit 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012**

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Laboratory Confirmed Cases	391	276	106
Hospitalizations	92	161	34
Deaths	8	17	3
Outbreaks	2	28	6

The 20-49 year age range had the highest proportion (22%) of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, followed by the 65-79 year and 80 and over year age group. Among the 34 hospitalized cases, the majority were aged <5 years (26%) and 80 years of age and over (26%), followed by those 65-79 years (24%).

The majority of the 106 laboratory confirmed influenza cases were from residents living in the community (80%); while 20% of the cases were from residents living in long term care facilities. Of the 6 outbreaks, 3 were due to influenza A and 3 were due to influenza B.

### Timing of the Season and Strain Typing

The influenza season typically occurs anytime from October to April; the first laboratory-confirmed influenza case in Middlesex-London occurred in November 2011 ([Figure 1 – Appendix A](#)). Influenza A often occurs earlier in the influenza season, with influenza B occurring later.

Of the 106 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported to the Middlesex London Health Unit, 72 were reported as influenza B and 34 as influenza A. Of the influenza A, 15 samples were typed as follows: nine human influenza A (H3) and six as influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 (the strain which caused the pandemic in 2009) ([Figure 1 – Appendix A](#)). Based on national data, most influenza A strains infecting people were the same as the strains in the vaccine. However, for influenza B, only about half the strains infecting people matched the strain in the vaccine.

### Influenza Immunization Status

Of the reported cases, 60% had not been immunized for influenza during the season. In those <65 years of age, 75% were not immunized; in those 65 years of age and over, 33.3% were not immunized.

### Conclusion

The 2011-2012 influenza season was quite mild compared to previous years. It was a mixture of influenza A and B. There was good match between the strains infecting people and the vaccine for influenza A strains, but the match was not as good for influenza B. To reduce the incidence of influenza, vaccination should be encouraged for people of all ages.

This report was prepared by Dr. Simerpal Gill, Epidemiologist, and Ms. Eleanor Paget, Public Health Nurse, Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Services.



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<p><b>This report addresses</b> the following requirement(s) of the Ontario Public Health Standards: The board of health shall interpret and use surveillance data to communicate on risks to relevant audiences in accordance with the Infectious Diseases Protocol and the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol.</p>
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