



**Healthcare Provider Webinar**  
Middlesex and London Region  
September 19, 2023

# Welcome

Presenter:

**Dr. Joanne Kearon**

Associate Medical Officer of Health

Middlesex-London Health Unit

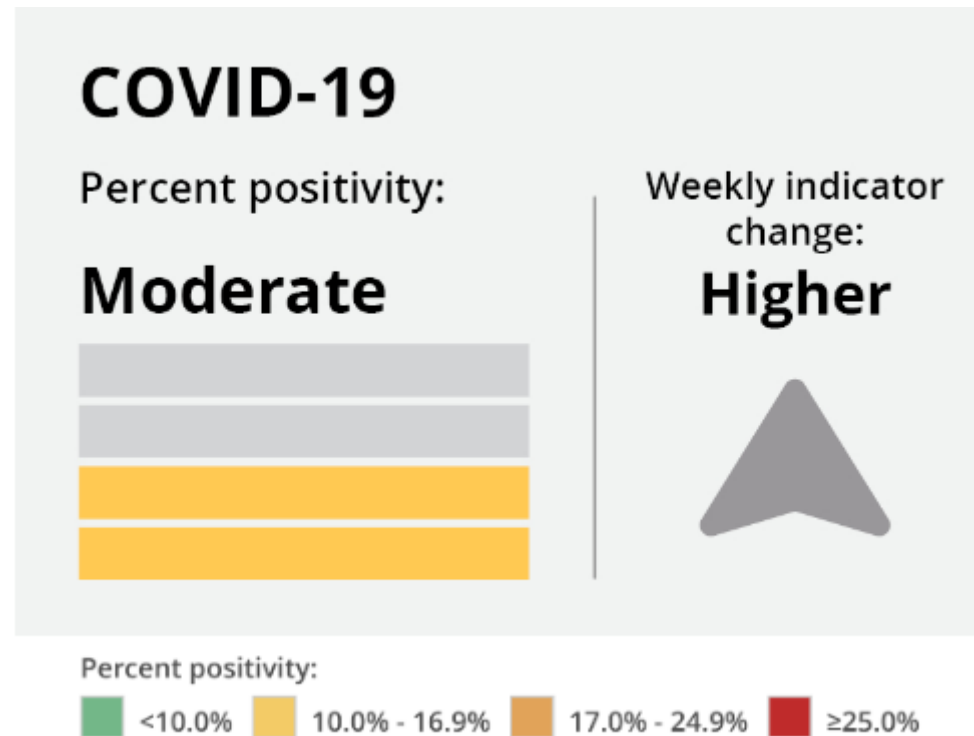
September 19, 2023

# Outline

- Respiratory virus activity
- Ontario's 2023-2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)
- Guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023
- PHO rounds
- General Test Requisition Form for Requesting Laboratory Tests
- Three new tick-borne Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS)
- West Nile Virus season
- Baby-Friendly Practices Workshops for Healthcare Professionals

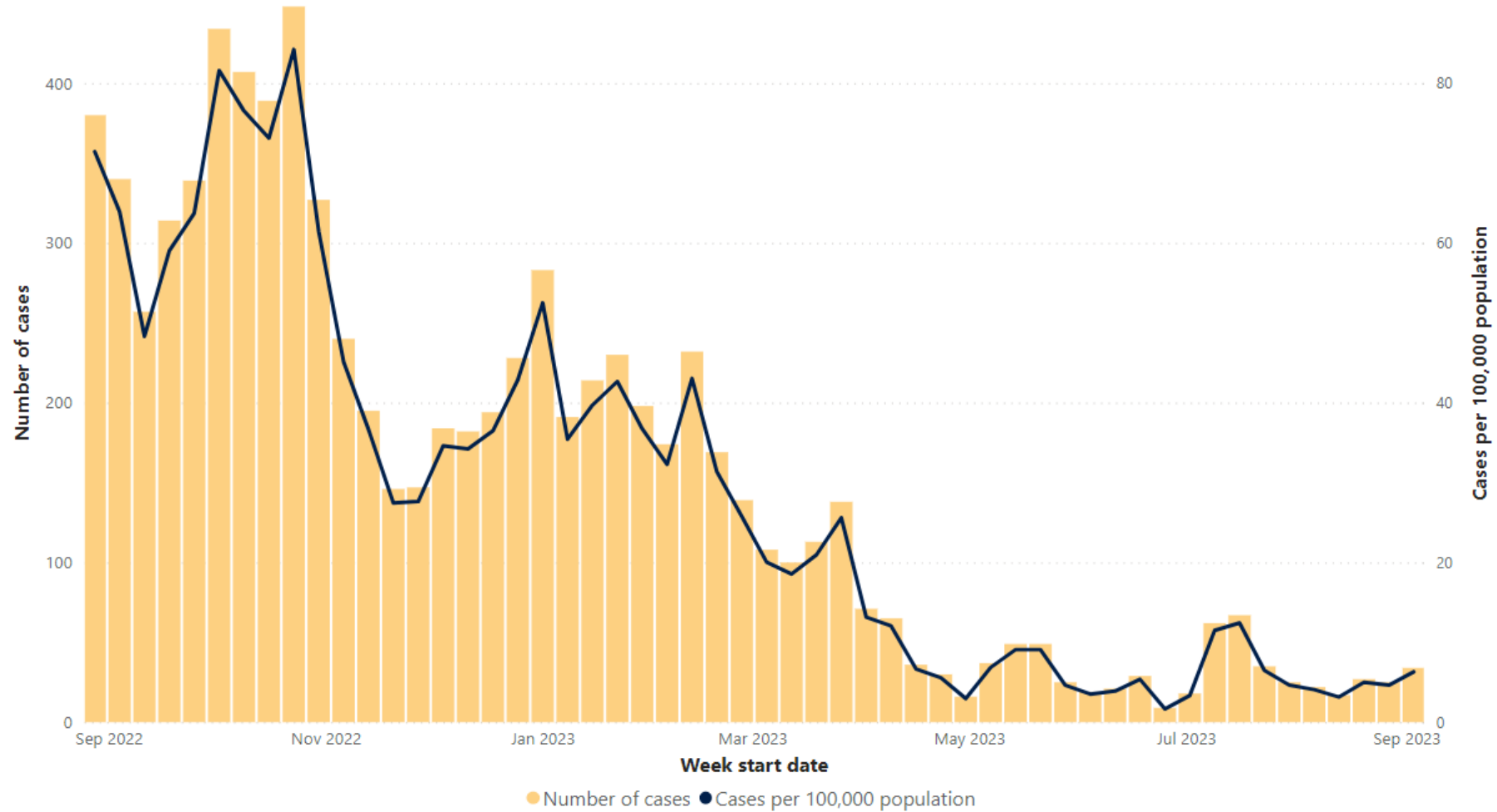
# Respiratory Virus Activity: COVID-19

## September 3 to September 9, 2023



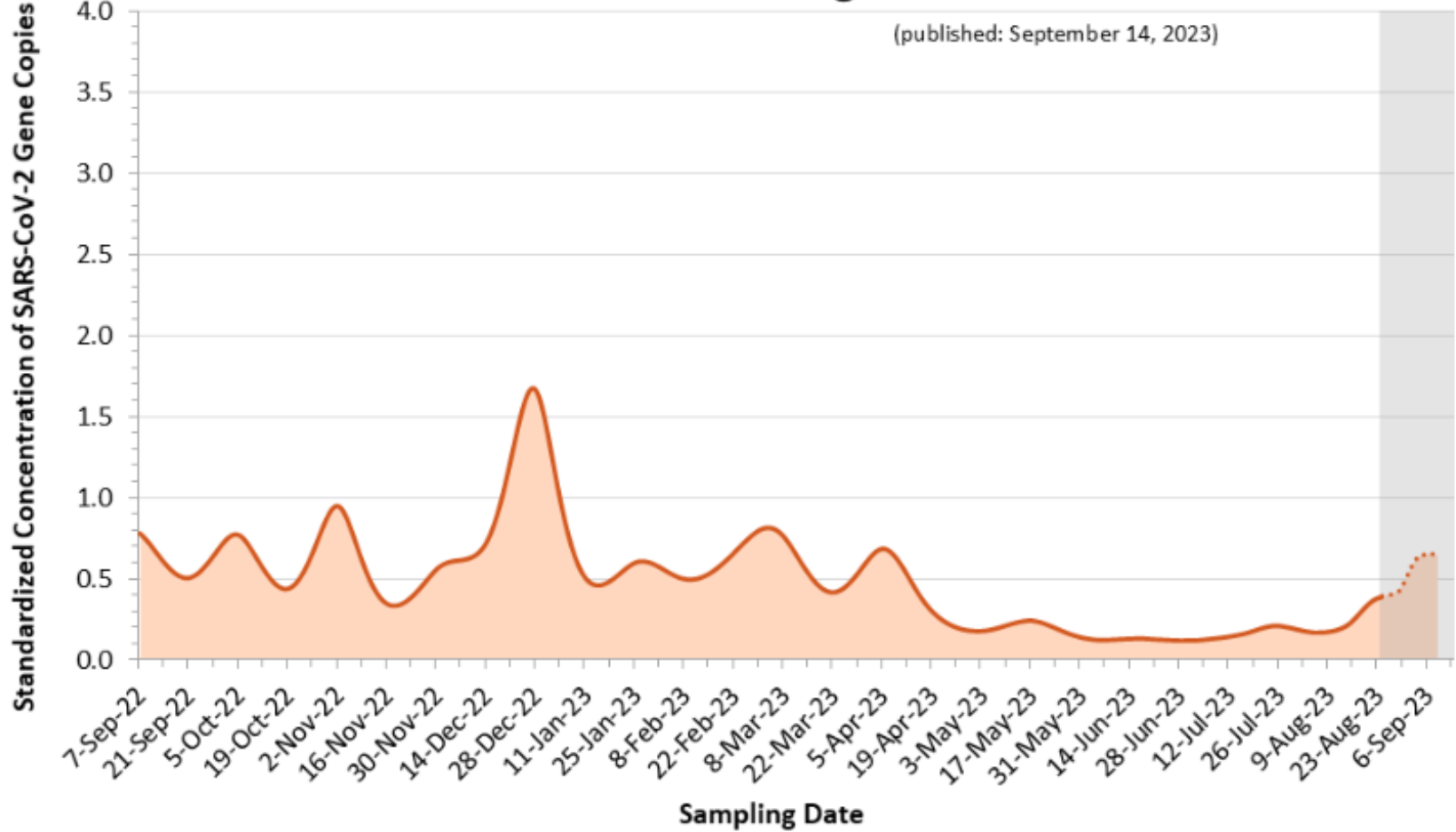
**Data source:** Public Health Ontario- *Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool*, extracted 2023-09-15. Data current as of the end of day 2023-09-15.  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

**Laboratory confirmed weekly case counts and rates of COVID-19 in Middlesex-London Health Unit**



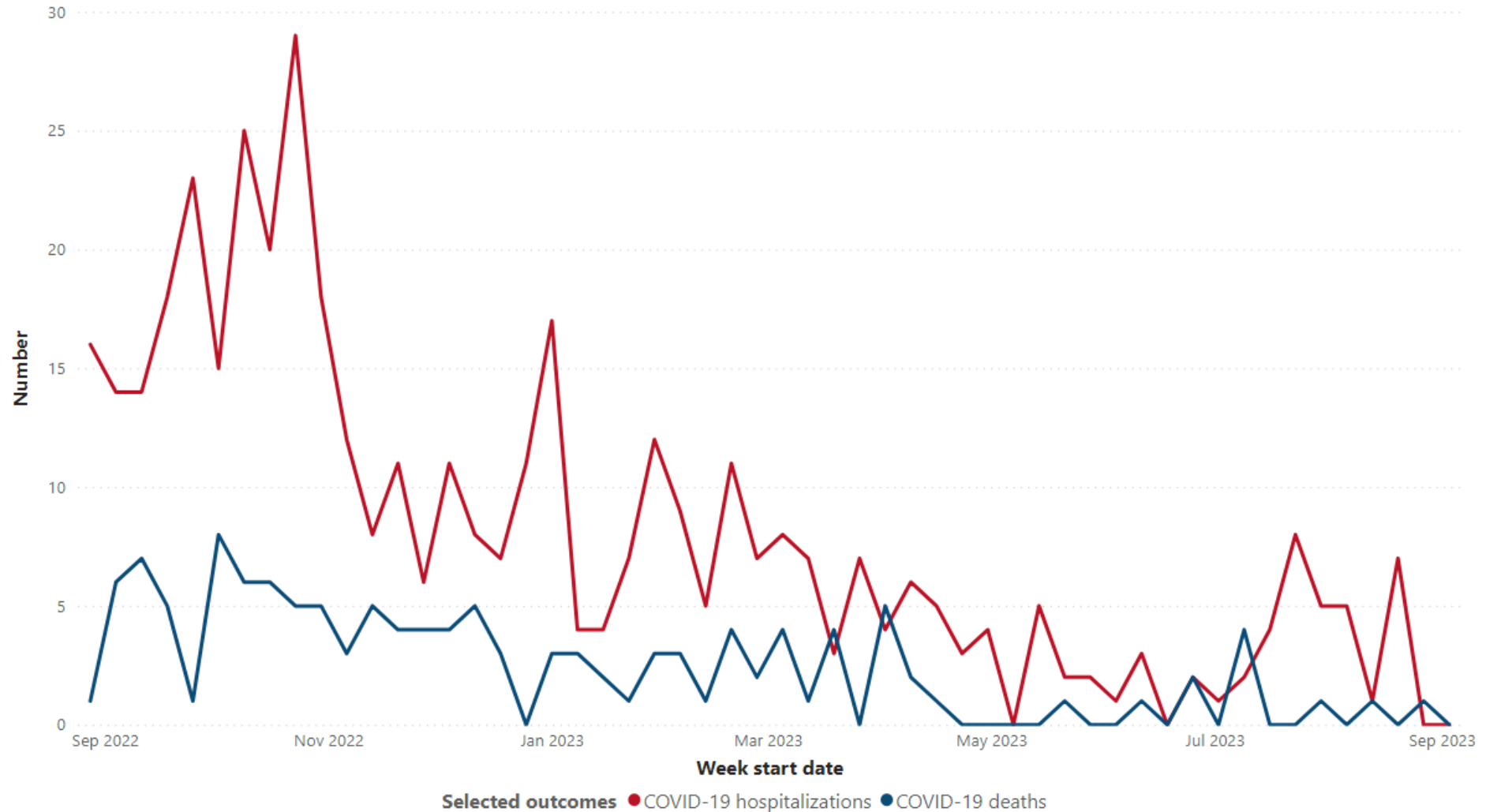
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### COVID-19 Wastewater Signal - South West



**Data source:** Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 wastewater surveillance in Ontario. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2023. Extracted 2023-09-15. Data current as of the end of day 2023-09-15. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/COVID-19-Data-Surveillance/Wastewater>

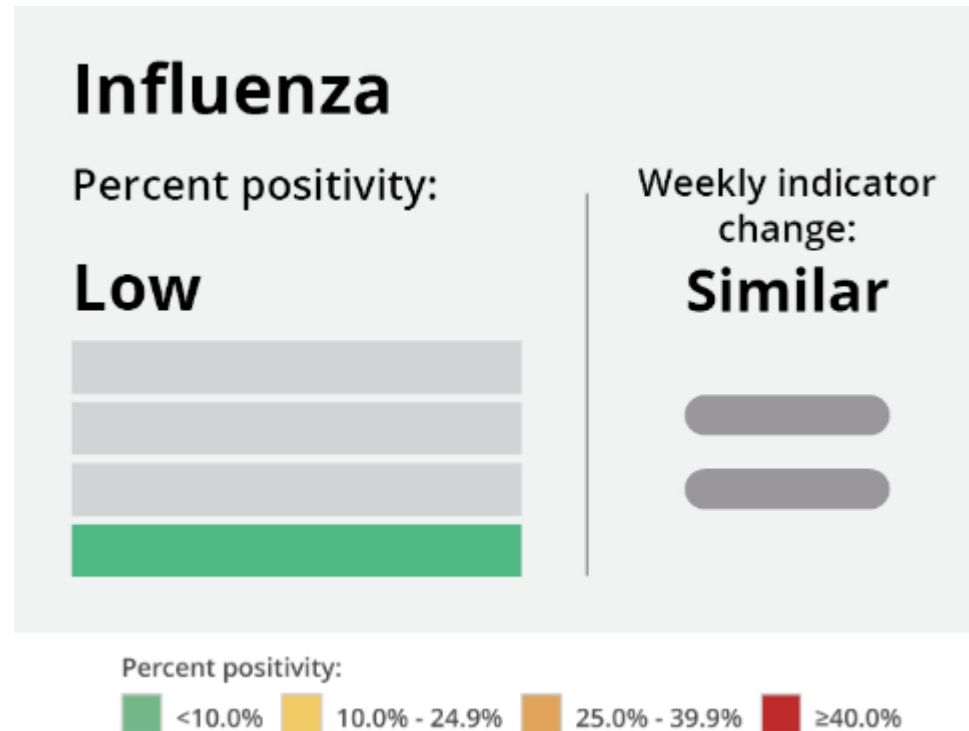
**Selected outcomes for COVID-19 cases in Middlesex-London Health Unit**



**Data source:** Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 wastewater surveillance in Ontario. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2023. Extracted 2023-09-15. Data current as of the end of day 2023-09-15. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/COVID-19-Data-Surveillance/Wastewater>

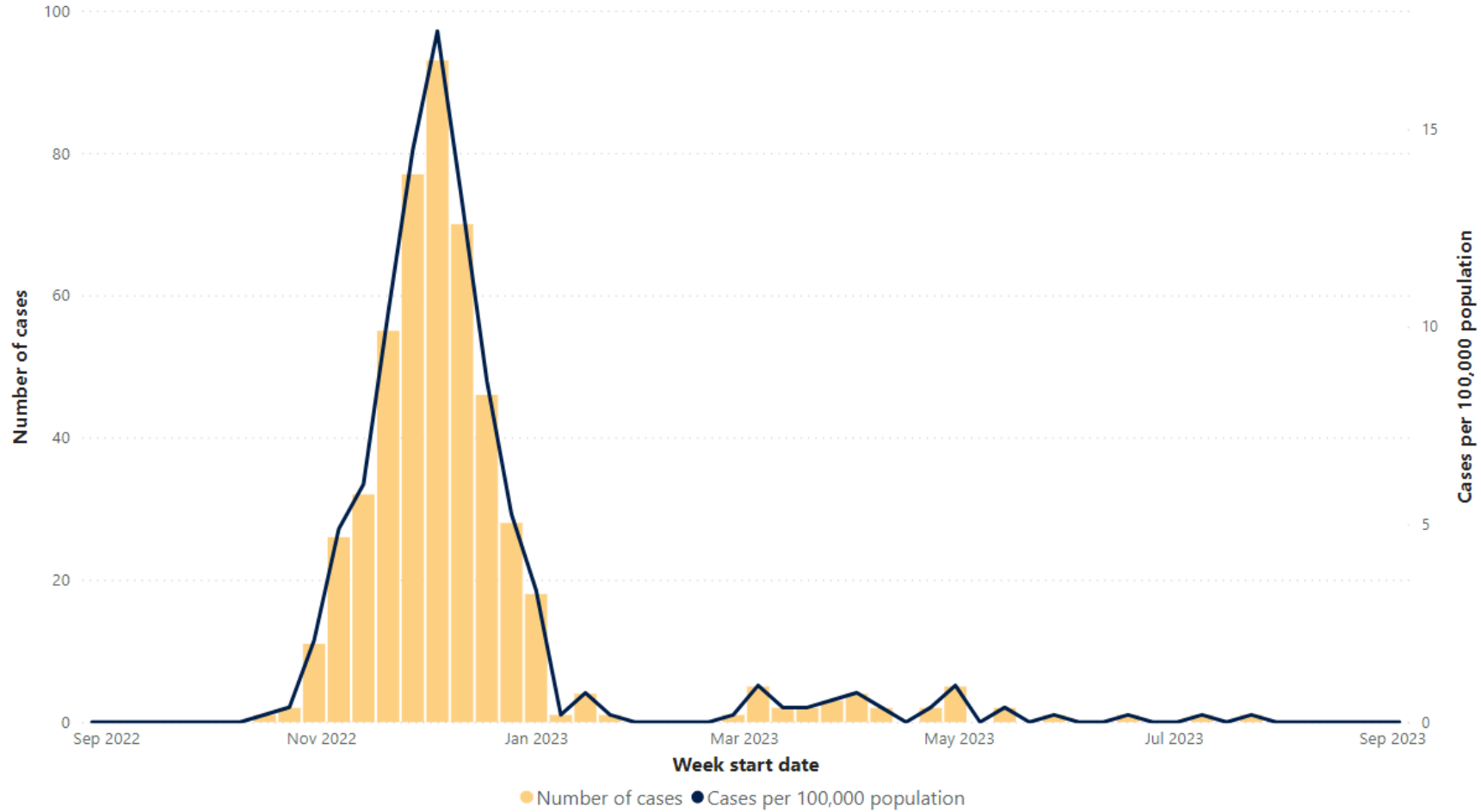
# Respiratory Virus Activity: Influenza

## September 3, 2023 to September 9, 2023





**Laboratory confirmed weekly case counts and rates of influenza (all types) in Middlesex-London Health Unit**



**Data source:** Public Health Ontario- *Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool*, extracted 2023-09-15. Data current as of the end of day 2023-09-15.  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

# Respiratory Virus Activity: Other

## September 3, 2023 to September 9, 2023

| Respiratory virus activity  |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Virus                       | Percent positivity (%) |
| Adenovirus                  | 0.8%                   |
| COVID-19                    | 14.1%                  |
| Entero/Rhinovirus           | 12.8%                  |
| Human metapneumovirus       | 0.2%                   |
| Influenza A                 | 0.3%                   |
| Influenza B                 | 0.1%                   |
| Parainfluenza (all types)   | 1.4%                   |
| Respiratory syncytial virus | 0.8%                   |
| Seasonal human coronavirus  | 0.1%                   |

**Data source:** Public Health Ontario- *Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool*, extracted 2023-09-15. Data current as of the end of day 2023-09-15.  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Respiratory-Virus-Tool>

# Fall Vaccine Program Timelines and Prioritization

| Vaccine   | Timeline                      |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Influenza – High Risk Individuals<br>COVID-19 – High Risk Individuals | Starts end of September       |
| Influenza – General Population<br>COVID-19 – General Population       | Starts October 30             |
| RSV – High Risk Individuals<br>(potentially LTC only)                 | Possible start is mid-October |

Vaccine will be prioritized for use in

- hospitals, long-term care, retirement homes, and other congregate care settings (including staff at these locations);
- healthcare providers;
- individuals at high-risk of complications or hospitalization due to influenza. Members of racialized and other equity deserving communities have been included in the high-risk criteria.

# COVID-19 Vaccines

- “Beginning in the fall of 2023 for those previously vaccinated against COVID-19, NACI recommends a dose of the **XBB.1.5-containing** formulation of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals in the authorized age group if it has been **at least 6 months** from the previous COVID-19 vaccine dose or known SARS-CoV-2 infection (whichever is later).”
- MLHU will be running mass vaccination clinic at Western Fair, as well as mobile clinics for priority populations
- Vaccination will also be available through pharmacies

## Resources

- [Addendum to the guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the fall of 2023 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Summary of NACI statement of September 12, 2023 \(PDF\)](#)

# Ontario's 2023-2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP)

- The publicly funded influenza vaccines available for the
- 2023/2024 UIIP include:
  - **Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV)** : for those  $\geq 6$  months of age
  - **High-Dose Quadrivalent Inactivated Vaccine (QIV-HD)** : for those  $\geq 65$  years only
  - **Adjuvanted Trivalent Inactivated Vaccine (TIV-adj)** : for those  $\geq 65$  years only

## Resources

- [The 2023-2024 Influenza Season Product and Eligibility Chart is now available.](#)
- [The Ontario Ministry of Health – 2023/2024 Universal Influenza Immunization Program](#)
- [The National Advisory Committee on Immunization's \(NACI\) Guide Chapter and Statement for the 2023-2024 Influenza Season](#)

# Influenza Vaccine Distribution - Changes

- Previous years: the Health Unit automatically pre-packaged an allocation of influenza vaccine for each HCP office (upon receipt of initial receipt of influenza vaccine from the Ontario Government Pharmacy).
- Going forward: the Health Unit is asking HCPs to submit orders for their initial supply of influenza vaccine using the Public Health Ordering System (PHOS), like all other routine vaccines. The Health Unit will no longer be automatically pre-packaging initial allocations.
- [PHOS online registration form](#)

# Influenza Vaccine Supply Ordering and Timelines

## **Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospitals:**

- Initial order date: Week of September 18, 2023

## **Healthcare Provider Offices:**

- Initial order date: Week of September 25, 2023
- HCPs can begin re-ordering influenza vaccine the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> (for pick up the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>).
- Only a **1-month supply** of vaccine should be ordered at a time.
- Re-orders will be accepted mid-October when the Health Unit's supply is replenished (week of October 16th).

# RSV Vaccine

- October 2023: Ontario is rolling out the first publicly funded vaccine program for RSV vaccine for seniors
- **Arexvy (GSK):** Approved by Health Canada in August, 2023
- NACI statement and Canadian Immunization Guide information, Ontario Ministry Guidance still to come
- Eligibility (subject to change): LTCH residents
- There will be a 14-day waiting period between this vaccine and other vaccines (therefore should not be co-administered with Influenza or COVID-19 vaccines)



# Public Health Ontario Rounds: Updates on Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV for the 2023-24 Season

- [Register here](#) for the webinar held on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
  - Summarize the current epidemiological trends in influenza, COVID-19, and RSV activity in Ontario, Canada and internationally.
  - List the vaccine products available in Ontario for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV for the 2023-24 season.
  - Describe the use and benefits of antiviral medications for the treatment and prevention of influenza.
  - Describe the testing options available in Ontario for influenza, COVID-19, and RSV for the 2023-23 season.

# Public Health Ontario Technical Brief

## Interim Infection Prevention and Control Measures Based on Respiratory Virus Transmission Risk in Health Care Settings

More to come...

| Routine Practices for Respiratory Viruses  | High Risk Period  | Non-High Risk Period                                |
|--|---|---|
| HCW Masking for direct patient care  | Recommend   | Situational <sup>^^</sup>                           |
| HCW Masking in inpatient clinical areas  | Strongly consider <sup>^</sup>  | Situational <sup>^</sup>                            |
| HCW Masking in outpatient clinical areas   | Consider <sup>^</sup>   | Situational <sup>**</sup>                           |
| HCW Masking in non-clinical areas (i.e., no patient care activities performed/delivered) | Consider <sup>*</sup>   | Situational <sup>**</sup>                           |
| Eye protection when within 2 metres of an asymptomatic patient                           | As per Personal Risk Assessment (Routine Practices)                           | As per Personal Risk Assessment (Routine Practices) |
| Asymptomatic Patient masking <sup>†</sup>  | Recommend when ambulatory.<br>Consider when in bedspace while receiving care. | Situational <sup>†††</sup>                          |
| Visitor/essential caregiver masking in clinical areas                                    | Recommend <sup>††</sup>   | Situational <sup>**</sup>                           |

# General Test Requisition Form for Requesting Laboratory Tests

- As of September 11, 2023, Public Health Ontario (PHO) has updated its General Test Requisition Form (located on PHO's Test Requisitions) to improve data quality and enhance sample processing and turnaround times.
- Please use the updated General Test Requisition Form moving forward and discard all copies of the previous version. PHO will continue to accept the previous version until the end of this year; however, submissions received using the previous Requisition Form past January 1, 2024, may result in testing delays or cancellation.

# Three New Tick-Borne Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS)

- July 1, 2023: Ministry announced three new DOPHS:
  - Powassan Virus
  - Babesiosis
  - Anaplasmosis
- To report a confirmed / suspected case: complete MLHU's [Reportable Disease Notification Form](#) and fax to our Infectious Disease Team: 519-663-8241.
- For more information:
  - [PHO's Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Diseases](#) webpage
  - Call the Health Unit: 519-663-5317

# West Nile Virus Season

- On September 1, a human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) was confirmed and determined to be locally-acquired.
  - Reported human cases of WNV in Middlesex-London average 2-3 cases per year.
- Eight mosquito traps have tested positive for WNV so far this year in Middlesex-London.
- During the summer, consider ordering [WNV serology](#) for patients who have at least two of the following symptoms, with no apparent alternative cause: fever, myalgia or arthralgia, headache, fatigue, lymphadenopathy, maculopapular rash
- Suspect and test for WNV neuroinvasive disease for patients with fever and acute onset of encephalitis, viral meningitis, acute flaccid paralysis, tremor, myoclonus, or Parkinsonian-like condition.
- Report all suspected and confirmed cases of WNV illness to the Health Unit:
  - Complete and fax the [Reportable Disease Notification Form](#) to the Health Unit at 519-663-8241, or
  - Call the Health Unit at 519-663-5317

# West Nile Virus: Prevention and Resources

Remind patients to take measures to prevent mosquito bites and exposure to WNV:

- Wear light-coloured clothing with long-sleeves, pants, and socks in areas where mosquitos are present.
- Regularly empty standing water where mosquitoes can breed from garbage cans, wheelbarrows, toys, flowerpots and saucers, pool covers, tires, and other items.
- Apply a Health Canada approved insect repellent, following the manufacturer's instructions, such as those containing DEET.
- Take extra care during peak mosquito biting times, at dusk and dawn.

## Resources:

- Public Health Ontario: [West Nile Virus Serology Testing](#)
- Middlesex-London Health Unit: [West Nile Virus](#)

# Baby-Friendly Practices Workshops for Healthcare Professionals

This one-day workshop supplements key information from the [RNAO E-Learning Breastfeeding Course](#) through interactive, hands-on activities, and discussion. The workshop supports best practices in the care of prenatal and postpartum women/persons and families around infant feeding.

- Certified for up to 7 Mainpro+® credits.
- Workshop dates: **September 26, November 8, and December 14, 2023.**
- More details and links to register are found on the [downloadable poster](#). To view other educational opportunities, please visit our [Educational Opportunities for Healthcare Providers](#) webpage.

# NOTICE OF eNEWSLETTER and WEBINAR FREQUENCY:

- eNewsletters will continue twice a month.
- Webinars will be held monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates:
  - [October 17](#)
  - [November 21](#)
  - [December 19](#)



# Thank you for joining us!

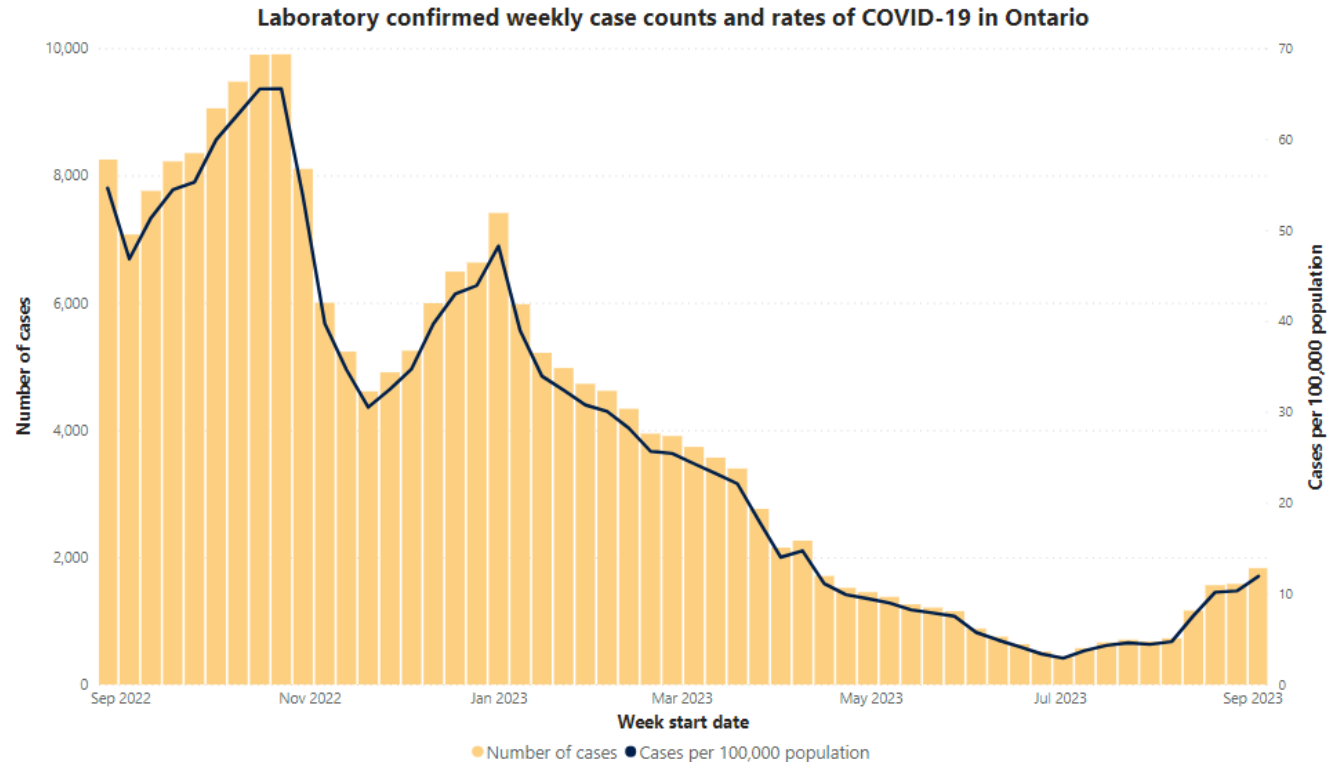
## Questions?

- Ask using chat function now, or after the webinar at:  
[healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:healthcareproviders@mlhu.on.ca)
- For urgent matters please call the Health Unit's  
main line at **519-663-5317**
- For more information  
[www.healthunit.com/healthcare-providers](http://www.healthunit.com/healthcare-providers)



# Respiratory Virus Activity: COVID-19

## August 28, 2022 to September 3, 2023



**Notes:**

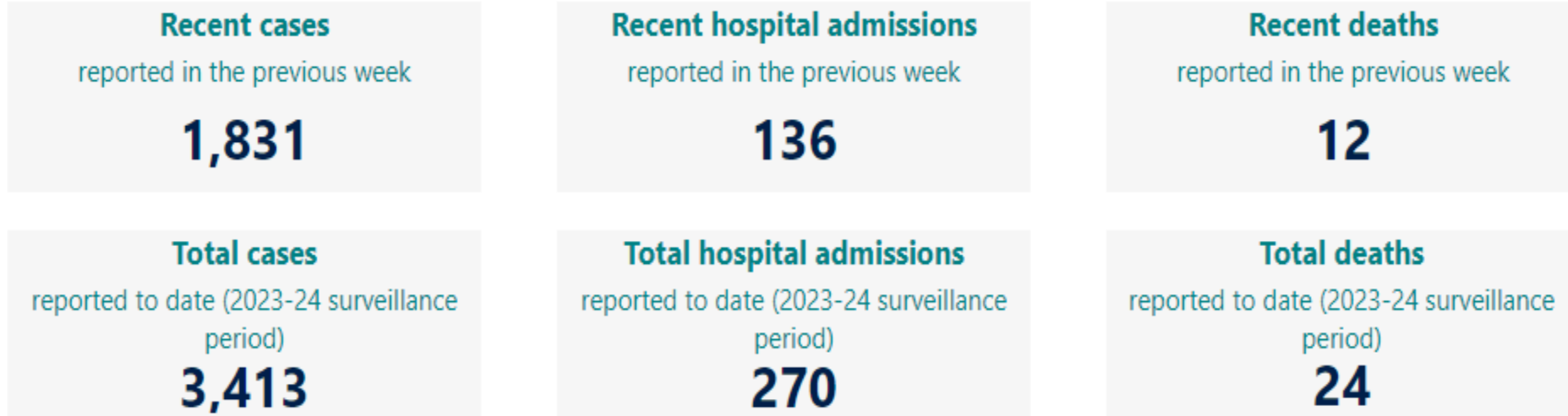
COVID-19 and influenza cases are placed in time by reported date. For further details, please refer to the technical notes.

**Data source:** Public Health Ontario- *Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool*, extracted 2023-09-15. Data current as of the end of day 2023-09-15.  
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# Respiratory Virus Activity: COVID-19

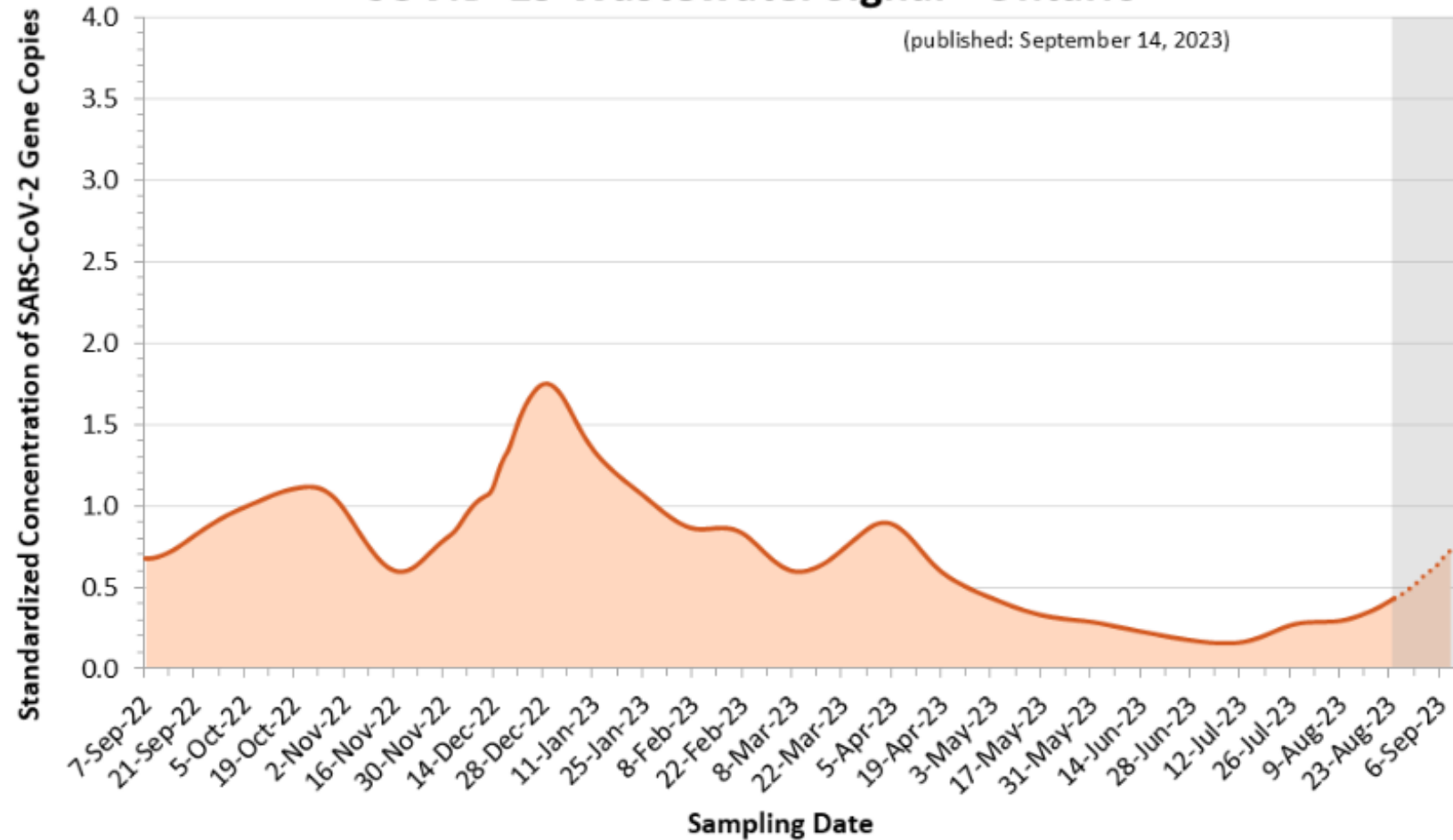
## Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Ontario

Up to September 9, 2023 (totals from August 27, 2023)



## COVID-19 Wastewater Signal - Ontario

(published: September 14, 2023)



**Data source:** Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19 wastewater surveillance in Ontario. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2023. Extracted 2023-09-15. Data current as of the end of day 2023-09-15. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/COVID-19-Data-Surveillance/Wastewater>

# Respiratory Virus Activity: Influenza

## Confirmed influenza cases in Ontario

Up to September 9, 2023 (totals from August 27, 2023)

**Recent cases of Influenza**  
reported in the previous week

**30**

**Recent cases of Influenza A**  
reported in the previous week

**29**

**Recent cases of Influenza B**  
reported in the previous week

**1**

**Total cases of Influenza**  
reported to date (2023-24 surveillance  
period)

**57**

**Total cases of Influenza A**  
reported to date (2023-24 surveillance  
period)

**50**

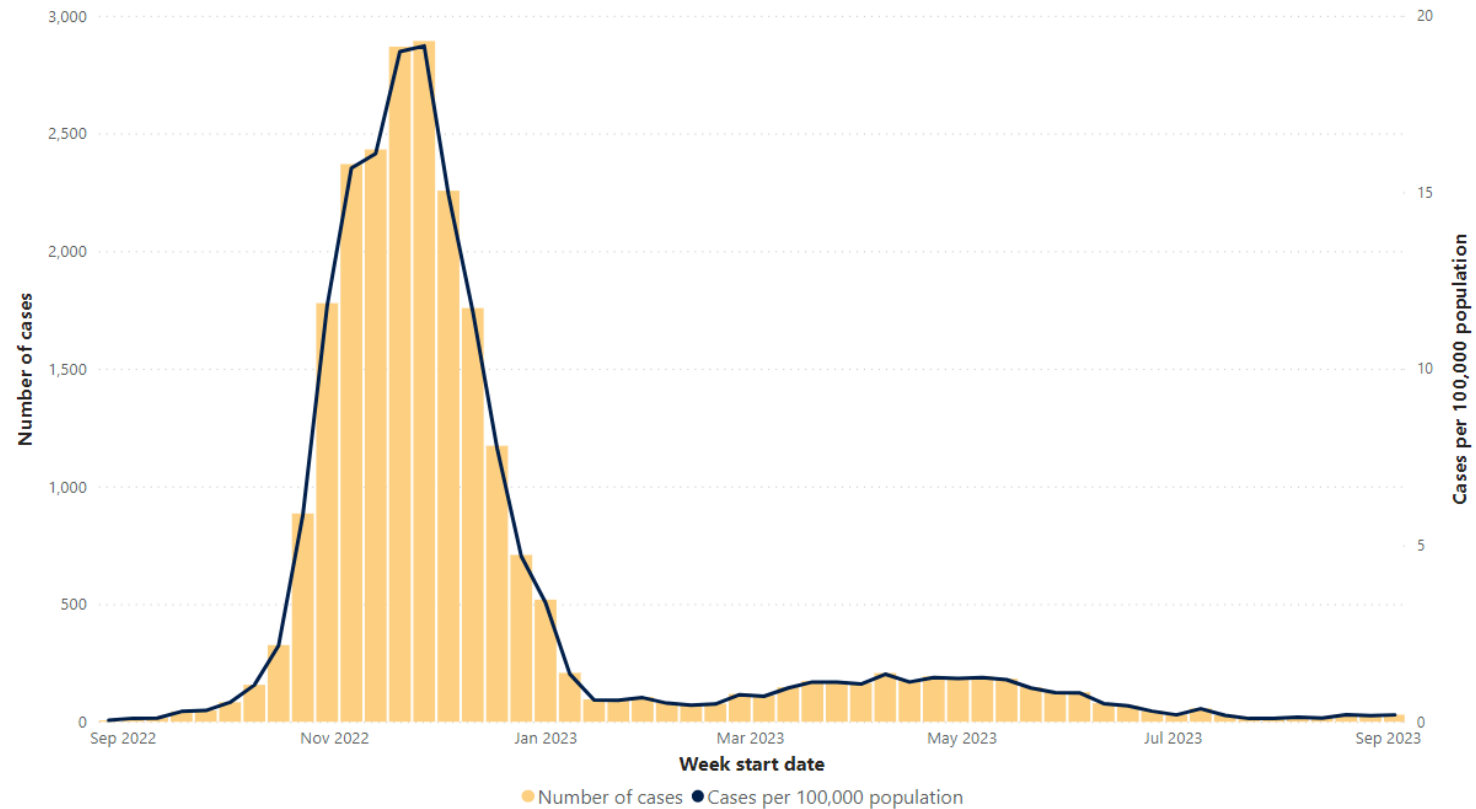
**Total cases of Influenza B**  
reported to date (2023-24 surveillance  
period)

**7**

# Respiratory Virus Activity: Influenza

## August 28, 2022 to September 3, 2023

Laboratory confirmed weekly case counts and rates of influenza (all types) in Ontario



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