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**2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report  
Update of Current Status and Issues  
March 24, 2014**

### **Current Local Activity**

Between March 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, the level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London was lower than the previous week, with eight new laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported in the region. This is lower than the 13 influenza cases reported the previous week (March 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>). Of the new cases reported last week, seven were influenza B and one was infected with both influenza A and B. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, a total of 196 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases, 32 influenza B cases, and one influenza A and B co-infection have been reported to the Health Unit. A graph showing all 229 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B at the end of this report. Currently, 41 of 196 influenza A samples have been subtyped, and 40 were found to be influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and which is also a component of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. One sample of influenza B was recently typed, and found to be B/Massachusetts/02/12-like, which is also a component of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

To date, the majority (59.0%) of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported in Middlesex-London have been among adults between the ages of 20 and 64. Children under the age of five years continue to be over-represented among laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, relative to their representation in the general population. Children under five years of age represent only 5.5% of the general population in Middlesex-London, but account for 15.3% of confirmed influenza cases.

### **Hospitalizations and Deaths**

Of the eight new laboratory-confirmed influenza cases identified between March 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, six were hospitalized; five had influenza B and one was infected with both influenza A and B. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 114 hospitalizations among the 229 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza (49.8%). Of those hospitalized, 97 people had influenza A (85.1%), 16 people had influenza B (14.0%), and as noted above, one person was infected with both influenza A and B (0.9%).

In the past week, no deaths were reported among local residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, there have been seven deaths among those in London and Middlesex County who had laboratory-confirmed influenza.

### **Current Outbreak Activity**

Between March 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, there were no facility outbreaks declared where influenza was identified; to date, seven outbreaks where influenza A has been identified have been declared in Middlesex-London. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was identified in two of the seven outbreaks.

### **Influenza Immunization**

The influenza immunization status is known for 206 of the 229 reported cases. Among those cases with known immunization status, 161 (78.2%) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

Influenza vaccinations for unvaccinated individuals six months of age and over are still available. Influenza vaccinations are available at the Middlesex-London Health Unit's walk-in Immunization Clinic 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. The next Strathroy clinic will take place on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Overall influenza activity across Ontario was slightly higher compared to the previous week. Between March 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 68 cases of influenza A and 223 cases of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types was 13.3%, which is slightly higher than the 11.9% positivity reported the previous week. In total, 6,340 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. 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 Influenza Strain Typing**

In Canada, 1,465 influenza virus samples (67 influenza A(H3N2), 1,168 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 230 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 1,465 influenza samples, nearly all (99.0%) 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* from Public Health Agency of Canada can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>.

The current and previous editions of the Middlesex-London Health Unit *Community Influenza Surveillance Report* are available on the Health Unit's website at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-surveillance>.

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London**  
**March 24, 2014**

The level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower than last week.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory information</b>				
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 17-23	Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 7 cases Influenza A & B - 1 case	Influenza A -196 cases Influenza B - 32 cases Influenza A & B - 1 case	<p>The eight laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported between March 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> is fewer than the 13 new cases reported in the previous <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> issued March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.</p> <p>No laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases were reported between March 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is fewer than the four influenza A cases reported in the previous week.</p> <p>The seven influenza B cases reported between March 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> is fewer compared to the previous week, when nine cases of influenza B were reported.</p> <p>This is the first week where an individual was reported to be infected with both influenza A and B.</p>
<b>Influenza Subtypes<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 17-23	One influenza B/Massachusetts/02/12-like	<p>40 of 41 cases (97.6%) of subtyped influenza A samples were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09</p> <p>One of 41 cases (2.4%) of subtyped influenza A samples were influenza A(H3)</p> <p>One influenza B subtyped was B/Massachusetts/02/12-like</p>	<p>Almost all influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.</p> <p>Only one influenza B has been subtyped to date. It was found to be influenza B/Massachusetts/02/12-like.</p>
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 17-23	6	114	Between March 17 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> , six people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were hospitalized, five of whom were identified as having influenza B and one who was infected with both influenza A & B.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Mar. 17-23	0	7	Between March 17 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> , no deaths of individuals with laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Mar. 17-23	0	7	Between March 17 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> , no facility outbreaks were declared where influenza was identified.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Mar. 9-15	Influenza A: 3.5% positivity Influenza B: 9.8% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower than the 4.7% reported the previous week. Influenza B: Higher than the 7.3% positivity reported the previous week.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Recent Trends
<b>Other Community Surveillance Indicators</b>			
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Mar. 16-22	Between March 16 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> , an average of 9.6% 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.  The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 22.2% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined was less than the 10.5% reported the previous week.  The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department continues to be elevated, but was less compared to the 26.9% reported the previous week.
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Mar. 17-21	Between March 17 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> , two elementary schools from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Data not available.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Mar. 17-22	Data not available.	Data not available.

**Notes:**

1 Numbers are subject to change week by week due to the retrospective nature of reporting.

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2013-2014, retrieved from

<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>

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

London Health Sciences Centre

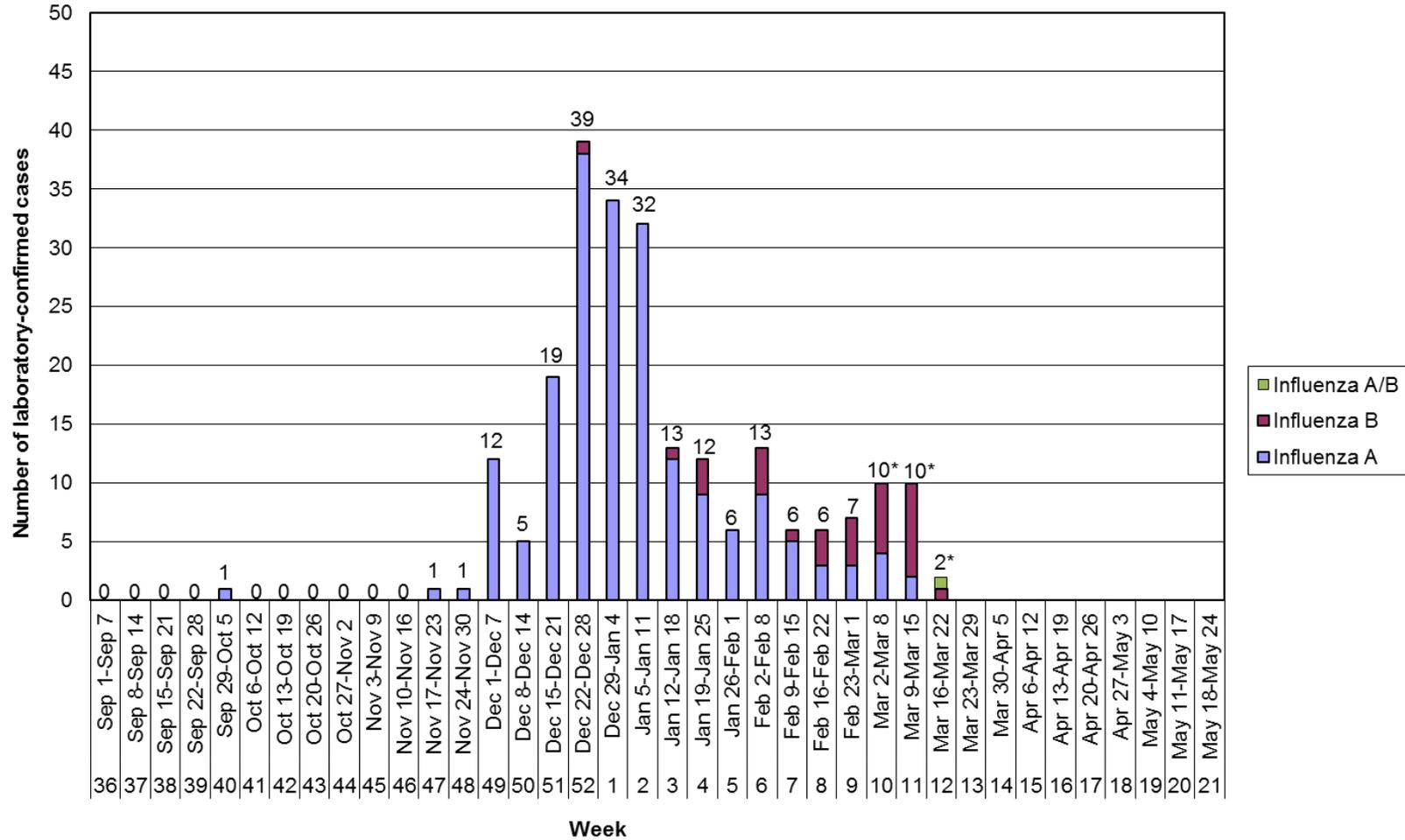
London X-Ray Associates

St. Joseph's Health Care London

Thames Valley District School Board

## Appendix B March 24, 2014

**Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date†  
Middlesex-London 2013-2014 influenza season (N=229)**



† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date.

\* Counts may be incomplete and are subject to change, due to the retrospective nature of reporting.

Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza case tracking database, extracted March 24, 2014.