

## **2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 3, 2014**

### **Overall assessment**

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

### **Current Local Activity**

This is the first issue of the Community Influenza Surveillance Report for the 2014-2015 surveillance season. This report will be issued approximately weekly during the influenza surveillance season and will provide an overview of the current status of influenza and respiratory illness observed in Middlesex-London.

Between November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza A was reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Since the beginning of the influenza surveillance season on September 1, 2014, a total of five laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Among these five cases, two were hospitalized, with no deaths reported.

One laboratory-confirmed influenza A outbreak has been declared since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Currently, there are no active outbreaks of influenza in Middlesex-London facilities.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness.

### **Useful Websites**

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin, issued by Public Health Ontario (PHO), is available at <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>
- The latest FluWatch report, issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is available at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>.
- 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>.

## Appendix A

### Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London December 3, 2014

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season**

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Nov. 23-29	Influenza A – 1 case Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 5 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	The one laboratory-confirmed influenza case reported between during the current reporting period is similar to the previous week (Nov 16-22), when one influenza A case was reported.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Nov. 23-29	1	2	
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Nov. 23-29	0	0	
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Nov. 23-29	0	1	
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Nov. 16-22	Influenza A – 3.2% positivity Influenza B – 0% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 2.5% reported the previous week (Nov 9-15). Influenza B: Similar to 0.1% positivity reported the previous week (Nov 9-15).

**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 2014-2015

**Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season**

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Nov. 23-29	<p>Between November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, an average of 7.5% 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 18.6% 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 was the same as the previous week (Nov 16-22).</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department similar to the 18.3% reported the previous week (Nov 16-22).</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Nov. 24-28	Between November 24 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> , two elementary schools from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10% was lower compared to the previous week (Nov 17-20), when six schools reported increased average absenteeism.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Nov. 17-22	From November 17 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 6.4% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was higher compared to the 4.0% reported the previous week (Nov 10-15).

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