

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

**Overall assessment:** Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower compared to the previous week.

### **Local Activity:**

From February 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 16 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A and two laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza B were reported. Among these cases, there were six hospitalizations. No deaths were reported to the Health Unit in the most recent week.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, there has been a total of 278 confirmed influenza A cases and six influenza B cases reported, 112 of whom have been hospitalized, and six of whom have died.

In addition, one laboratory-confirmed influenza A outbreak was declared last week. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, there have been 34 influenza outbreaks declared in Middlesex-London facilities.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 284 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

### **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: <https://www.ontario.ca/health-and-wellness/get-flu-shot/>.

## Appendix A

### Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London March 3, 2015

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

| Indicator  | Current Reporting Period | Number Reported: Current Reporting Period                            | Number Reported: Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)  | Comparison to Previous Week   |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>                                      | Feb. 22-28               | Influenza A – 16 cases<br>Influenza B – 2 cases                      | Influenza A – 278 cases<br>Influenza B – 6 cases  | <b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Feb. 15-21), when 21 influenza A cases and one influenza B case was reported.<br><br><b>Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.</b>  |
| <b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>   | Feb. 22-28               | Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases<br><br>B/Massachusetts/02/12-like - 1 case | Influenza A(H3) – 56 cases<br>Not subtyped – 222 cases<br><br>A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like - 1 case<br><br>B/Massachusetts/02/12-like – 1 case | All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A (H3).<br><br>One sample has been typed as A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like, which is not a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine<br><br>One sample has been typed a B/Massachusetts/02/12-like, which is a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine. |
| <b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>  | Feb. 22-28               | 6  | 112   | <b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Feb. 15-21) when 9 hospitalizations were reported.  |
| <b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>  | Feb. 22-28               | 0  | 6   | <b>Same</b> as the previous week (Feb. 15-21) when no deaths were reported among people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.  |
| <b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>     | Feb. 22-28               | Influenza A – 1 outbreak<br>Influenza B – 0 outbreaks                | Influenza A – 33 outbreaks<br>Influenza A & B – 1 outbreak<br>Influenza B – 0 outbreaks   | <b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Feb. 15-21) when two outbreaks were declared in facilities.   |
| <b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b> | Feb. 15-21               | Influenza A – 18.9% positivity<br>Influenza B – 1.3% positivity      | N/A   | Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> compared to 21.6% reported the previous week (Feb. 8-14).<br>Influenza B: <b>Similar</b> compared to 1.5% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 8-14).  |

**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**

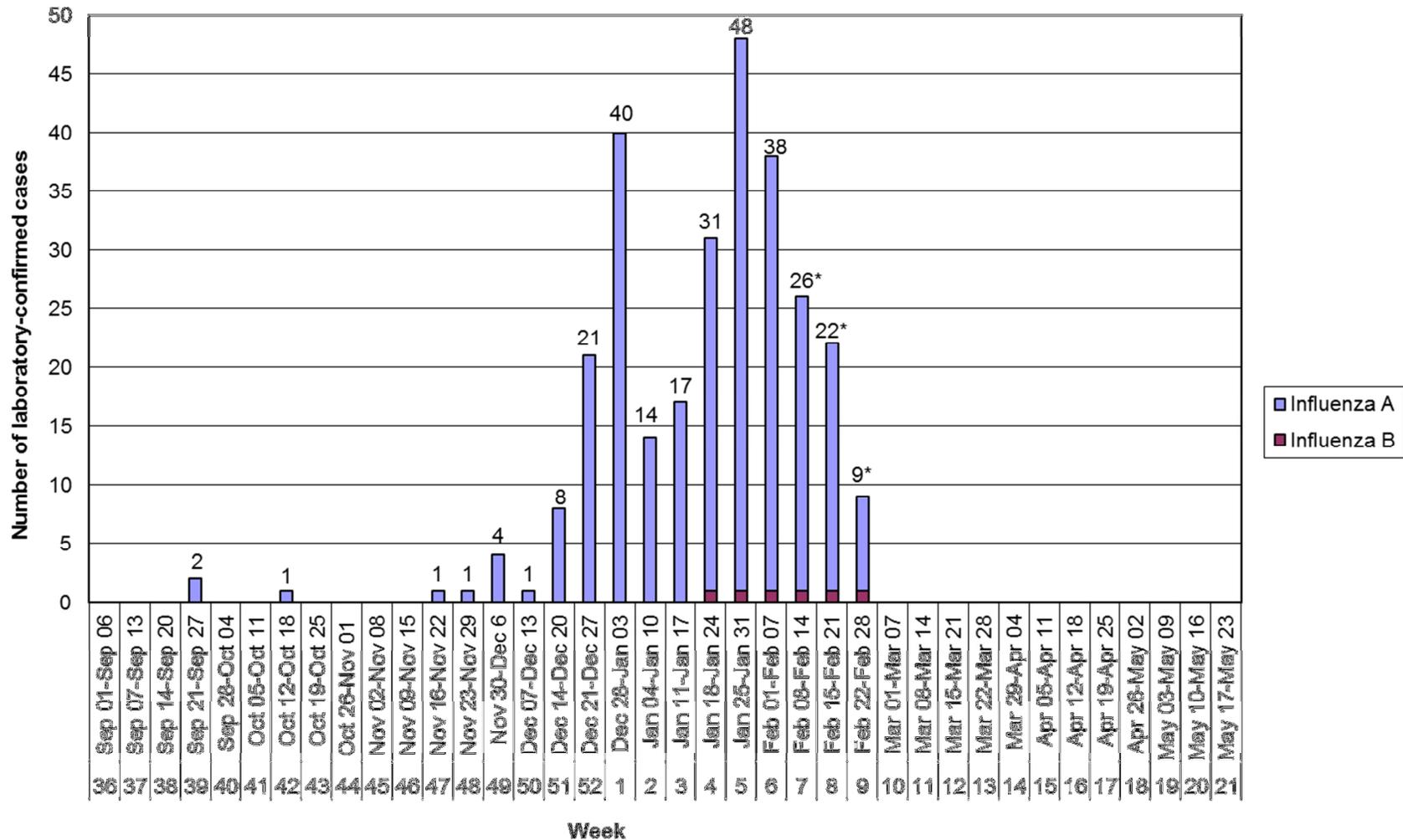
| Indicator  | Current Reporting Period | Number or Percent Reported:<br><i>Current Reporting Period</i>  | Comparison to Previous Week   |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b><br><i>(includes LHSC emergency departments and the SJHC urgent care centre)</i> | Feb. 22-28               | An average of 11.1% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.<br><br>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 26.4% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. | <b>Higher</b> than the 9.4% reported the previous week (Feb. 15-21).<br><br><b>Higher</b> than the 25.2% reported the previous week (Feb. 15-21). |
| <b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>  | Feb. 23-27               | A total of 19 elementary schools from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.  | <b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Feb. 17-20), when 31 schools reported increased absenteeism.   |
| <b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>   | Feb. 23-28               | An average of 6.0% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.   | <b>Higher</b> than the 3.8% reported the previous week (Feb. 17-21).  |

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

Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date†  
Middlesex-London 2014-2015 influenza season (N=284)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 2, 2015.

† '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.