
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status November 3, 2015

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

Current Local Activity

This is the first of the Middlesex London Health Unit's Community Influenza Surveillance Reports for the 2015-2016 surveillance season. This report will be issued 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 October 25th and 31st, no laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Since September 1, 2015, a total of three laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. One of the three cases reported in October acquired influenza as a result of travel outside of Canada.

No influenza outbreaks have been declared since September 1st, 2015.

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://www.ontario.ca/page/get-flu-shot/>.

Appendix A

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

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2015)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Oct. 25-31	Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 3 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	
Influenza sub-types¹	Oct. 25-31	Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 0 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 1 case	All influenza A strains subtyped to date (2/3) have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Oct. 25-31	0	2	
Deaths¹	Oct. 25-31	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Oct. 25-31	0	0	
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Oct 11-24	Influenza A – 1.2% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower than 2.9% reported in the previous two week reporting period (Sep. 27-Oct. 10). Influenza B: Similar to 0.3% positivity reported in the previous two week reporting period (Sep. 27-Oct. 10).

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 2015-2016

Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2015-2016 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Oct. 25-31	<p>An average of 6.3% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 13.4% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>Similar to 6.2% reported the previous week (Oct. 18-24).</p> <p>Similar to 12.9% reported the previous week (Oct. 18-24).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Oct. 26-30	A total of one elementary school from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Lower than the previous week (Oct. 19-23), when three schools reported increased absenteeism.

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