

## 2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues February 18, 2014

### Current Local Activity

The level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is comparable to what was reported last week. Between February 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 11 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were reported, all of which were influenza A. The previous reporting week (February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>) seven influenza A and four influenza B cases were reported. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, a total of 181 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and seven influenza B cases have been reported. A graph showing all 188 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Currently, 37 of 181 influenza A samples have been subtyped, and all were found to be influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and is a component in the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

To date, the majority (61.7%) 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 17.6% of cases.

### Hospitalizations and Deaths

Of the 11 new laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases identified between February 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, seven people were hospitalized. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 93 hospitalizations among the 188 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza (49.5%). Of these 93 hospitalizations, 88 people had influenza A (94.6%) and five people had influenza B (5.4%).

No deaths were reported this past week among Middlesex-London residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, six deaths have been reported among London and Middlesex County residents who had laboratory-confirmed influenza.

### Current Outbreak Activity

Between February 10<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup>, no new outbreaks due to influenza were declared. To date, five influenza A outbreaks have been declared in Middlesex-London. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was identified in two of the five outbreaks.

### Influenza Immunization

The influenza immunization status is known for 166 of the 188 reported cases. Among those cases with known immunization status, 137 (82.5%) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

Vaccination for unvaccinated individuals six months of age and over is still recommended. 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 scheduled Health Unit immunization clinic in Strathroy will take place on Tuesday March 4<sup>th</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

Influenza activity across Ontario is comparable to the previous week. Between February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 332 cases of influenza A and 53 cases of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types was 16.5%, which is lower than the 17.7% positivity reported the previous week. In total, 5,033 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1<sup>st</sup>. 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, 894 influenza virus samples (48 influenza A(H3N2), 755 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 91 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 894 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**  
**February 18, 2014**

The level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is comparable to the previous reporting 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>	Feb. 10-16	Influenza A – 11 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A -181 cases Influenza B - 7 cases	Overall, the 11 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported between February 10 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> is comparable to the total number of cases reported in the <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> issued February 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2014.  The 11 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases reported between February 10 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> is higher than the seven influenza A cases reported in the previous week.  No influenza B cases were reported between February 10 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> . This is lower than the four influenza B cases reported in the previous week.
<b>Influenza Subtypes<sup>1</sup></b>	Feb. 10-16	2 case subtyped as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	37 of 37 cases (100%) of subtyped influenza A samples were influenza A(H1N1) pdm09	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Feb. 10-16	7	93	Seven laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were hospitalized between February 10 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> , which is higher than the five hospitalizations reported the previous week. In total, 49.2% of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been hospitalized.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Feb. 10-16	0	6	Between February 10 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> , no deaths were reported among Middlesex-London residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Feb. 10-16	0	5	For the second consecutive week, no outbreaks due to influenza were declared in facilities this reporting week.
<b>Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Feb. 2-8	Influenza A: 14.1% positivity  Influenza B: 2.4% positivity		Influenza A: Lower than the 16.8% positivity reported from the previous week.  Influenza B: Higher than the 0.9% reported from 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>	Feb. 9-15	<p>Between February 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, an average of 9.4% 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 25.0% 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 slightly lower than the 10.0% reported the previous week.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department continues to be elevated, but was slightly lower than the 25.6% reported the previous week.</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Feb. 10-14	Between February 10 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> , four 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>	Feb. 10-15	From February 10 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> , 5.6% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was higher compared to the 3.3% reported the previous week.

#### Sources:

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

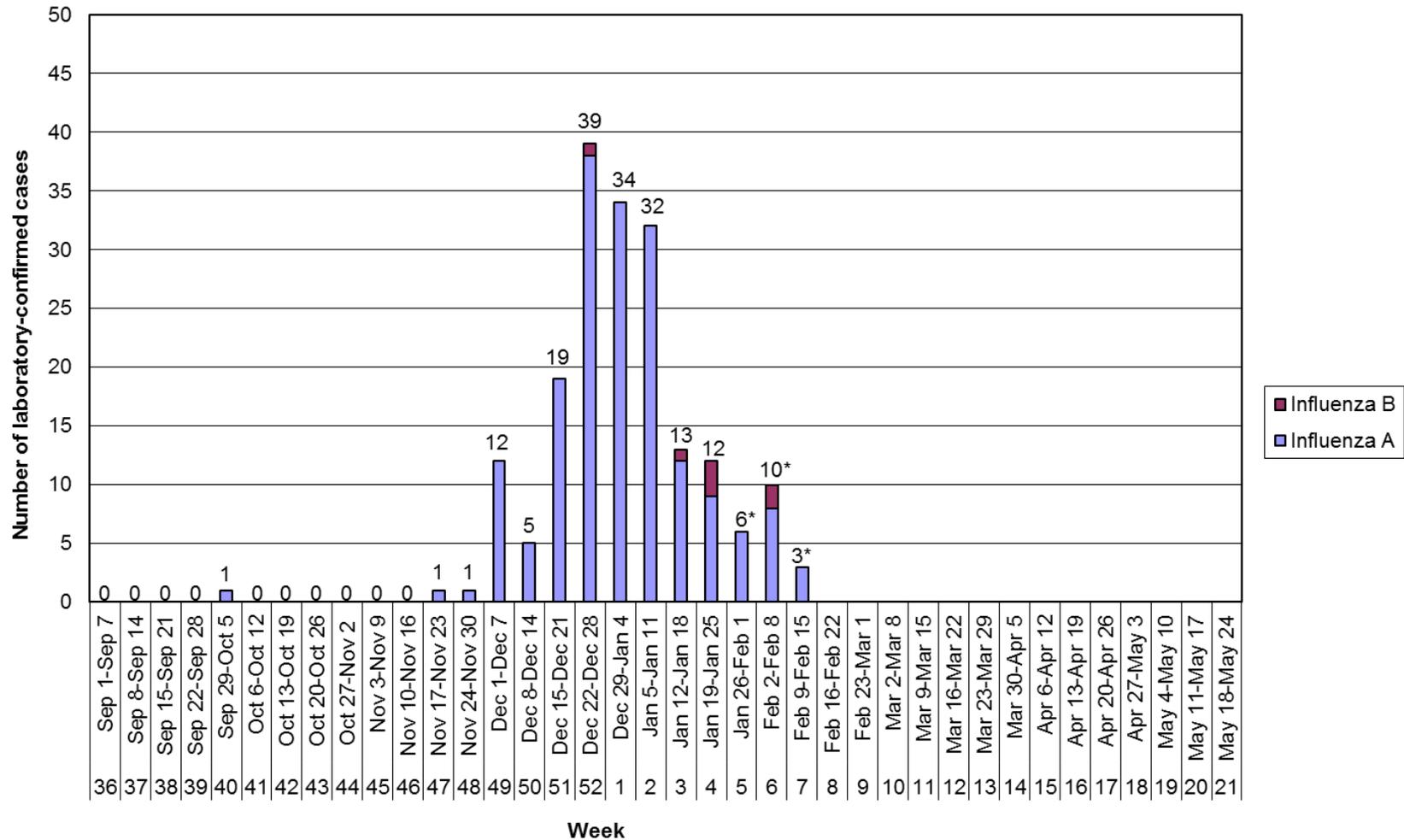
London X-Ray Associates

St. Joseph's Health Care London

Thames Valley District School Board

## Appendix B

Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date†  
Middlesex-London 2013-2014 influenza season (N=188)



† '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 February 18, 2014.