

2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status January 6, 2015

Overall assessment: Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is high.

Local Activity:

Between December 28th, 2014, and January 3rd, 2015, 38 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A were reported to the Health Unit. Among these newly-reported cases, there were 14 hospitalizations and two deaths.

Since September 1st, 2014, there has been a total of 59 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases reported, 21 of whom have been hospitalized, and three of whom have died.

In addition, eight laboratory-confirmed influenza A outbreaks were declared last week, bringing to 12 the total number of influenza outbreaks declared in Middlesex-London facilities since September 1st, 2014.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 59 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 January 6, 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)	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Dec. 28-Jan. 3	Influenza A – 38 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 59 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	The 38 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported during the current reporting period is higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 21-27), when eight influenza A cases were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Dec. 28-Jan. 3	Influenza A(H3) - 6 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 16 cases Typing pending – 43 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3). One sample has been typed as A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like, which is not a component of the 2014-2015 seasonal influenza vaccine.
Hospitalizations¹	Dec. 28-Jan. 3	14	21	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec.21-27) when three hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Dec. 28-Jan. 3	2	3	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 21-27) when no deaths were reported among people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 28-Jan. 3	Influenza A – 8 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreak	Influenza A – 12 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Higher compared to the previous week (Dec. 21-27) when two outbreaks were declared in facilities.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	N/A	N/A	N/A	Data not currently available. Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin will resume weekly publication on January 9, 2015.

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

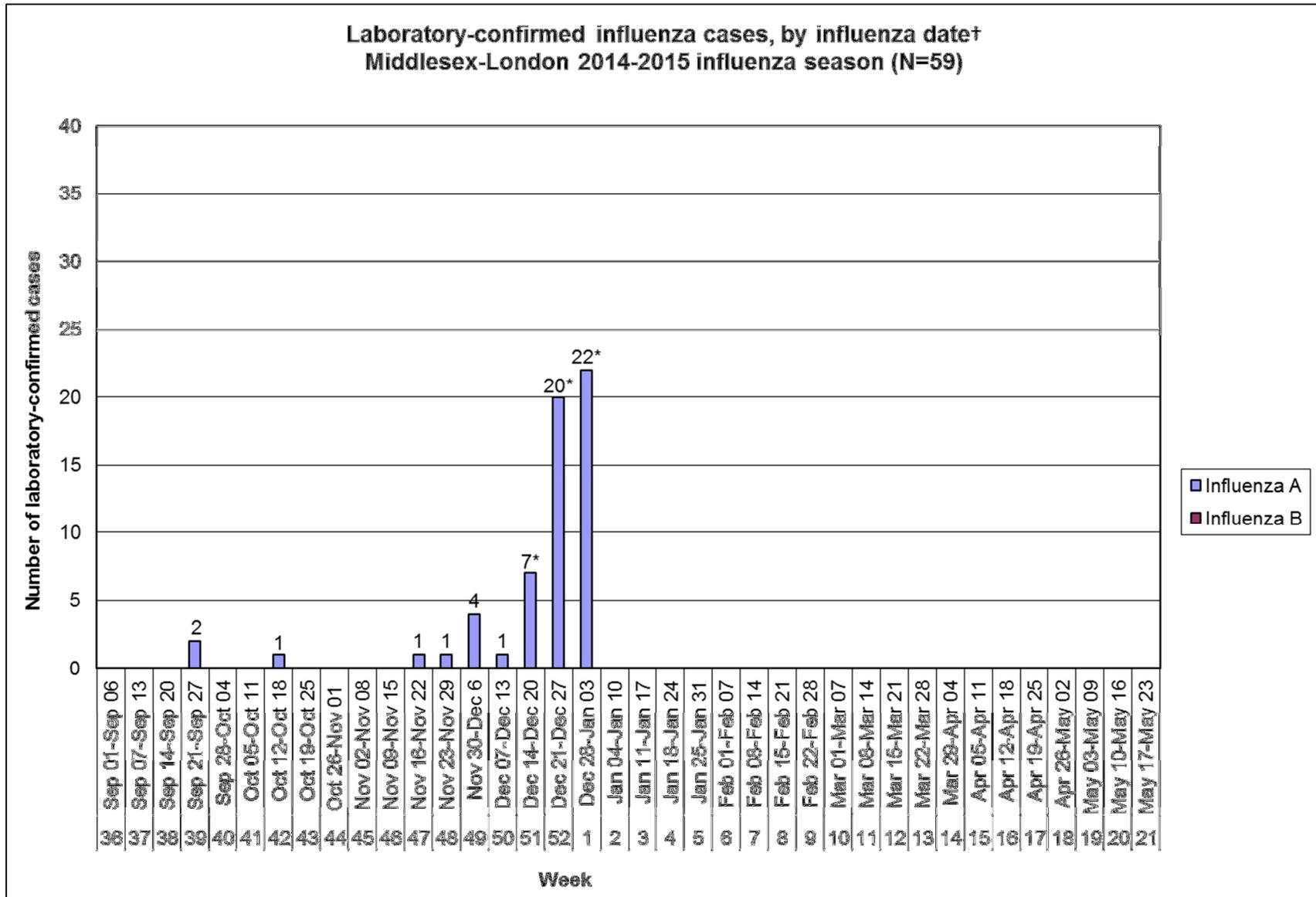
Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2014-2015 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Dec. 28-Jan. 3	<p>Between December 28th and January 3rd, an average of 13.1% 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 30.2% 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 similar to the 13.6% reported the previous week (Dec. 21-27).</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department was lower than the 34.2% reported the previous week (Dec. 21-27).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	N/A	Data not currently available.	Data not currently available.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 22-27	From December 22 nd to 27 th , 4.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was lower than the 6.5% reported the previous week (Dec. 15-20).

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



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted January 5, 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.