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## 2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report

### Update of Current Status

### February 10, 2015

**Overall assessment:** Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is higher compared to the previous week. This may be due to increased testing and a corresponding increase in the detection of illness, or it may reflect a true rise in the number of influenza infections occurring in the community.

#### Local Activity:

From February 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 46 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A and one laboratory-confirmed influenza B case were reported. Among these cases, there were 22 hospitalizations and one death reported to the Health Unit.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, there has been a total of 208 confirmed influenza A cases and three influenza B cases reported, 81 of whom have been hospitalized, and six of whom have died.

In addition, three laboratory-confirmed influenza A outbreaks were declared last week. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, there have been 28 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 211 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 February 10, 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: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Feb. 1-7	Influenza A – 46 cases Influenza B – 1 case	Influenza A – 208 cases Influenza B – 3 cases	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Jan. 25-31), when 40 influenza A cases and 1 influenza B case were reported.  <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. 1-7	Influenza A(H3) – 5 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 44 cases Not subtyped – 164 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.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Feb 1-7	22	81	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Jan. 25-31) when 14 hospitalizations were reported.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Feb 1-7	1	6	<b>Higher</b> than the previous week (Jan. 25-31) 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 1-7	Influenza A – 3 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 27 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 1 outbreak Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	<b>Lower</b> than the previous week (Jan. 25-31) when four outbreaks were declared in facilities.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Jan. 18-24	Influenza A – 30.5% positivity Influenza B – 0.3% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> compared to 31.6% reported the previous week (Jan. 18-24). Influenza B: <b>Similar</b> to 0.2% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 18-24).

**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**

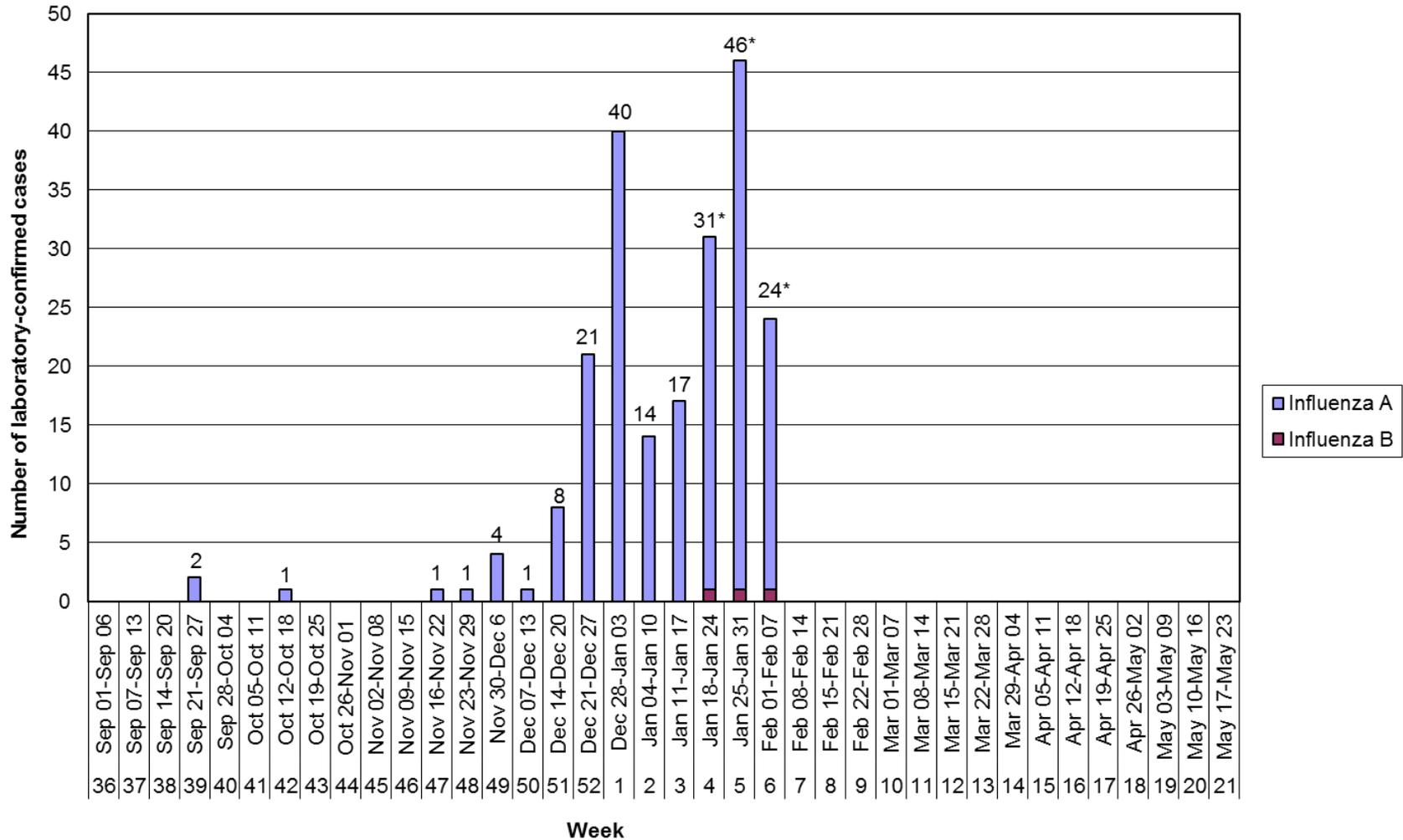
Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Feb. 1-7	<p>Between February 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, an average of 11.9% 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 29.5% 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 <b>similar</b> to the 12.4% reported the previous week (Jan. 25-31).</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department was <b>lower</b> than the 30.9% reported the previous week (Jan. 25-31).</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Feb. 2-6	Between February 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> , 22 elementary schools from one school board reported a four-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10% was <b>lower</b> than the previous week (Jan. 26-30), when 28 schools reported increased absenteeism.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Feb. 2-7	From February 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> , 5.1% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was <b>higher</b> than the 3.1% reported the previous week (Jan. 26-31).

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=211)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted February 9, 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.