

2014-2015 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status May 26, 2015

Final Report of the Season

This will be the final Community Influenza Surveillance Report for the 2014-2015 influenza season. Provincially, influenza activity has declined substantially. In Middlesex-London, influenza activity has declined such that there were no new laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, hospitalizations, deaths, or outbreaks reported in the past reporting week. Reporting will resume when influenza surveillance activities begin again in the fall of 2015.

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

Local Activity:

From May 17th to 23rd, 2015, no laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, hospitalizations or deaths were reported to the Health Unit.

Since September 1st, 2014, there have been 329 confirmed influenza A cases and 51 influenza B cases reported, 160 of whom have been hospitalized, and 14 of whom have died.

No laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were declared last week. Since September 1st, 2014, there have been 40 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 380 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

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>. A shortened version of the Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin published on a bi-weekly basis by Public Health Ontario can be accessed at the following link <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>

The Health Unit thanks all those who contributed data to this report, which provided a comprehensive overview of influenza in our community each week. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Appendix A

Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London May 26, 2015

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

Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2014)</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	May 17-23	Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 329 cases Influenza B – 51 cases	Influenza A: Same compared to the previous week (May 10-16), when no cases were reported. Influenza B: Lower compared to the previous week (May 10-16), when three cases were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	May 17-23	0	Influenza A(H3) – 67 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 261 cases A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like – 2 cases B/Massachusetts/02/12-like – 2 case	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A (H3).
Hospitalizations¹	May 17-23	0	160	Lower compared to the previous week (May 10-16) when two hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	May 17-23	0	14	Same compared to the previous week (May 10-16) when no deaths were reported in a people with laboratory-confirmed influenza.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	May 17-23	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks Influenza A & B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 37 outbreaks Influenza B – 1 outbreak Influenza A & B – 2 outbreaks	Same compared to the previous week (May 10-16) when no laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks were declared in facilities.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	May 10-16	Influenza A – 0.4% positivity Influenza B – 7.0% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Similar compared to the 0.8% positivity reported the previous week (May 3-9). Influenza B: Lower compared to the 8.5% positivity reported the previous week (May 3-9).

Notes:

1 Numbers are subject to change week by week due to the retrospective nature of reporting.

2 Public Health Agency of Canada, Respiratory Virus Detections/Isolations in Canada, 2014-2015

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

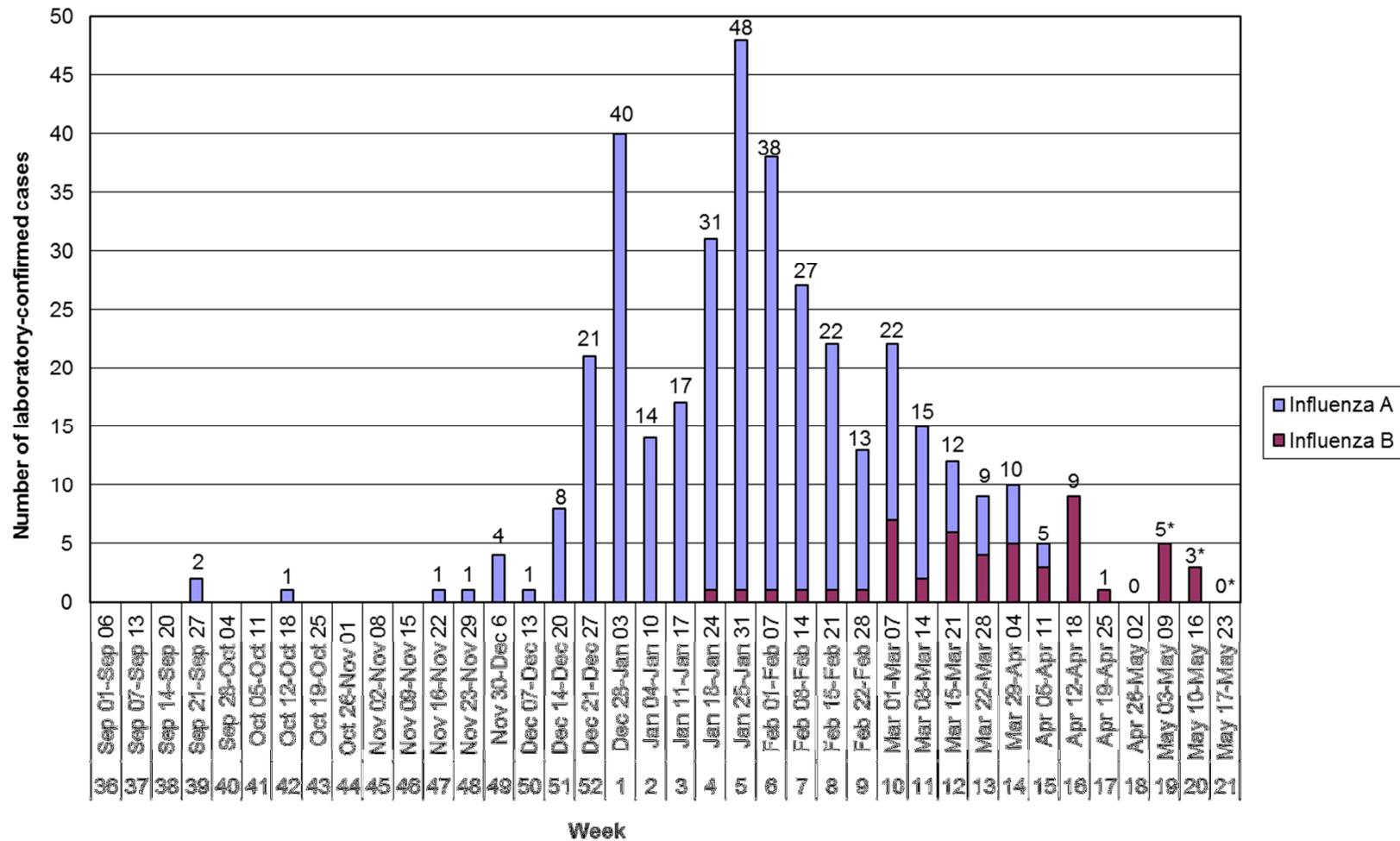
Indicator	Current Reporting Period	Number/Percent Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Comparison to Previous Week
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness <i>(includes LHSC emergency departments and the SJHC urgent care centre)</i>	May 17-23	An average of 6.1% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 12.9% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Similar compared to the 6.4% reported the previous week (May 10-16). Lower compared to the 14.2% reported the previous week (May 10-16).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	May 18-22	A total of eight elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Same as the previous week (May 11-15), when eight schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	May 18-23	An average of 3.0% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Similar compared to the 3.2% reported the previous week (May 11-16).

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=380)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted May 25, 2015.

† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date. As a result, the weekly counts shown in this section differ from those provided in other sections of this report.

* Counts may be incomplete and are subject to change, due to the retrospective nature of reporting.