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## 2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 1, 2016

### Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is higher compared to previous reporting week.

### Current Local Activity

From February 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 43 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (36 influenza A and seven influenza B) were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 24 were hospitalized. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, there has been a total of 126 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (106 of influenza A and 20 of influenza B) reported in London and Middlesex County.

One influenza B outbreak was declared in a long term care home this past reporting week. This is the first influenza outbreak to occur during the 2015-2016 influenza season.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 126 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B, at the end of this report.

### Useful Websites

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin (ORPB), 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://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/fluwatch-reports-rapports-surveillance-influenza-eng.php>
- 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 March 1, 2016

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

| Indicator  | Reporting Period | Number Reported:<br><i>Current Reporting Period</i>  | Number Reported:<br><i>Year to Date<br/>(from September 1, 2015)</i>  | Recent Trends  |
|--|------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>                                      | Feb. 21-27       | Influenza A – 36 cases<br>Influenza B – 7 cases  | Influenza A – 106 cases<br>Influenza B – 20 cases   | <b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when 37 cases of influenza were reported.   |
| <b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>   | Feb. 21-27       | <b>Subtyping</b><br>Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases<br>Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–3 cases<br>Influenza A not subtyped–33 cases<br>Influenza A(H3) & (H1N1)pdm09<br>co- infection- 1 case<br><br><b>Strain typing</b><br>A/California/07/09-like-0 cases | Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases<br>Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 28 cases<br>Influenza A not subtyped – 74 cases<br>Influenza A(H3) & (H1N1)pdm09<br>co-infection- 1 case<br><br>A/California/07/09-like- 2 cases |  |
| <b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>  | Feb. 21-27       | 24   | 57  | <b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when 15 hospitalizations were reported.   |
| <b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>  | Feb. 21-27       | 0  | 1   | <b>Same</b> compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when no deaths in a person with laboratory confirmed influenza were reported.   |
| <b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>     | Feb. 21-27       | 1  | 1   | <b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Feb. 14-20) when no influenza outbreaks were declared.  |
| <b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b> | Feb. 14-20       | Influenza A –19.4% positivity<br><br>Influenza B –4.0% positivity  | N/A   | Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> compared to 20.9% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 7-13).<br><br>Influenza B: <b>Higher</b> compared to 2.7% positivity reported the previous week (Feb. 7-13). |

**Notes:**

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

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin 2015-2016

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

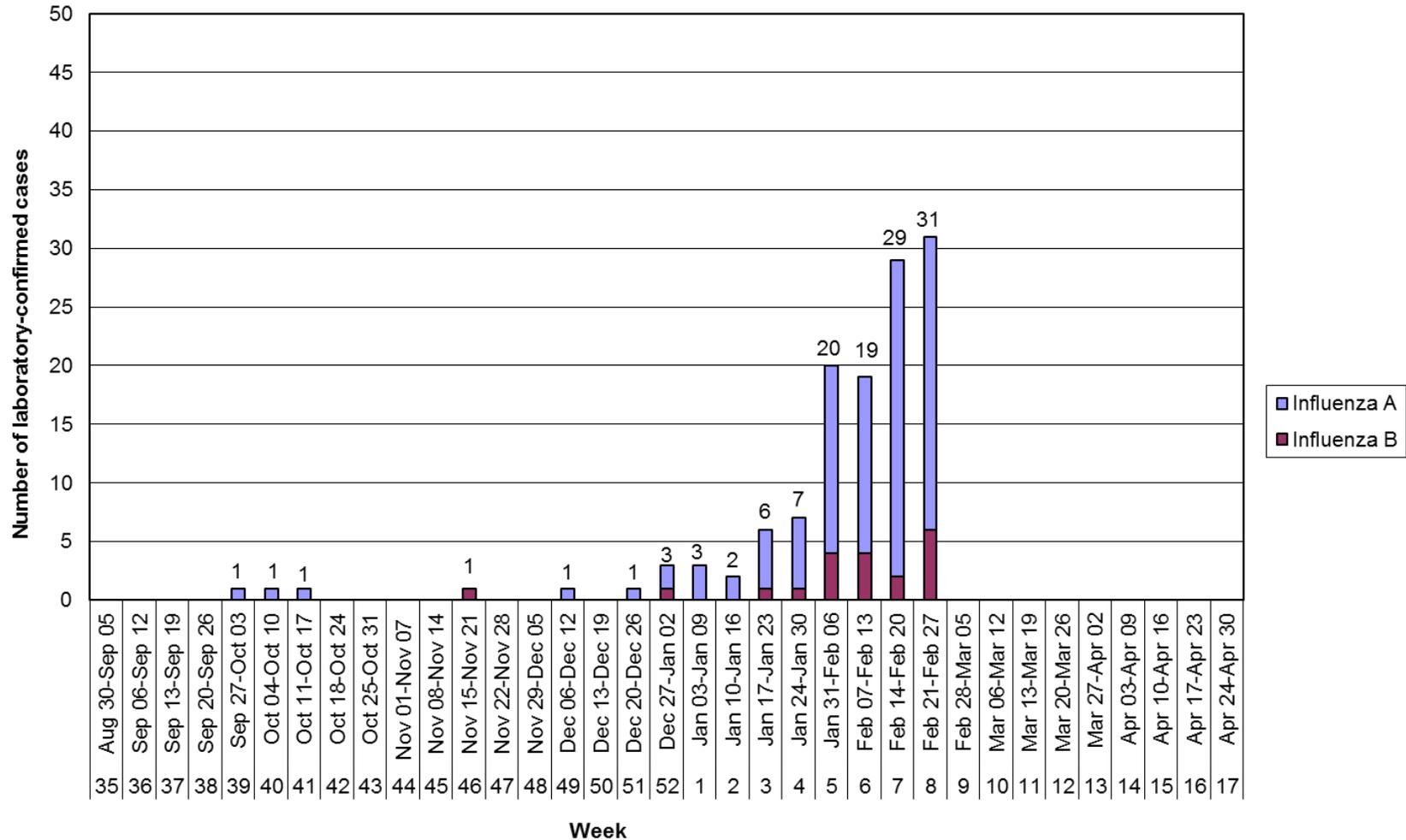
| Indicator   | Reporting Period | Number Reported:<br><i>Current Reporting Period</i>   | Recent Trends  |
|---|------------------|---|--|
| <b>Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b> | Feb. 21-27       | An average of 12.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.<br><br>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 32.8% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. | <b>Lower</b> than 14.2% reported the previous week (Feb. 14-20).<br><br><b>Lower</b> than 33.9% reported the previous week (Feb. 14-20). |
| <b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>   | Feb. 22-26       | 37 elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism due to all causes exceeding 10%.   | <b>Higher</b> than the previous week (Feb. 15-19), when 30 schools reported increased absenteeism.                                       |
| <b>Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>  | Feb. 22-27       | An average of 4.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.   | <b>Higher</b> than 4.1% reported the previous week (Feb. 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

Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date†  
Middlesex-London 2015-2016 influenza season (N=126)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 1, 2016.

† '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.