

2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status March 30, 2016

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is ongoing, although the number of reported cases is lower compared to the previous reporting week. Please note the number of influenza cases reported in the most recent week may be underrepresented due to reporting delays associated with Easter weekend closures.

Current Local Activity

From March 20th to 26th, 2016, there were 40 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (26 influenza A and 14 influenza B) reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 10 were hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 372 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (288 influenza A, 83 influenza B, one influenza A & B co-infection) reported in London and Middlesex County. The Health Unit was also advised of three deaths during this past reporting week in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza. No new facility outbreaks due to influenza were declared.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 372 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 30, 2016

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

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date</i> <i>(from September 1, 2015)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Mar. 20-26	Influenza A – 26 cases Influenza B – 14 cases Influenza A&B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 288 cases Influenza B – 83 cases Influenza A&B – 1 case	Lower compared to the previous week (March 13-19) when 64 cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Mar. 20-26	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–5 cases Influenza A not subtyped–21 cases	Influenza A(H3)–3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09–69 cases Influenza A not subtyped–215 cases Influenza A(H3) & A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection–1 case Strain typing A/California/07/09-like–4 cases	
Hospitalizations¹	Mar. 20-26	10	130	Lower compared to the previous week (Mar. 13-19) when 16 hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Mar. 20-26	3	9	Same compared to the previous week (Mar. 13-19) when three deaths in people with laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Mar. 20-26	Influenza A – 0 outbreaks Influenza B – 0 outbreaks	Influenza A – 7 outbreaks Influenza B – 2 outbreaks	Same compared to the previous week (Mar. 13-19) when no influenza outbreaks were declared.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Mar. 13-19	Influenza A – 25.5% positivity Influenza B – 7.4% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Lower compared to 34.3% positivity reported the previous week (Mar. 6-12). Influenza B: Similar compared to 7.2% positivity reported the previous week (Mar. 6-12).

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

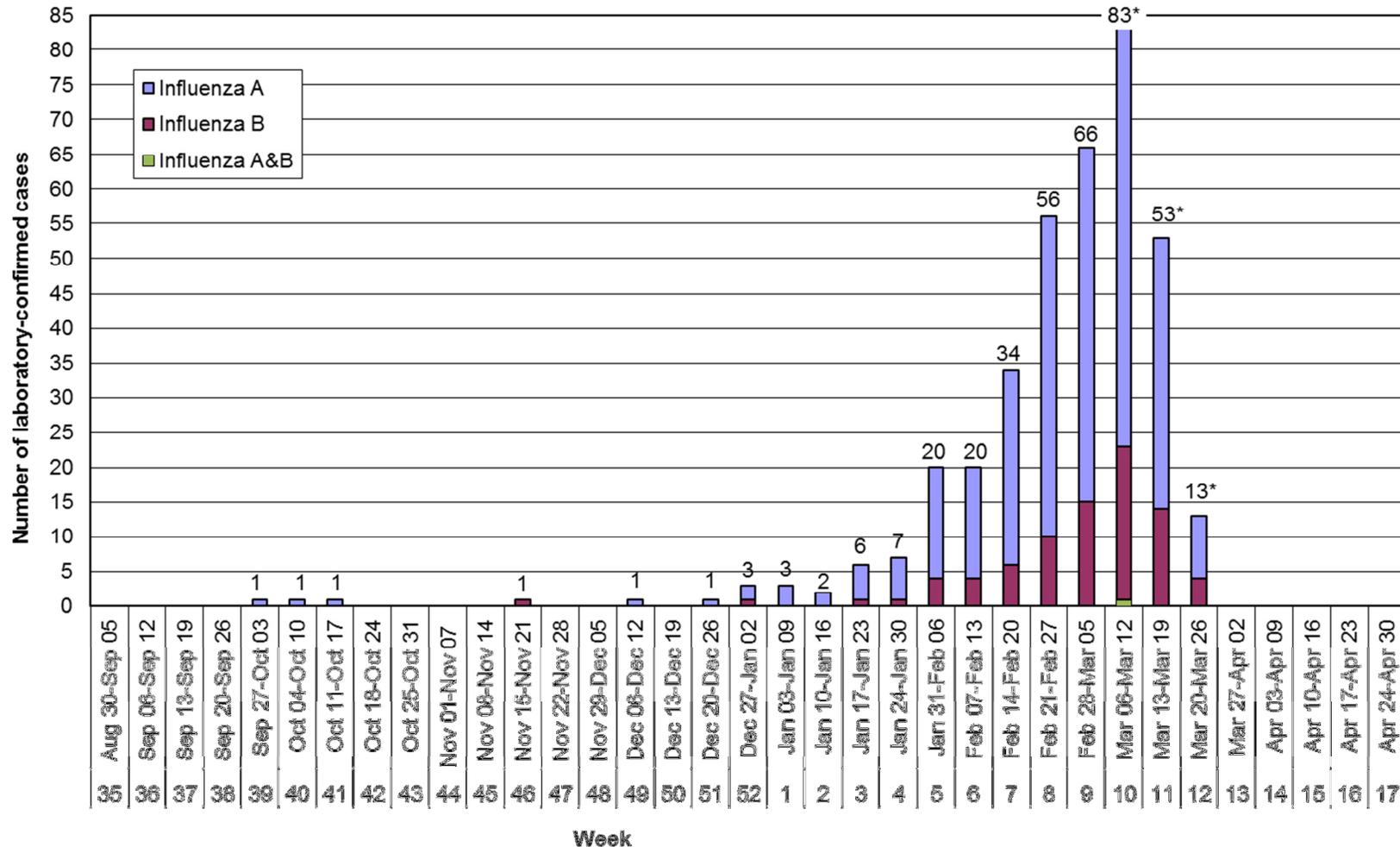
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
Hospital emergency department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Mar. 20-26	An average of 9.9% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 26.6% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Lower than 12.4% reported the previous week (Mar. 13-19). Lower than 33.1% reported the previous week (Mar. 13-19).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Mar. 21-24	Nine elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism due to all causes exceeding 10%.	
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Mar. 21-26	An average of 3.1% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Similar compared to 3.5% reported the previous week (Mar. 14-19).

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=372)



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted March 30, 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.