
2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status November 8, 2016

Overall assessment

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

Current Local Activity

Between October 30th and November 5th, three laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza A were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Among these cases, there were two hospitalizations. Two of the three newly reported cases were subtyped as influenza A(H3). No influenza outbreaks were declared this past reporting week.

Since September 1, 2016, six laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Five out of six influenza samples have been subtyped and of those all five have been identified as influenza A(H3).

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness.

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 <http://www.ontario.ca/page/get-flu-shot/>.

Appendix A

Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London November 8, 2016

Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date (from September 1, 2016)</i>	Recent Trends
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Oct. 30-Nov. 5	Influenza A – 3 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 6 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Oct. 23-29) when two influenza A cases were reported. Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.
Influenza sub-types¹	Oct. 30-Nov. 5	Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 1 case	Influenza A(H3) – 5 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 1 case	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
Hospitalizations¹	Oct. 30-Nov. 5	2	2	Higher compared to the previous week (Oct. 23-29) when no hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Oct. 30-Nov. 5	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Oct. 30-Nov. 5	0	1	Lower compared to the previous week (Oct. 23-29) when one influenza outbreak was declared in a facility.
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Oct. 23-29	Influenza A – 1.0% positivity Influenza B – 0.0% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Similar compared to 0.9% reported in the previous two-week reporting period (Oct. 9-22). Influenza B: Same as 0.0% positivity reported in the previous two-week reporting period (Oct. 9-22).

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 2016-2017

Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season

Indicator	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	Oct. 30-Nov. 5	<p>An average of 6.8% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 18.5% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>Similar to 6.4% reported the previous week (Oct. 23-29).</p> <p>Similar to 18.3% reported the previous week (Oct. 23-29).</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Oct. 31-Nov. 4	14 elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism due to all causes exceeding 10%.	Higher than the previous week (Oct. 24-28), when six schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Oct. 31-Nov. 5	An average of 2.3% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Lower than 3.6% reported the previous week (Oct 17-22).

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- London Health Sciences Centre
- London X-Ray Associates
- St. Joseph's Health Care London
- Thames Valley District School Board