
2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status February 14, 2017

Overall assessment

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower than in the previous week.

Current Local Activity

Between February 5th and 11th, there were 25 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 12 were hospitalized. In addition, two influenza outbreaks were declared in facilities and one death was reported.

Since September 1st, 2016, 323 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported. To date, two cases have been identified as influenza B; all other cases have been identified as influenza A. Of the influenza A cases that have been subtyped, 91 have been identified as influenza A(H3), and one has been identified as influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 co-infection. There have been 26 influenza A outbreaks declared in facilities located in the Middlesex-London area as well as 173 hospitalizations and 12 deaths.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 323 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Appendix C provides a graph showing all institutional influenza outbreaks by week and institution type.

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 February 14, 2017

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 | Feb. 5-11 | Influenza A – 25 cases Influenza B – 0 cases | Influenza A – 321 cases Influenza B – 2 cases | Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4) when 27 influenza 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 | Feb. 5-11 | Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 1 case Influenza A not subtyped – 21 cases | Influenza A(H3) – 91 cases Influenza A(H3) & Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 – 1 case Influenza A not subtyped – 229 cases | Influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3) and influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. |
| Hospitalizations¹ | Feb. 5-11 | 12 | 173 | Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4) when 14 hospitalizations were reported. |
| Deaths¹ | Feb. 5-11 | 0 | 12 | Same compared to the previous week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4) when no deaths were reported. Note: One death was communicated to the health unit this week but occurred outside of the reporting period. |
| Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care | Feb. 5-11 | 2 | 26 | Higher compared to the previous week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4) when no influenza outbreaks were declared. |
| Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)² | Jan. 29- Feb. 4 | Influenza A – 24.0% positivity Influenza B – 0.3% positivity | N/A | Influenza A: Lower compared to 24.6% positivity reported in the previous week (Jan. 22-28). Influenza B: Same compared to 0.2% positivity reported in the previous week (Jan. 22-28). |

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

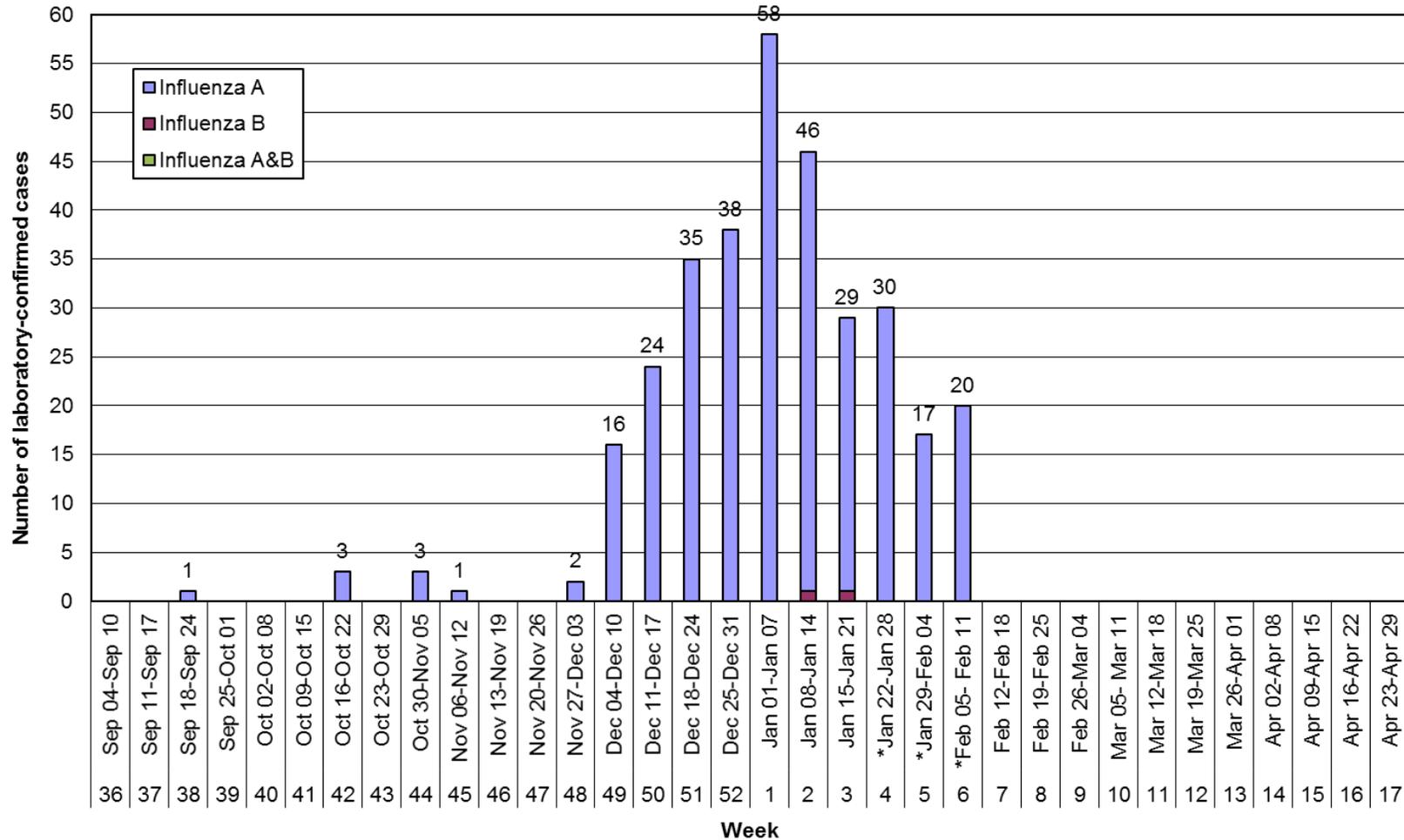
| Indicator | Reporting Period | Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i> | Recent Trends |
|--|------------------|--|--|
| Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness | Feb. 5-11 | <p>An average of 8.8% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 24.3% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> | <p>Lower compared to 9.4% reported in the previous week (Jan. 29- Feb. 4).</p> <p>Lower compared to 25.7% reported in the previous week (Jan. 29- Feb. 4).</p> |
| Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%) | Feb. 6-10 | Thirty-six elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%. | Lower than the previous week (Jan. 30- Feb. 3), when 43 schools reported increased absenteeism. |
| Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases | Feb. 6- 11 | Of chest x-rays performed, 4.2% were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. | Lower compared to the previous week (Jan. 30- Feb. 4), when 5.6% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. |

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 2016-2017 influenza season (N=323)



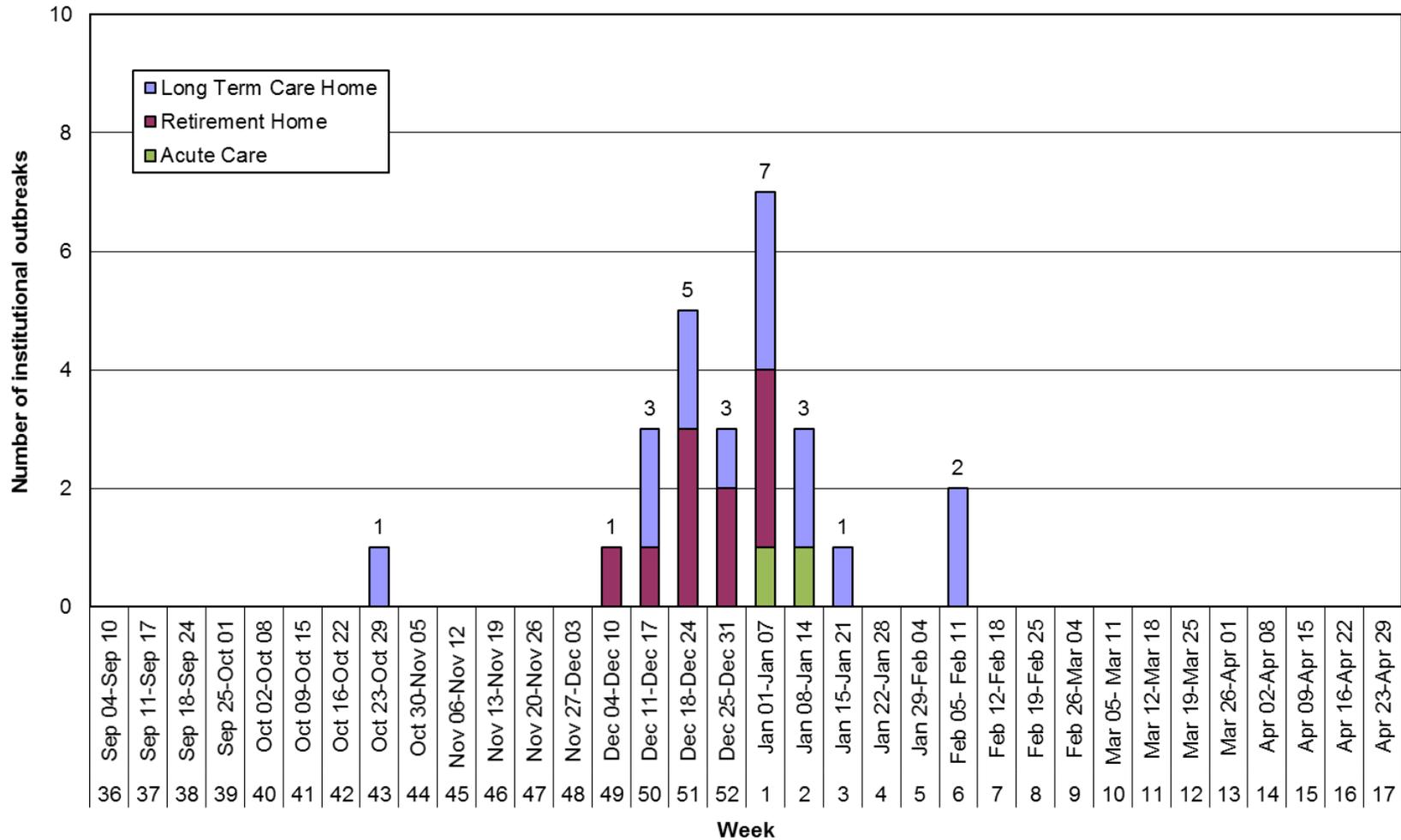
Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Feb. 14, 2017.

† '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.

Appendix C

**Institutional influenza outbreaks, by institution type
Middlesex-London 2016-2017 influenza season (N=26)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Feb. 14, 2017.

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