
**2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report
Update of Current Status and Issues
March 10, 2014**

Current Local Activity

Between March 3rd and 9th, the level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London was higher than it had been the previous week. Last week, there were 13 new cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza (seven influenza A and six influenza B) reported in the region. To compare, there were three influenza cases reported the previous week (February 24th to March 2nd). Since September 1st, 2013, a total of 192 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and 16 influenza B cases have been reported to the Health Unit. A graph showing all 208 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided in Appendix B at the end of this report. Currently, 39 of 192 influenza A samples have been subtyped, and all were found to be influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and which is also a component of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

To date, the majority (62.0%) of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported in Middlesex-London have been among adults between the ages of 20 and 64. Children under the age of five years continue to be over-represented among laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, relative to their representation in the general population. Children under five years of age represent only 5.5% of the general population in Middlesex-London, but account for 16.8% of confirmed influenza cases.

Hospitalizations and Deaths

Five of the 13 new laboratory-confirmed influenza cases identified between March 3rd and 9th were hospitalized. All five were identified with influenza A. Since September 1st, 2013, there have been 101 hospitalizations among the 208 people with laboratory-confirmed influenza (48.6%). Of these 101 hospitalizations, 95 people had influenza A (94.1%) and six people had influenza B (5.9%).

In the past week, no deaths were reported among local residents with laboratory-confirmed influenza. Since September 1st, there have been seven deaths among those in London and Middlesex County who had laboratory-confirmed influenza.

Current Outbreak Activity

Between March 3rd and 9th, one case of influenza A was identified in a facility outbreak where respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and coronavirus were also identified. To date, six influenza A outbreaks have been declared in Middlesex-London. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 was identified in two of the six outbreaks.

Influenza Immunization

The influenza immunization status is known for 185 of the 208 reported cases. Among those cases with known immunization status, 152 (82.2%) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

Vaccination for unvaccinated individuals six months of age and over is still recommended. Influenza vaccinations are available at the Middlesex-London Health Unit's walk-in Immunization Clinic at 50 King Street in London on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clinics also take place at the Kenwick Mall in Strathroy from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. The next Strathroy clinic will take place on Tuesday, April 1st.

Influenza vaccinations are also available at some health care providers' offices and participating pharmacies. 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://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/publichealth/flu/finder.aspx>.

Current Provincial Activity

Overall influenza activity across Ontario was similar to the previous week. Between February 23rd and March 1st, 2014, 115 cases of influenza A and 117 cases of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types was 10.5%, which is similar to 9.9% positivity reported the previous week. In total, 5,781 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1st, 2013. The latest *Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin* from Public Health Ontario can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx> .

Current National Influenza Strain Typing

In Canada, 1,248 influenza virus samples (55 influenza A(H3N2), 1,022 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 171 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 1,248 influenza samples, nearly all (99.0%) matched the components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. The components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, A/Victoria/361/2011b (H3N2) virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. The latest *FluWatch* from Public Health Agency of Canada can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/> .

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>.

Appendix A
Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London
March 10, 2014

The level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is higher compared to last week.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
Laboratory Information				
Laboratory-confirmed cases¹	Mar. 3-9	Influenza A – 7 cases Influenza B – 6 cases	Influenza A -192 cases Influenza B - 16 cases	Overall, the 13 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported between March 3 rd and 9 th is higher compared to the three cases reported in the <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> issued March 3 rd , 2014. The seven laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases reported between March 3 rd and 9 th are higher than the one influenza A case reported in the previous week. The six influenza B cases reported between March 3 rd and 9 th are higher compared to the previous week, when two cases of influenza B were reported.
Influenza Subtypes¹	Mar. 3-9	0	39 of 39 cases (100%) of subtyped influenza A samples were influenza A(H1N1) pdm09	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
Hospitalizations¹	Mar. 3-9	5	101	Between March 3 rd and 9 th , five laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were hospitalized, all of which were identified as influenza A. No hospitalizations were reported the previous week.
Deaths¹	Mar. 3-9	0	7	Between March 3 rd and 9 th , no deaths of individuals with laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Mar. 3-9	1	6	Between March 3 rd and 9 th , one case of influenza A was identified in a facility outbreak where RSV and coronavirus were also identified.
Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Feb. 23 –Mar.1	Influenza A: 5.5% positivity Influenza B: 4.9% positivity		Influenza A: Unchanged from the previous week. Influenza B: Similar to 4.5% positivity reported the previous week.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Recent Trends
Other Community Surveillance Indicators			
Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness	Mar. 2-8	<p>Between March 2nd and 8th, an average of 10.9% of patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) Emergency Departments and the St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) Urgent Care Centre presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 28.1% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.</p>	<p>The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined was similar to the 11.2% reported the previous week.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department continues to be elevated, but was lower compared to the 30.6% reported the previous week.</p>
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Mar. 3-7	Between March 3 rd and 7 th , no elementary schools from one school board reported a four-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting absenteeism exceeding 10% was lower compared to the previous week.
Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Mar. 3-8	From March 3 rd to 8 th , 3.6% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases was lower compared to the 4.8% reported the previous week.

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 2013-2014, retrieved from

<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>

The Middlesex-London Health Unit gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following community partners who provide data for this report:

London Health Sciences Centre

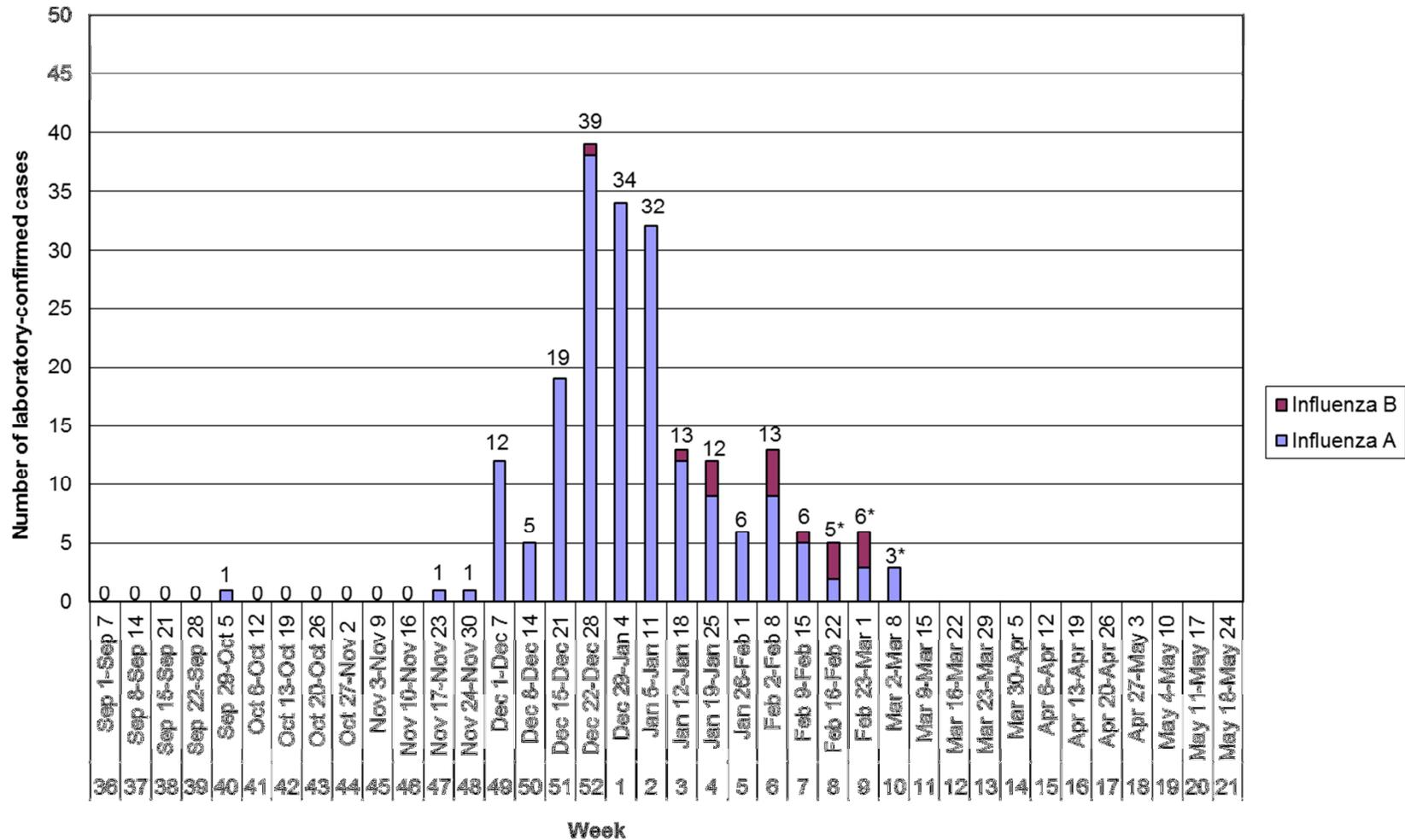
London X-Ray Associates

St. Joseph's Health Care London

Thames Valley District School Board

Appendix B

Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases, by influenza date†
Middlesex-London 2013-2014 influenza season (N=208)



† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date.

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

Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza case tracking database, extracted March 10, 2014.