
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status November 10, 2015

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is low.

Current Local Activity

Between November 1st and 7th, no laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Since September 1, 2015, a total of three laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported.

No influenza outbreaks have been declared since September 1st, 2015.

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 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://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 10, 2015

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 (from September 1, 2015)</i> | Recent Trends |
|--|------------------|---|--|--|
| Laboratory-confirmed cases¹ | Nov. 1-7 | Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 0 cases | Influenza A – 3 cases Influenza B – 0 cases | |
| Influenza sub-types¹ | Nov. 1-7 | Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 0 cases | Influenza A(H3) – 2 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 1 case | All influenza A strains subtyped to date (2/3) have been influenza A(H3). |
| Hospitalizations¹ | Nov. 1-7 | 0 | 2 | |
| Deaths¹ | Nov. 1-7 | 0 | 0 | |
| Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care | Nov. 1-7 | 0 | 0 | |
| Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)² | Oct. 25-31 | Influenza A – 0.6% positivity Influenza B – 0.3% positivity | N/A | Influenza A: Similar to 0.7% positivity reported the previous week (Oct. 18-24). Influenza B: Similar to 0.1% positivity reported the previous week (Oct. 18-24). |

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 room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness | Nov. 1-7 | An average of 6.8% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 15.0% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. | Similar to 6.3% reported the previous week (Oct. 25-31). Higher than 13.4% reported the previous week (Oct. 25-31). |
| Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%) | Nov. 2-6 | Two elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%. | Higher than the previous week (Oct. 26-30), when one school reported increased absenteeism. |
| Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases | Oct. 26-31 | An average of 6.2% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. | Higher than 3.7% reported the previous week (Oct. 19-24) |

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