
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status December 15, 2015

Last Influenza Surveillance report for 2015

Due to the holiday season, this will be the last community influenza surveillance report issued for 2015; the next community influenza surveillance report will be issued January 8, 2016. We wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London remains low.

Current Local Activity

Between December 6th and 12th, there were no laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Since September 1, 2015, a total of three laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and one influenza B case has 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://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/fluwatch-2015-2016-48-surveillance-influenza/index-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 December 15, 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	Dec. 6-12	Influenza A – 0 cases Influenza B – 0 cases	Influenza A – 3 cases Influenza B – 1 case	Same compared to the previous week (Nov. 29-Dec. 5) when no cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Dec. 6-12	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	Dec. 6-12	0	2	
Deaths¹	Dec. 6-12	0	0	
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Dec. 6-12	0	0	
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Nov. 29-Dec. 5	Influenza A – 0.6% positivity Influenza B – 0.1% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Similar compared to 0.5% positivity reported the previous week (Nov. 22-28). Influenza B: Similar compared to 0.2% positivity reported the previous week (Nov. 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 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	Dec. 6-12	An average of 6.6% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where 16.1% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Similar to 6.5% reported the previous week (Nov. 29-Dec. 5). Similar to 15.7% reported the previous week (Nov. 29-Dec. 5).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Dec. 7-11	Four elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Higher than the previous week (Nov. 30-Dec. 4), when three schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Dec. 7-12	An average of 5.3% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Higher than 4.2% reported the previous week (Nov. 30-Dec. 5).

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