
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status February 16, 2016

Overall assessment

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London is higher compared to previous reporting week.

Current Local Activity

From February 7th to 18th, 2016, 14 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (13 influenza A and one influenza B) were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom six were hospitalized and one has died. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 46 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (40 of influenza A and six of influenza B) reported in London and Middlesex County.

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/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/flu-grippe/surveillance/fluwatch-reports-rapports-surveillance-influenza-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 February 16, 2016

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 | Feb. 7-13 | Influenza A – 13 cases Influenza B – 1 case | Influenza A – 40 cases Influenza B – 6 cases | Higher compared to the previous week (Jan. 31-Feb. 6) when ten cases of influenza were reported. |
| Influenza sub-types¹ | Feb. 7-13 | Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–4 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 9 cases Strain typing A/California/07/09-like-1 case | Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 17 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 20 cases A/California/07/09-like- 2 cases | |
| Hospitalizations¹ | Feb. 7-13 | 6 | 18 | Higher compared to the previous week (Jan. 31-Feb. 6) when two hospitalizations were reported. |
| Deaths¹ | Feb. 7-13 | 1 | 1 | Higher compared to the previous week (Jan. 31-Feb. 6) when no deaths were reported. |
| Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care | Feb. 7-13 | 0 | 0 | |
| Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)² | Jan. 31- Feb. 6 | Influenza A –12.5% positivity Influenza B –1.8% positivity | N/A | Influenza A: Higher compared to 10.3% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 24-30). Influenza B: Similar compared to 1.5% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 24-30). |

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 department and urgent care centre reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness | Feb. 7-13 | An average of 11.2% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 30.4% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms. | Higher than 8.7% reported the previous week (Jan. 31-Feb. 6). Higher than 27.0% reported the previous week (Jan. 31-Feb. 6). |
| Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%) | Feb. 8-12 | Data not reported due to weather-related bus cancellations and associated absenteeism. | |
| Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases | Feb. 8-13 | An average of 4.5% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. | Higher than 3.9% reported the previous week (Feb. 1-6). |

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