
2015-2016 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status February 23, 2016

Overall assessment

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

Current Local Activity

From February 14th to 20th, 2016, 37 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza (30 influenza A and seven influenza B) were reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 15 were hospitalized. Since September 1st, 2015, there has been a total of 83 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases (70 of influenza A and 13 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 23, 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. 14-20	Influenza A – 30 cases Influenza B – 7 cases	Influenza A – 70 cases Influenza B – 13 cases	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 7-13) when 14 cases of influenza were reported.
Influenza sub-types¹	Feb. 14-20	Subtyping Influenza A(H3) – 0 cases Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09–7 cases Influenza A not subtyped–23 cases Strain typing A/California/07/09-like-0 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 3 cases Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09– 24 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 43 cases A/California/07/09-like- 2 cases	
Hospitalizations¹	Feb. 14-20	15	33	Higher compared to the previous week (Feb. 7-13) when six hospitalizations were reported.
Deaths¹	Feb. 14-20	0	1	Lower compared to the previous week (Feb. 7-13) when one death in a person with laboratory confirmed influenza was reported.
Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care	Feb. 14-20	0	0	
Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)²	Feb. 7-13	Influenza A –20.9% positivity Influenza B –2.7% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: Higher compared to 12.5% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 31-Feb. 6). Influenza B: Higher compared to 1.8% positivity reported the previous week (Jan. 31-Feb. 6).

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. 14-20	An average of 14.2% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department, where an average of 33.9% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	Higher than 11.2% reported the previous week (Feb. 7-13). Higher than 30.4% reported the previous week (Feb. 7-13).
Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism > 10%)	Feb. 15-19	30 elementary schools from one school board reported an average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	Higher than the previous reporting period (Feb. 1-5), when 23 schools reported increased absenteeism.
Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases	Feb. 15-20	An average of 3.8% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.	Lower than 4.5% reported the previous week (Feb. 8-13).

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