

## **2016-2017 Community Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status January 17, 2017**

### **Overall assessment**

The current level of influenza activity in Middlesex-London is lower than in the previous week.

### **Current Local Activity**

Between January 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, there were 40 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and one case of laboratory-confirmed influenza B reported to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, of whom 23 were hospitalized and four died. In addition, two facility outbreaks of influenza A were declared.

Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, 199 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been reported. To date, one case has been identified as influenza B; all other cases have been identified as influenza A. Of the influenza A cases, 48 have been identified as influenza A(H3). Also, there have been 24 influenza A outbreaks declared in facilities located in the Middlesex-London area.

Appendix A provides more details about laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, as well as other local indicators of respiratory illness. A graph showing all 199 laboratory-confirmed cases by week is provided at the end of this report in Appendix B. Appendix C provides a graph showing all institutional influenza outbreaks by week and institution type.

### **Useful Websites**

- The latest Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin, 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 January 10, 2017

**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-based influenza activity indicators, Middlesex-London and Ontario, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season**

Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Number Reported: <i>Year to Date</i> <i>(from September 1, 2016)</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 8-14	Influenza A – 40 cases Influenza B – 1 cases	Influenza A – 198 cases Influenza B – 1 cases	<b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Jan. 1-7) when 54 influenza cases were reported.  <b>Please note that the week in which cases are reported does not necessarily reflect the date of onset of illness.</b>
<b>Influenza sub-types<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 8-14	Influenza A(H3) – 8 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 32 cases	Influenza A(H3) – 49 cases Influenza A not subtyped – 149 cases	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H3).
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 8-14	23	116	<b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Jan. 1-7) when 36 hospitalizations were reported.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Jan. 8-14	4	6	<b>Higher</b> compared to the previous week (Jan. 1-7) when no deaths were reported.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Jan. 8-14	2	21	<b>Lower</b> compared to the previous week (Jan. 1-7) when six influenza outbreaks were declared.
<b>Percentage of samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Jan. 1-7	Influenza A – 24.4% positivity Influenza B – 0.2% positivity	N/A	Influenza A: <b>Lower</b> compared to 27.2% positivity reported in the previous week (Dec. 25-31).  Influenza B: <b>Same</b> compared to 0.2% positivity reported in the previous week (Dec. 25-31).

**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 2016-2017

**Table 2: Summary of community-based respiratory illness indicators, Middlesex-London, 2016-2017 influenza surveillance season**

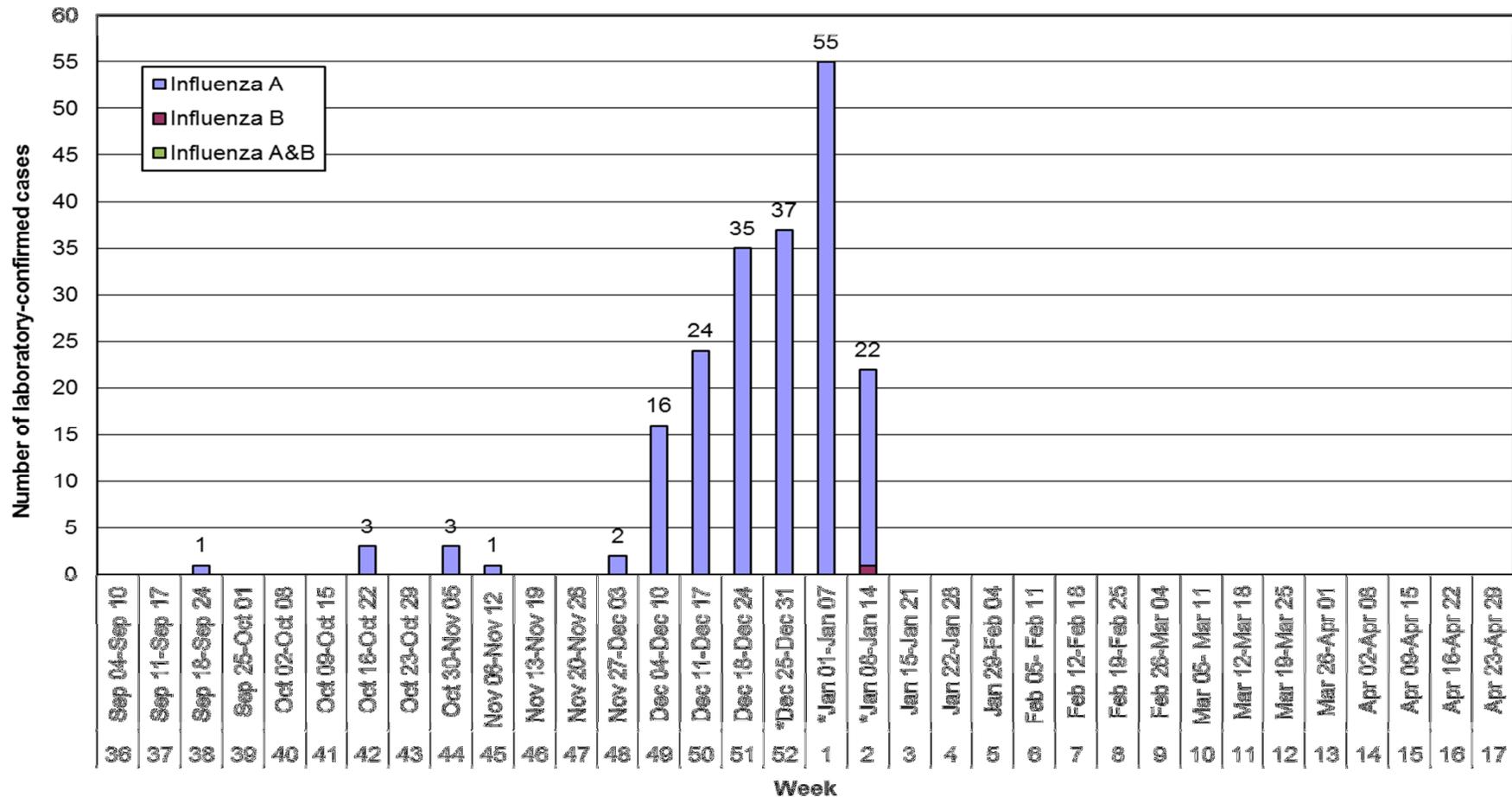
Indicator	Reporting Period	Number Reported: <i>Current Reporting Period</i>	Recent Trends
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Jan. 8-14	An average of 10.0% of patients presented with fever and respiratory symptoms.  The proportion was highest at the pediatric emergency department, where 26.9% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms.	<b>Lower</b> compared to 12.4% reported the previous week (Jan. 1-7).  <b>Lower</b> than 29.8% reported the previous week (Jan. 1-7).
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Jan. 9-12	Twenty-six elementary schools from one school board reported average absenteeism (due to all causes) exceeding 10%.	Schools closed Dec. 26-Jan. 6.
<b>Sentinel x-ray provider – newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Jan. 9-14	Data not available.	In the previous week (Jan. 3-7), 2.3% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases.

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 2016-2017 influenza season (N=199)



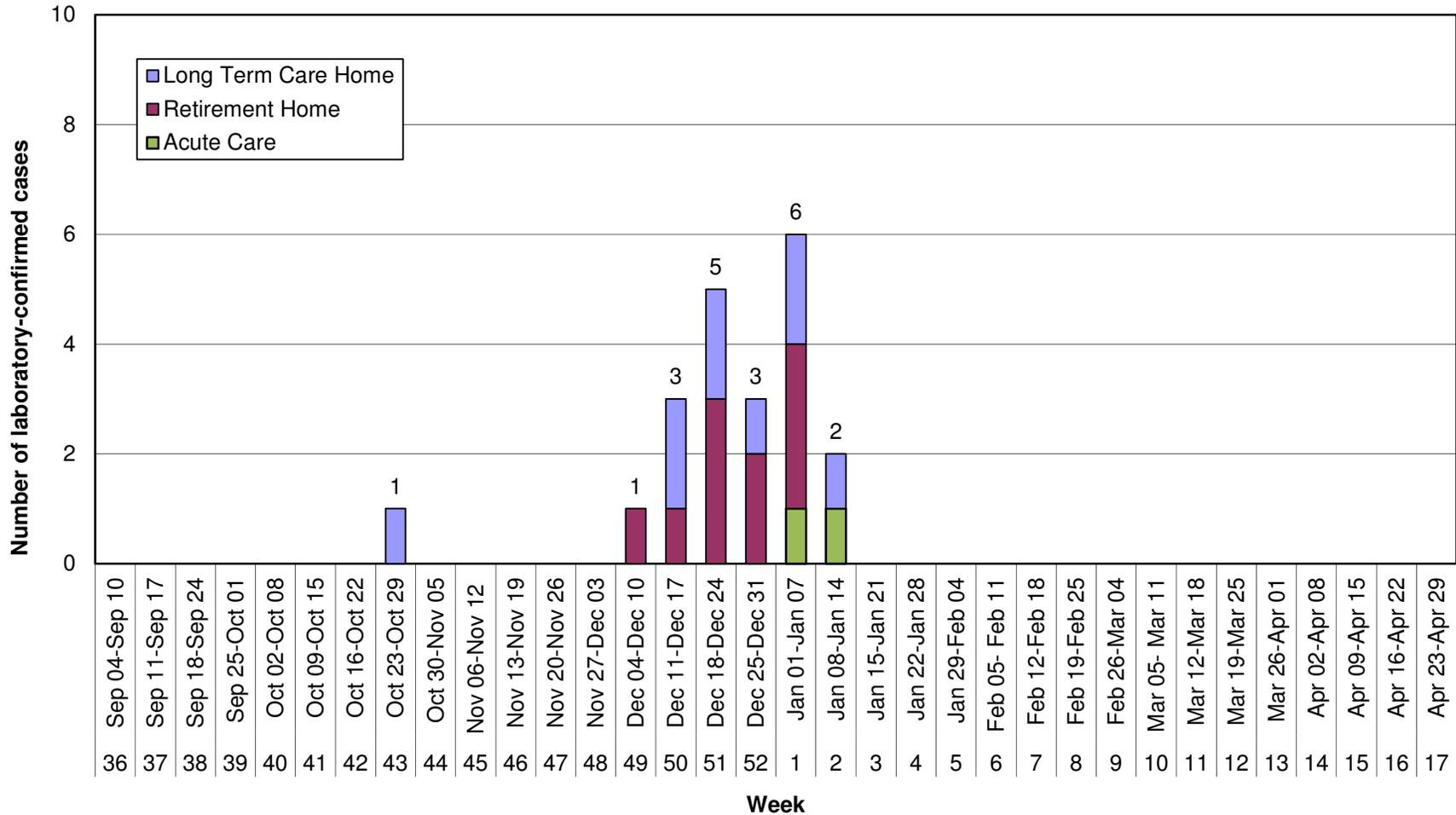
Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Jan 16, 2017.

† 'Influenza date' is the earliest of: symptom onset date, specimen collection date, and reported date. As a result, the weekly counts shown in this section differ from those provided in other sections of this report.

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

## Appendix C

**Institutional influenza outbreaks, by institution type  
Middlesex-London 2016-2017 influenza season (N=21)**



Source: Middlesex-London Health Unit internal influenza tracking database, extracted Jan 17, 2017.

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