

## **2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues December 17, 2013**

### **Current Local Activity**

Influenza activity continues in Middlesex London. Since the last report, five cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported to the Health Unit. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, 12 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases have been reported. Eight out of 12 samples have been subtyped as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, indicating that this is the predominant strain circulating in Middlesex London. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and is a component in the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

### **Hospitalizations and Deaths**

Two of the newly reported cases of influenza A have been hospitalized. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 6 hospitalizations and no deaths reported among laboratory-confirmed cases in Middlesex-London.

### **Current Outbreak Activity**

No outbreaks due to influenza have been declared in Middlesex-London since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

### **Influenza Immunization**

The influenza immunization status of all 12 reported cases is known. Among the Middlesex-London cases, 11(91.7%) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

This year's community influenza immunization clinics, organized by the Middlesex-London Health Unit have now ended. Influenza vaccinations remain available at the Middlesex London Health Unit's walk-in Immunization Clinic at 50 King Street in London on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Clinics also take place at the Kenwick Mall in Strathroy from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Influenza vaccinations are also available at some health care providers' offices and participating pharmacies. 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://health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/publichealth/flu/finder.aspx>

### **Current Provincial Activity**

Influenza activity in Ontario continues to increase. Between December 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 65 cases of influenza A and one case of influenza B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types is 6.9% which is higher than 4.0% positivity the previous week. In total, 182 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1<sup>st</sup>. The latest *Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin* from Public Health Ontario can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>.

### **Current National Activity**

Influenza activity continued to increase in Canada. Between December 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 186 cases of influenza A and 14 cases of influenza B were reported across the country. From August 25<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 498 Influenza A and 74 influenza B cases were identified. Of the influenza A strains that have been subtyped to date this season, 83.2% are the 2009 pandemic strain influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

In Canada, 82 influenza viruses (58 influenza A and 24 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 82 influenza viruses, 93.9% matched the components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine. The components of the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, A/Victoria/361/2011b (H3N2) virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus. The latest *FluWatch* report can be accessed through the following link: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>

Current and previous Middlesex London Health Unit *Community Influenza Surveillance Reports* can be found on the Health Unit's website at <https://www.healthunit.com/influenza-surveillance>.

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#### **London Office**

50 King St., London, ON N6A 5L7  
tel: (519) 663-5317 • fax: (519) 663-9581

[www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com)  
[health@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:health@mlhu.on.ca)

#### **Strathroy Office - Kenwick Mall**

51 Front St. E., Strathroy ON N7G 1Y5  
tel: (519) 245-3230 • fax: (519) 245-4772

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London**  
**December 17, 2013**

Influenza activity continues to be observed in Middlesex London.

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Year to Date (from September 1, 2013)	Recent Trends
<b>Laboratory Information</b>				
<b>Laboratory-confirmed cases<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	Influenza A - 5 cases Influenza B – no cases	Influenza A - 12 cases Influenza B - no cases	Five new laboratory-confirmed cases were reported this week, which is the same number of new cases that had been reported in the previous <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report</i> .
<b>Influenza Subtypes<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 5 cases	Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 8/12 cases (66.7%)  Influenza A Not yet subtyped 4/12 cases (33.3%)	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	2	6	Similar to last week when three hospitalizations were reported among laboratory-confirmed cases.
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no deaths of people with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported.
<b>Influenza outbreaks in long-term care homes/retirement homes/acute care</b>	Dec. 9-Dec. 15	0	0	Since the beginning of September, no influenza outbreaks have been reported.
<b>Percentage samples that are positive for influenza (Ontario)<sup>2</sup></b>	Dec. 1-7	Ontario: Influenza A 6.9 % positivity  Influenza B 0% positivity		Influenza A: increased from 4.0% positivity the previous week Influenza B: Unchanged from 0% positivity the previous week

Indicator	Reporting Period	Current Week	Recent Trends
<b>Other Community Surveillance Indicators</b>			
<b>Hospital emergency room reports regarding the percentage of patients with fever and respiratory illness</b>	Dec. 1-7 Dec. 8-14	<p>Between December 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, an average of 7.4% of patients at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) Emergency Departments and the St. Joseph's Health Care (SJHC) Urgent Care Centre presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. From Dec 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, this proportion was 8.7%</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department. From December 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 16.4% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms, while from December 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 17.5% of patients presented with febrile respiratory illness.</p>	<p>The percentage of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments with fever and respiratory symptoms from all LHSC sites and SJHC combined increased between the weeks of December 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> and Dec 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department increased between the week of December 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Dec. 2-6 Dec. 9-13	Between December 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> , three elementary schools from one school board reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%. From December 9 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> , five elementary schools reported a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10%.	The number of schools reporting a five-day average absenteeism rate exceeding 10% increased slightly between the week of December 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> and December 9 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Dec. 2-7 Dec. 9-14	From December 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> , 3.0% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia. From December 9 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> , this proportion was 3.7%.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases increased slightly between the weeks of December 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> and December 9 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> .

**Sources:**

1 Numbers are subject to change week by week given the retrospective nature of reporting.

2 Public Health Ontario, Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin 2013-2014, retrieved from

[http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Ontario\\_Respiratory\\_Virus\\_Bulletin-Week%2049.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Ontario_Respiratory_Virus_Bulletin-Week%2049.pdf)

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