

## 2013-2014 Influenza Surveillance Report Update of Current Status and Issues January 6, 2014

### First Influenza Surveillance report for 2014

This report covers the two-week period between December 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and December 30<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

### Current Local Activity

Influenza activity in Middlesex-London increased substantially since December 23<sup>rd</sup>. From December 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 16 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A were reported. From December 30<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 35 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza A and one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza B were reported to the Health Unit. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, a total of 76 laboratory-confirmed influenza A cases and one influenza B case have been reported. Currently, 18 out of 77 samples have been subtyped, and all 18 have been found to be influenza A(H1N1)pdm09. This is the same strain that circulated during the 2009 pandemic and is a component in the 2013/2014 influenza vaccine.

### Hospitalizations and Deaths

Of the 16 cases identified between December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 12 were hospitalized. Of the 35 cases identified between December 30<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 were hospitalized. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, there have been 40 hospitalizations (51.9%) and no deaths reported among laboratory-confirmed cases in Middlesex-London.

### Current Outbreak Activity

To date, three influenza A outbreaks have been declared in Middlesex-London:

1. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 an outbreak in a long-term care home was declared. A sample from this outbreak was typed as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
2. On December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, a suspect respiratory outbreak in another long-term care home was identified; it was confirmed as influenza A on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.
3. On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, a third influenza A outbreak was declared in another long-term care home.

### Influenza Immunization

The influenza immunization status is known for 69 of 77 reported cases. Among those cases, 79.7% (55/69) were not immunized with this year's seasonal influenza vaccine.

Due to the rise in influenza activity in Middlesex-London, vaccination for those who are unvaccinated and six months of age and over remains strongly recommended. Influenza vaccinations are 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 has continued to increase. Between December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 323 cases of influenza A, five cases of influenza B and one case of combined influenza A and B were reported from multiple regions of the province. The percent positivity for all influenza types was 24.9%, which is higher than 8.2% positivity the previous week. In total, 908 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases have been reported across the province since September 1st. 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 has also continued to increase in Canada. Between December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 1,115 cases of influenza A and 37 cases of influenza B were reported across the country. From August 25<sup>th</sup> through December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 2,699 influenza A and 170 influenza B cases were identified. Of the influenza A strains that have been subtyped to date this season, 93.9% are the 2009 pandemic strain influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.

In Canada, 155 influenza viruses (17 influenza A(H3N2), 112 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 26 influenza B) have been antigenically characterized since the beginning of the current season. Of the 155 influenza viruses, 96.8% 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* from Public Health Agency of Canada 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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**Appendix A**  
**Summary of Community Influenza Surveillance Indicators for Middlesex-London**  
**January 6, 2014**

Influenza activity is increasing substantially 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. 23-29	Influenza A - 16 cases Influenza B - 0 cases	Influenza A - 76 cases Influenza B - one case	The number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases reported increased between the week of December 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> and December 30 <sup>th</sup> to January 5 <sup>th</sup> . Both these counts are substantially increased compared to the 13 cases reported in the previous <i>Community Influenza Surveillance Report issued December 23, 2013</i> .
	Dec. 30-Jan. 5	Influenza A - 35 cases Influenza B - one case		
<b>Influenza Subtypes<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 23-29	2 cases subtyped as: influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	18 of 18 cases (100%) of influenza A samples that have been subtyped were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09	All influenza A strains subtyped to date have been influenza A(H1N1)pdm09.
	Dec. 30-Jan. 5	4 cases subtyped as: influenza A(H1N1)pdm09		
<b>Hospitalizations<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 23-29	12	40	The number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases hospitalized increased between the week of December 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> and December 30 <sup>th</sup> to January 5 <sup>th</sup> . Both these counts are increased compared to the eight hospitalizations included in the previous report. In total, 51.9% of laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza have been hospitalized.
	Dec. 30-Jan. 5	20		
<b>Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	Dec. 23-Jan. 5	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. 23-29 Dec. 30-Jan. 5	0 3 influenza A outbreaks	3	Three influenza A outbreaks were declared in long-term care homes. No influenza outbreaks had been declared prior to that 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. 22-28 Dec. 29-Jan. 4	<p>Between December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, an average of 13.8% 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 December 29<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>, this proportion was 13.6%.</p> <p>The proportion was highest at the paediatric emergency department. From December 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 32.8% of patients presented with a fever and respiratory symptoms, while from December 29<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>, 29.8% 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 was comparable between the weeks of December 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The percentage of patients presenting with fever and respiratory symptoms at the paediatric emergency department is high, but decreased slightly between the week of December 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<b>Absence reports from elementary schools (i.e., absenteeism &gt; 10%)</b>	Dec. 23-27 Dec. 30-Jan. 3	Data not available due to school holidays.	Data not available due to school holidays.
<b>Sentinel X-ray provider reports regarding newly identified bronchopneumonia cases</b>	Dec. 23-28 Dec. 30-Jan. 4	From December 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> , 6.1% of chest x-rays performed were newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases. From December 30 <sup>th</sup> to January 4 <sup>th</sup> , this proportion was 2.5%.	The proportion of newly diagnosed bronchopneumonia cases decreased between the weeks of December 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> and December 30 <sup>th</sup> to January 4 <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-Weeks\\_5152.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Ontario_Respiratory_Virus_Bulletin-Weeks_5152.pdf)

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