



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like overall activity is decreasing in the weeks following the last report. As mentioned in the last report that the influenza B is becoming predominant strain and is now almost half of the lab tested results. Interestingly however Long-term Care Homes' respiratory outbreaks are on the rise for this reporting period.

We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine at our weekly Thursday clinics between 1:30-4:00 p.m. For further details and stats please see below.

Cheers,

Noor Muhammad, MBBS, MCPS
Manager, Health Protection (Infectious Diseases)



**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report
April 13, 2011**

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health will be sending a biweekly update of influenza activity. The update will include an overview of the current status of influenza and other respiratory illnesses in Elgin County.

Current Activity

For the week of March 30 to April 12, no new confirmed cases of influenza were reported to the Health Unit.

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of March 27 to April 2, 2011, 112 influenza cases were reported, which is higher than the previous week (90 influenza cases).

Influenza in Canada

Influenza B detections continue to increase steadily in most regions of the country except the Atlantic provinces and now account for almost half of the positive tests for influenza (53.0% influenza A, 47.0% influenza B).

Antigenic Characterization (Provincial)

Since September 1, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized the following strains from Ontario: 71 influenza A /Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2), 42 influenza A/California/7/2009, 132 influenza B/Brisbane/60/2008-like and 8 B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like.

Hospitalizations and deaths among laboratory confirmed influenza cases.

For the week of March 27 to April 2, there were 10 hospitalized cases and two deaths, a slightly higher rate from the previous week.

Outbreak Status (Provincial and Local).

Between March 27 and April 2, four new influenza outbreaks were declared in Ontario. Of these four, three were influenza A and one was influenza B. In Elgin County, three respiratory outbreaks were declared between March 30 and April 12 with one identified as Entero/Rhinovirus.

World Health Organization Recommendation for the 2011-2012 Influenza Vaccine

WHO recommends the following strains for 2011- 2012:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus;
- A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).	Decreasing	There were 741 visits to the ER for the week of March 27 to April 2. 106 (14.3%) had symptoms of FRI. For the week of April 3 to 9, there were a total of 733 visits. 123 (16.8%) had symptoms of FRI.
Absence reports from schools	Slightly increasing	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 1.3% to 13% for the week of April 4 to 7 (the 8 th was a PD Day).
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	None Reported	For the current reporting week, Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Decreasing	There were no new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Increasing	There were three new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	Decreasing	There were no new hospitalizations due to influenza
Deaths	None Reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza.
OVERALL	Decreasing	KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas is decreasing; however respiratory activity in long-term care has increased.

Reports are updated biweekly and can be found at <http://www.elginhealth.on.ca/>

Please get in touch with communicable diseases team at Elgin St. Thomas Public Health if you have any questions at the contact information below.