



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like overall activity has decreased in the weeks following the last report. Influenza A (sub-type H3N2) still seems to be the dominant strain. It is a component of this season's flu vaccine.

It seems like activity of influenza has peaked and is now declining. Our last Extended Clinic is February 03, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine at our weekly Thursday clinics from Feb 10th onwards between 1:30-4:00 p.m. For further details and stats please see below.

Cheers,

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Manager, Health Protection (Infectious Diseases)



**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report
February 3, 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 January 19 to February 1, 2011, three new confirmed cases of influenza A were reported.

The Health Unit will be providing the final extended influenza clinic at 99 Edward St. today, February 3, 2011 from 11 am to 7pm.

Regular immunization clinics will resume Thursday, February 10 from 1:30-4pm. All health care providers are reminded that it is not too late to get your flu shot!

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of January 16 to January 22, 2011, 503 new confirmed cases of influenza were reported in Ontario, compared to 673 cases in the previous week.

Of the 1,291 isolates tested positive for influenza A, 613 were from Ontario (47.5%) and of the 46 isolates tested positive for influenza B, 21 were from Ontario (45.7%).

Other respiratory viruses, including RSV, rhinovirus and coronavirus continue to circulate in Ontario.

Outbreak Status

For the reporting period, no new respiratory outbreaks were declared in Elgin County.

Provincially, eight new institutional influenza A outbreaks were reported between January 16 and January 22, 2011.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).	Decreasing Slightly increasing	There were 702 people who visited the ER for the week of January 16 to January 22. 97 (13.82%) had symptoms of FRI. For the week of January 23 to January 29, there were a total of 712 visits. 111 (15.89%) had symptoms of FRI.
Absence reports from schools	Slightly decreasing	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 1.3% to 13.5% for the week of January 24 to January 28.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	Increasing	For the weeks of January 14 to January 20 and January 21 to Feb 01 Elgin St. Thomas was included in ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Decreasing	There were three new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A in Elgin County.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Similar	There were no respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	Decreasing	All three cases of influenza A were hospitalized. Although number of hospitalizations are decreased but 100% of those influenza positive cases are being admitted. This is same as last week when all 8 positive cases were admitted as well. This speaks somewhat to the severity of the illness with this virus.
Deaths	None reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza.
OVERALL	Decreasing	KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas has decreased compared to previous weeks.

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.