



Influenza Surveillance Report
December 16, 2011

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health will be sending a biweekly update on influenza activity and respiratory illnesses.

Hi Everyone,

We do not have any confirmed case yet, and generally there is no significant respiratory activity in Elgin County. There are no new confirmed cases of influenza in neighbouring jurisdictions. There are also no new outbreaks in the Elgin County and school absenteeism rates remain same. Further details are provided below.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noor Muhammad', is written over a horizontal line.

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



Current Influenza Activity

There have been no reported cases of influenza for the week of December 7 to December 13, 2011 in Elgin St. Thomas.

For the week of November 27 to December 3, 2011 (week 48), influenza activity continued to be seen at low levels. Three new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza were reported compared to five cases in the previous week. Of the cases of influenza that have been reported, 66.7% (8/12) have been hospitalized.

A total of 12 influenza cases have been identified for the 2011-2012 surveillance season to date. Six of the twelve cases reported have been identified as influenza A/H3 subtype. Among circulating respiratory viruses in Ontario, parainfluenza had the highest percent positivity at 8.26%.

In Canada, influenza activity is increasing with 16 cases reported (9A/H3, 1 A/H1, 2A untyped and 4 B) between November 27th and December 3rd.

Influenza Clinics

It is not too late to get your flu shot! Flu shots are still available through most physicians' offices and at Elgin St. Thomas Public Health. The Health Unit, located at 99 Edward St. in St. Thomas has flu shots available on Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Flu shots are also available at Malahide Community Place, 12105 Whittaker Road in Springfield, on the first Tuesday of every month from 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Outbreak Status

There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared in Elgin St. Thomas between December 7th and December 13rd.

In Ontario, for the same reporting week, no new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported; however there were three new institutional respiratory outbreaks.



Summary of Influenza Activity and Respiratory Illness in Elgin St. Thomas

Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness)	Increasing	A total of 747 people were screened for FRI between December 4 to December 10 th and 16% showed sign of illness, an increase from 13% the previous week.
Absence reports from schools	Similar	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 3.6% to 12.3% for the week of December 5 to December 9.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	None reported	Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	None reported	There were no new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Decreasing	There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	None reported	There were no new hospitalizations due to influenza.
Deaths	None reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza since the beginning of the 2011/2012 influenza season.
OVERALL	No Activity	Key Findings: There is currently no reported influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas.

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

Please contact the communicable diseases team at Elgin St. Thomas Public Health if you have any questions.