



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like activity is slightly increasing with one lab confirmed case. There is currently one active respiratory outbreak in a long-term facility. Further details are provided below.

Cheers,

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2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report December 21, 2010

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

Influenza activity remains very low in Elgin County. The Health Unit has received report of one laboratory-confirmed case of influenza A on December 9, 2010.

Community influenza clinics were provided beginning on October 19, 2010 and concluding on November 27, 2010. To date a total of 4275 people have been vaccinated with the flu shot.

Flu shots are still available through most physicians' offices and at the Health Unit on Thursdays from 1:30-4pm.

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of December 5 to December 11, 2010, the overall activity in Canada continued to increase. Since the beginning of the season, A/H3N2 has been the predominant strain circulating in Canada.

Overall influenza activity in Ontario continues to increase, with a report of 96 cases detected for the week of December 5 to December 11, 2010.

Since September 1st, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory has characterized 38 influenza viruses in Ontario including 29 of influenza H3N2, three of influenza H1N1 and six influenza B virus. All three components are included in the in the 2010/2011 vaccine.

Outbreak Status

Four new institutional Influenza A outbreaks were reported in Ontario for the current week. Since the beginning of the season, Elgin County has had eight respiratory outbreaks in long-term care facilities.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness-FRI).	Similar	There were 685 people who visited the ER for the week of December 12 to December 18, 2010. 101 or 14.75% of those had symptoms of FRI which is slightly higher than previous week's 12.54%.
Absence reports from schools	Increasing	The average for student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 0.6% to 17.4% for the week of December 13-17.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	Similar	Elgin St. Thomas is not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Increasing	There has been one laboratory confirmed case of Influenza A on December 9, 2010.
Long Term Care Home Outbreaks	Similar	There was one respiratory outbreak in a Long-Term Care Facility.
Hospitalizations	Increasing	There was one newly hospitalized lab-confirmed case of Influenza A
Deaths	None reported	There have been no deaths associated with influenza.
OVERALL	Increasing	KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas has slightly increased from 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.