



**Influenza Surveillance Report**  
January 4, 2012

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

Hi Everyone,

This is the third report of this season, a bit late, but good news is that we do not have any confirmed case of influenza yet. However there are other respiratory viruses circulating in Ontario most noticeable of which is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Two new case of human influenza A (H3) were reported since our last report from our neighbouring Health Units. There are also no new respiratory outbreaks in the Elgin County and school absenteeism rates are unavailable because of the holiday break. Further details are provided below.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noor Muhammad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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



## **Current Influenza Activity**

There have been no reported cases of influenza in Elgin St. Thomas for the week of December 27, 2011 to January 3, 2012.

For the week of December 11<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup> (week 50), there were six new influenza cases reported in Ontario. To date, there have been a total of 21 cases reported in the 2011/2012 season. 8 of the 21 cases have been subtyped as influenza A/H3.

Among all circulating respiratory viruses in Ontario, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is currently the most common virus found among those with a lab-confirmed illness, and it has highest percent positivity at 13.52%.

In Canada, influenza activity remained similar to previous weeks. There have been 63 laboratory confirmed cases reported so far this season (51 A/H3, 3 A/H1, 7A unsubtyped and 2 B).

## **Influenza Clinics**

Free 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 compared to 1 respiratory outbreak that was declared in the previous week (identified as coronavirus and rhinovirus).

In Ontario for the week of December 11<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 there were no new institutional influenza outbreaks reported; however there were six new institutional respiratory outbreaks, including one parainfluenza outbreak.



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

| Measure  | Compared to Previous Week | Explanation   |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness)</b> | Slight Decrease           | A total of 869 people were screened for FRI between December 25 <sup>th</sup> and December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2011 and 15% showed sign of illness, a decrease from 15% the previous week. |
| <b>Absence reports from schools</b>                                      | Data unavailable          | There was no student absenteeism data available for the week of December 27 <sup>th</sup> to January 3 <sup>rd</sup> .  |
| <b>Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls</b>                             | None reported             | Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.   |
| <b>Lab-confirmed cases</b>   | None reported             | There were no new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza.  |
| <b>Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks</b>                                     | Decreasing                | There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.   |
| <b>Hospitalizations</b>  | None reported             | There were no new hospitalizations due to influenza.  |
| <b>Deaths</b>  | None reported             | There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza in Elgin St. Thomas.   |
| <b>OVERALL</b>   | <b>No Activity</b>        | <b>Key Findings:<br/>There is currently no reported influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas.</b>   |

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.**

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