



**Influenza Surveillance Report
February 27, 2012**

Biweekly updates on influenza activity and respiratory illness can be found on our website at <http://www.elginhealth.on.ca/>

Greetings,

This is the seventh report of the 2011-2012 influenza surveillance season and we continue to have no confirmed cases of influenza in Elgin St. Thomas. However, provincially there has been influenza activity with 99 new cases reported for the week of February 5th to February 11th, 2012. Please see the attached Influenza Surveillance report for further details.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laura McLachlin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Laura McLachlin
Director of Health Protection

ESTPH Influenza Surveillance Report

February 15 to February 21, 2012

Local Influenza Activity

There have been no reported cases of influenza in St. Thomas and Elgin County for the week of February 15, 2012 to February 21, 2012.

Provincial Influenza Activity

In Ontario, for the week of February 5 to February 11, 2012 there were 99 new cases of influenza reported, compared to 60 reported in the previous week. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza in Ontario was 7.81% (2.27% for influenza A and 5.54% for influenza B). A total of 355 influenza cases have been reported for the 2011-2012 surveillance season to date.¹

There were 109 hospitalizations reported among cases in Ontario so far; 35.8% (39/109) were children under 5 years old and 23.9% (26/109) were in adults over the age of 65.¹

Among other circulating respiratory viruses, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continued to have the largest presence with a percent positivity of 22.72%.¹

National Influenza Activity

In Canada, for the week of February 5 to February 11, 2012, influenza activity continued to increase gradually. 263 laboratory detections of influenza were reported (31% A/H3, 12% A(H1N1)pdm09, 16% A untyped and 41% B). The proportion of positive influenza B detections has been increasing over the past several weeks and some provinces reported more influenza B viruses than influenza A viruses during this reporting period.²

Since the start of the current influenza season, the National Microbiology Laboratory has antigenically characterized 242 influenza viruses (73 A/H3N2, 48 A/H1N1 and 121 B). All 73 A/H3N2 viruses (from BC, AB, SK, ON & QC) are antigenically related to A/Perth/16/2009. All 48 A/H1N1 viruses (from BC, ON & QC) are antigenically related to A/California/07/2009. Seventy of the 121 influenza B viruses characterized (from BC, AB, SK, ON, QC & NL) are antigenically related to the vaccine strain B/Brisbane/60/2008 (Victoria lineage). The remaining 51 influenza B viruses (from BC, AB, ON, QC & NB) are antigenically related to the reference virus B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like, which belongs to the Yamagata lineage.²

Outbreak Status

There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared in Elgin St. Thomas for this reporting period.

In Ontario, there were 8 new institutional respiratory outbreaks reported, including one influenza B outbreak.¹

¹ Ontario Influenza Bulletin, <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/flubulletin.html>

² Public Health Agency of Canada, FluWatch, <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>

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

Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness)	Increasing	Between February 5 th and February 11 th , 2012, 24% of people screened for FRI at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital showed signs of illness. This is an increase from the previous reporting period where 14% of people screened had signs of illness. This is the highest proportion of positive FRI screenings so far this season.
Absence reports from schools	Similar	The average student absenteeism for the week of February 6 th to February 10 th ranged from 3.8% up to 13.5%. The average student absenteeism for the week of February 13 th to February 17 th ranged from 4.5% up to 11.7%. Overall, student absenteeism was similar to the previous reporting period.
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 in Elgin St. Thomas.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Decreasing	There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	None reported	There were no hospitalizations due to influenza in Elgin St. Thomas.
Deaths	None reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza in Elgin St. Thomas.
OVERALL	No Activity	Key Findings: There is currently no confirmed 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.