



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like activity has increased by almost 8% in ER reporting within the reporting period. We have another lab confirmed case of Influenza A. There are 2 respiratory outbreaks in Long-term care facilities, one being Influenza A. Further details are provided below.

Cheers,

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



**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report
January 5, 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

Influenza activity increased in Elgin County for the week of December 22, 2010 to January 4, 2011. One new confirmed case of Influenza A was reported to the Health Unit on December 29, 2010.

The Health Unit continues to provide flu shots on Thursdays from 1:30-4pm. All health care providers are reminded to strongly consider vaccination as we continue to see increased influenza activity.

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of December 12 to December 18, 2010, the overall influenza activity in Canada continued to increase.

Overall influenza activity in Ontario continues to increase, with a report of 178 cases detected for the week of December 12 to December 18, 2010. The majority of influenza viruses in Ontario continue to be characterized as influenza A/H3N2. The 57 influenza A/H3N2 viruses were related to A/Perth/6/2009, which is a component of the 2010-11 influenza vaccine.

Enteroviruses continue to circulate in Ontario.

Outbreak Status

An Influenza A outbreak was declared on December 21, 2010 in a long-term care facility and one respiratory outbreak at a retirement facility was declared on January 4, 2011.

Provincially, nine new institutional Influenza A outbreaks were reported in Ontario for the week of Dec 12-18.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).	Increasing	There were 709 people who visited the ER for the week of December 19 to December 25, 2010. 87 or 13.94% had symptoms of FRI. For the week of December 26, 2010 to January 1, 2011, there were a total of 870 visits. 161 or 22.57% had symptoms of FRI. An increase of 8%!
Absence reports from schools	Not reported	Schools were closed for the Holiday Season.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	Similar	Elgin St. Thomas is not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Increasing	There was one new laboratory confirmed case of influenza A.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Increasing	There was one Influenza A outbreak and one respiratory outbreak.
Hospitalizations	None reported	There were no newly hospitalized lab-confirmed cases of influenza for the reporting period.
Deaths	None reported	There have been no deaths associated with influenza.
OVERALL	Increasing	KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas has increased 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.