



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance, March 02, Report below. It seems like overall activity has increased in the weeks following the last report. Influenza A (sub-type H3N2) continues to be the dominant strain. We have also 2 influenza B cases. Influenza vaccine is the best protection and is still available through our regular Thursday 1:30-4:00 pm clinics.

For further details and statistics please see the report below.

Cheers,

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**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report
March 02, 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

For the week of February 16 to March 1, 2011, seven new confirmed cases of influenza A and two new confirmed cases of influenza B were reported. Three of these cases were related to an institutional outbreak which was declared in the previous week.

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of February 13 to 19, 2011, 295 new confirmed cases of influenza were reported in Ontario, compared to 433 in the previous week.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) was also identified as having the highest percent positivity (11.45%).

Influenza Subtypes

The Public Health Agency of Canada tested a total of 6,143 isolates for the current reporting week. 1,037 isolates tested positive for influenza A and 113 isolates tested positive for influenza B. Of the reported influenza A isolates, 346 (33.4%) isolates were from Ontario and of the influenza B isolates, 29 (25.7%) were from Ontario.

Antigenic Characterization (National)

Since September 1, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized 297 influenza viruses (164 H3N2, 58 H1N1 and 75 B viruses) that were received from Canadian laboratories. A total of 74/75 influenza B viruses characterized were antigenically related to B/Brisbane/60/08 (Victoria lineage), which is the recommended influenza B component for the 2010-11 influenza vaccine

Outbreak Status

For the reporting period, one new respiratory outbreak, identified as coronavirus was declared in Elgin County.

Provincially, seven new institutional influenza A outbreaks were reported between February 13 and 19, 2011.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).	Increasing	There were 819 visits to the ER for the week of February 13 to February 19. 154 (18.8%) had symptoms of FRI. For the week of February 20 to 26, there were a total of 823 visits. 206 (25%) had symptoms of FRI.
Absence reports from schools	Increasing	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 1.9% to 11.6% for the week of February 21-25; however more schools reported an absenteeism rate of more than 10%.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	Similar	For the week of February 16 to March 1, Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Slightly Increasing	There were seven new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A and two new confirmed cases of influenza B in Elgin County.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Decreasing	There was one new respiratory outbreak declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	Decreasing	Four of the seven cases of influenza A and both influenza B cases were hospitalized.
Deaths	None Reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza.
OVERALL	Slightly increasing	KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas has slightly increased compared to the previous reporting period.

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.