



Influenza Surveillance Report
November 30, 2011

***Elgin St. Thomas Public Health will be sending a biweekly update on influenza activity and respiratory illnesses.
This is the first issue of the surveillance report for the 2011/2012 season.***

Hi Everyone,

Please find attached our First Influenza Surveillance Report. Although we do not have any confirmed cases yet, the general activity of respiratory illness seems to be increasing. We have few confirmed cases of influenza in other jurisdictions. There are currently three respiratory outbreaks in Long-term care facilities, one being identified as Parainfluenza. The predominant viruses causing respiratory illness are rhino/enterovirus and adenovirus across the province. Further details are provided.

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 for the week of November 23 to November 29, 2011 in Elgin St. Thomas.

For the week of November 13 to November 19, 2011, influenza across Ontario remained low, with only one new laboratory confirmed case of influenza B reported by Toronto Public Health. As of September 1, 2011, there have been a total of three laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A and one case of influenza B in Ontario.

Community Influenza Clinics

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health provided 10 community influenza clinics in preparation for the 2011-2012 influenza season, beginning on October 18, 2011 and concluding on Saturday, November 26. A total of 4558 people were vaccinated between October 18th and November 26.

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 three new respiratory outbreaks declared in Elgin St. Thomas between November 23rd and November 29th, 2011. To date, one outbreak has been identified as parainfluenza.

In Ontario, between November 13th and 19th, 2011 there were no new institutional outbreaks of influenza reported; however, there were two new institutional outbreaks of respiratory illness identified, including one confirmed parainfluenza outbreak.



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

Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness)		Data currently not available.
Absence reports from schools	Increasing	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 3.51% to 18.11% for the week of November 21 to November 25.
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.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Increasing	There were three new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	None reported	There were no new hospitalizations due to influenza.
Deaths	None reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza since the beginning of the 2011/2012 influenza season.
OVERALL		Key Findings: There is currently no reported influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas; however, there has been an increase in respiratory illness.

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.