



Influenza Surveillance Report January 11, 2012

Elgin St. Thomas Public Health will be sending a biweekly update on influenza activity and respiratory illnesses. An additional report has been created for this week.

Hi Everyone,

This is the fourth report of this season. There is no influenza activity in Elgin but there are 15 new influenza cases reported since last reporting period. There are also no new respiratory outbreaks in the Elgin County since last report and we have total of 10 respiratory outbreaks since the start of season in late September. Further details are provided below.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noor Muhammad', with a horizontal line underneath.

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



Current Influenza Activity

There have been no reported cases of influenza for the week of January 4, 2012 to January 10, 2012 in Elgin St. Thomas.

For the week of December 18 to December 31, 15 new influenza cases were reported in Ontario. There were six hospitalized cases and no deaths reported. To date, a total of 47 cases have been reported for the 2011/2012 season. Compared to the same period in the 2010-2011 season, fewer cases and fewer influenza outbreaks were reported this season from September 1 to December 31.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continued to have the highest percent positivity at 19.7%

In Canada, for the week of December 25 to December 31, influenza activity was reported to be increasing in some regions but remained low in most areas of the country. 73 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza were reported (42 A/H3, 1 A(H1N1)pdm09, 15 A unsubtype and 15 B).

Since the start of the season, the National Microbiology Laboratory has antigenically characterized 47 influenza viruses (26 A/H3N2, 6 A/H1N1 and 15 B). All 26 A/H3N2 viruses are antigenically related to A/Perth/16/2009. All 6 A/H1N1 viruses are antigenically related to A/California/07/2009 and seven of the influenza B viruses characterized are antigenically related to the vaccine strain B/Brisbane/60/2008 (Victoria lineage). The other 8 influenza B viruses are antigenically related to the reference virus B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like, which belongs to the Yamagata lineage.

Outbreak Status

There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared in Elgin St. Thomas between January 4th and January 10th.

In Ontario between December 18 and 31, no new institutional influenza outbreaks were reported; however there were twelve new institutional respiratory infection outbreaks reported.



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)	Increasing	A total of 714 people were screened for FRI between January 1 st and January 7 th . 19% showed signs of illness, an increase from 15% the previous week. This was the highest proportion of illness so far this influenza season.
Absence reports from schools	Data unavailable	There was no student absenteeism data available for the week of January 4 th to January 10 th .
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	Decreasing	There were no 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 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.