



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like overall activity has been similar in the weeks following the last report. Influenza A (sub-type H3N2) continues to be the dominant strain. It is a component of this season's flu vaccine. Also Respiratory Syncytial Virus is one of the common respiratory viruses identified in lab reports.

We will continue to provide the influenza vaccine at our weekly Thursday clinics between 1:30-4:00 p.m. For further details and stats please see below.

Cheers,

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Manager, Health Protection (Infectious Diseases)



**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report  
March 16, 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 – Elgin County**

For the week of March 2 to 15, 2011, four new confirmed cases of influenza A and one confirmed case of influenza B were reported. Since September 1<sup>st</sup> to present, there have been a total of 35 influenza A and three influenza B cases in Elgin County.

**Influenza in Ontario**

For the week of February 27 to March 5, 2011, 186 new confirmed cases of influenza were reported, compared to 225 cases reported in the previous week.

The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza A in Ontario was 10.5% for the current week.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) continued to have the highest percent positivity at 13.93%.

**Antigenic Characterization (Provincial)**

Since September 1, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized the following strains from Ontario: 71 influenza A /Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2), 35 influenza A/California/7/2009, 69 influenza B/Brisbane/60/2008-like and 6 B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like.

**Antiviral Resistance and Sensitivity (Provincial)**

*Amantadine:*

Of the 123 H3N2 and 38 pandemic H1N1 isolates tested, 122 influenza A (H3N2) isolates and all of the pandemic H1N1 isolates were resistant to amantadine.

*Oseltamivir:*

Of the 58 H3N2, 64 influenza B and 35 pandemic H1N1 isolates tested, all influenza A (H3N2), influenza B and 34 pandemic H1N1 isolates were sensitive to oseltamivir and one pandemic H1N1 isolate was resistant.

**Outbreak Status**

Between March 2 and March 15, 2011, two new respiratory outbreaks, with one identified as coronavirus were declared in Elgin County.

Provincially, four new institutional influenza A outbreaks were reported.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
<b>Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).</b>	Similar	There were 785 visits to the ER for the week of February 27 to March 5. 163 (20.8%) had symptoms of FRI. For the week of March 6 to 12, there were a total of 773 visits. 151 (19.5%) had symptoms of FRI.
<b>Absence reports from schools</b>	Slightly Increasing	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 1.9% to 12.4% for the week of March 7 to March 11. Six schools reported an absenteeism rate of more than 10%.
<b>Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls</b>	Similar	For the current reporting week, Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
<b>Lab-confirmed cases</b>	Decreasing	There were four new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A and one new confirmed case of influenza B.
<b>Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks</b>	Slightly increasing	There were two new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period. Since September 1 <sup>st</sup> , there have been five influenza A outbreaks declared in institutions.
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	Decreasing	One of the five confirmed cases of influenza was hospitalized.
<b>Deaths</b>	None Reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza.
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>Similar</b>	<b>KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas was similar this reporting period compared with the previous report.</b>

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.