



**Influenza Surveillance Report
March 7, 2012**

Biweekly updates on influenza activity and respiratory illness can be found on our website at <http://www.elginhealth.on.ca/>

Greetings,

This is the eighth report of the 2011-2012 influenza surveillance season and we have had one confirmed case of influenza in Elgin St. Thomas. However, provincially there has been influenza activity with 170 new cases reported for the week of February 19th to February 25th, 2012. Please see the attached Influenza Surveillance report for further details.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laura McLachlin'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laura McLachlin
Director of Health Protection

ESTPH Influenza Surveillance Report

February 19 to March 6, 2012

Local Influenza Activity

For the week of March 1 to March 6, one new confirmed case of influenza A was reported to the Elgin St. Thomas Public Health.

Provincial Influenza Activity

In Ontario, for the week of February 19 to February 25, 170 new influenza cases were reported.

Two deaths were reported for this reporting period and among influenza cases that have been hospitalized, 36.2% (67/185) were children under 5 years old and 24.9% (46/185) were in adults over the age of 65.

The majority of influenza cases reported for the 2011-2012 season to date were subtyped as influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 (115 cases) or influenza B (394 cases), which together account for 75.1% (509/678) of cases this season.

Compared to the same period in the 2010-2011 season, fewer influenza cases and outbreaks have been reported this season from September 1, 2011 to February 25, 2012.¹

National Influenza Activity

Influenza activity in Canada has slightly increased compared to the previous week.

The proportion of positive influenza tests continued to increase and was 13.8% (537/3,886) for this reporting period. Of the 537 positive influenza detections this week, 59.6% (320/537) were positive for influenza A and 40.4% (217/537) were positive for influenza B. To date this season, the provinces with the highest proportion of influenza B detections compared to influenza A detections include: ON & the Atlantic provinces.²

To date, strain characterization of influenza isolates in Ontario and Canada has demonstrated a generally good match with this season's influenza vaccine.

Outbreak Status

There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared in Elgin St. Thomas for this reporting period.

Four new institutional respiratory outbreaks were reported between February 19 and February 25, including one influenza A outbreak and two influenza B outbreaks. 21 institutional outbreaks have been reported to date this season.¹

¹ Ontario Influenza Bulletin, <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/flubulletin.html>

² Public Health Agency of Canada, FluWatch, <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>

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

Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness)	Increasing	Between February 19 th and February 25 th , 2012, 24% of people screened for FRI at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital showed signs of illness. Between February 26 th and March 3 rd , 27% showed signs of illness. There has been an increase in reported FRI symptoms over the reporting period. This is the highest proportion of positive FRI screenings so far this season.
Absence reports from schools	Similar	The average student absenteeism for the week of February 21 st to February 24 th ranged from 3.9% up to 11.2% and for February 27 th to March 2 nd absenteeism ranged from 3.1% to 13.2%. Overall, student absenteeism was similar to the previous reporting period.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	None reported	Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Increasing	There was one new laboratory confirmed case of influenza A in Elgin St. Thomas.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Decreasing	There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	None reported	There were no hospitalizations due to influenza in Elgin St. Thomas.
Deaths	None reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza in Elgin St. Thomas.
OVERALL	Increasing	Key Findings: Overall, influenza activity was slightly higher for this reporting period.

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.