



**Influenza Surveillance Report
February 9, 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 sixth report of the 2011-2012 influenza surveillance season and we continue to have no confirmed cases of influenza in Elgin St. Thomas. However, provincially there has been influenza activity with 38 new cases reported for the week of January 22nd to January 29th, 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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura McLachlin
Director of Health Protection

ESTPH Influenza Surveillance Report

January 25 to January 31, 2012

Local Influenza Activity

There have been no reported cases of influenza in St. Thomas and Elgin County for the week of January 25, 2012 to January 31, 2012.

Provincial Influenza Activity

In Ontario, for the week of January 22 to January 29, 2012 there were 38 new cases of influenza reported, which was similar to the number of new cases reported in the previous week. There were 9 hospitalizations and one death reported in the province. To date, there have been a total of 191 cases of influenza reported overall for the 2011-2012 season. The majority of the cases that have been reported to date were subtyped as influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 (55 cases) or influenza B (72 cases), together these two subtypes accounted for 66.5% (127/191) of all influenza cases reported this season.¹

The majority of influenza cases reported have been in children under the age of 5 (67 cases) and in adults aged 65 years and older (38 cases), which together accounted for 55.0% (105/191) of all cases reported to date.¹

National Influenza Activity

In Canada, for the week of January 22 to January 28, 2012, influenza activity showed an increase in more regions across the country compared to previous weeks. There were 7 surveillance regions (within AB, SK & ON) that reported localized influenza activity while 17 regions (within BC, AB, MB, QC, NB & NL) reported sporadic activity. Overall in the previous week there were 178 laboratory detected cases of influenza reported (65 A/H3, 27 A (H1N1) pdm09, 43 A untyped and 43 B).²

Since the start of the influenza season, the National Microbiology Laboratory has antigenically characterized 150 influenza viruses (47 A/H3N2, 37 A/H1N1 and 66 B). All 47 A/H3N2 viruses (from BC, AB, SK, QC & ON) are antigenically related to A/Perth/16/2009. All 37 A/H1N1 viruses (from QC & ON) are antigenically related to A/California/07/2009. Forty of the 66 influenza B viruses characterized (from BC, AB, ON, QC & NL) are antigenically related to the vaccine strain B/Brisbane/60/2008 (Victoria lineage). The other 26 influenza B viruses (from BC, AB, ON, QC & NL) are antigenically related to the reference virus B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like, which belongs to the Yamagata lineage.²

Outbreak Status

There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared in Elgin St. Thomas.

In Ontario, there were 5 new institutional respiratory outbreaks reported in the past week. Two of these new outbreaks were institutional influenza outbreaks. Overall there have been 7 institutional influenza outbreaks reported in Ontario so far this influenza 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)	Decreasing	Between January 22 nd and January 28 th , 2012, 14% of people screened for FRI at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital showed signs of illness. This is a decrease from the previous reporting period where 17% of people screened had signs of illness.
Absence reports from schools	Increasing	The average student absenteeism for the week of January 23 rd to January 27 th ranged from 4.2% up to 11.4%. This represents a slight increase over the past week.
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 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	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.