



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like activity has increased in the week after the last report. Influenza A (sub-type H₃N₂) seems to be the dominant strain. It is a component of this season's flu vaccine.

At Elgin St. Thomas Public Health we are seeing an increase in demand for influenza vaccinations developing from the public due to recent media coverage of increasing influenza cases in the community and deaths from influenza complications in the London area. As you know we provide a weekly community immunization clinic, every Thursday from 1:30 to 4:00 pm which continues to provide influenza vaccinations at these clinics. Keeping in view the demand and to accommodate some shift workers our Clinic times are extended for next three clinics on January 20th, 27th, and February 3rd from 11a.m. to 7p.m. On our request Yurek Pharmacy will also be doing a walk-in flu clinic on Thursday Jan20th during business hrs. We have also sent a fax out to our Health Care Providers asking for their demand and willingness to run some extra clinics. For further details and stats please see below.

Cheers,

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



**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report
January 19, 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

Influenza activity continued to increase in Elgin County for the week of January 5 to January 18, 2011. Eight new confirmed cases of influenza A were reported during this period.

The Health Unit will be providing three extended influenza clinics at 99 Edward St. on January 20, January 27 and February 3, 2011 (All Thursdays) from 11am to 7pm.

These are the regular weekly clinics which are extended for next three weeks to accommodate increase demand. All health care providers are reminded to strongly consider vaccination as we continue to see increased influenza activity locally and provincially.

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of January 2 to January 8, 2011, 720 new confirmed cases of influenza A were reported in Ontario, compared to 336 cases in the previous week.

Since September 1, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized the following strains from Ontario: 42 influenza A /Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2), 13 influenza A/California/7/2009 and 13 influenza B/Brisbane/60/2008-like.

Outbreak Status

For the reporting period, no new respiratory outbreaks were declared in Elgin County.

Provincially, 19 new institutional influenza A outbreaks were reported between January 2 and January 8, 2011.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).	Increasing Decreasing	There were 789 people who visited the ER for the week of January 2 to January 8, 2011. 135 or 20.64% had symptoms of FRI. For the week of January 9 to January 15, there were a total of 726 visits. 103 or 16.54% had symptoms of FRI.
Absence reports from schools	Slightly increasing	The average for student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 1.9% to 15.4% for the week of January 10 to January 14, 2011.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	Similar	Elgin St. Thomas is not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Increasing	There were 8 new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Decreasing	There were no respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	Increasing	All 8 cases of influenza A were hospitalized.
Deaths	None reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza.
OVERALL	Increasing	KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas has increased compared to previous weeks.

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.