



**Influenza Surveillance Report  
January 25, 2012**

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

Hi Everyone,

This is the fifth report of this season, with no confirmed influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas. However, provincially influenza activity is reported with 33 new cases for week of Jan8, 2012. The other identified circulating viruses are Parainfluenza, RSV and coronaviruses. Further details are provided below.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noor Muhammad', is written over a light blue brushstroke background.

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



### **Local Influenza Activity**

There have been no reported cases of influenza for the week of January 18, 2012 to January 24, 2012 in Elgin St. Thomas.

### **Provincial Influenza Activity**

For the week of January 8 to January 14, 33 new influenza cases were reported in Ontario. There were 13 hospitalized cases and no deaths reported. To date, there have been a total of 111 cases for the 2011/2012 season. The majority of influenza cases reported to date were subtyped as influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 (29 cases) or influenza B (42 cases), which together account for 64.0% (71/111) of cases this season.

The majority of influenza cases this season have been children under the age of 5 (43 cases) and adults 65 years of age and older (22 cases), which together account for 58.6% (65/111) of cases reported to date.

### **National Influenza Activity**

In Canada, for the week of January 8 to January 14, influenza activity was increasing in more regions across the country. 134 laboratory detections of influenza were reported (73 A/H3, 9 A (H1N1) pdm09, 14 A untyped and 38 B).

Since the start of the season, the National Microbiology Laboratory has antigenically characterized 89 influenza viruses (35 A/H3N2, 19 A/H1N1 and 35 B). All 35 A/H3N2 viruses (from BC, AB, SK & ON) are antigenically related to A/Perth/16/2009. All 19 A/H1N1 viruses (from QC & ON) are antigenically related to A/California/07/2009. Fourteen of the influenza B viruses characterized (from BC, AB, ON, QC & NB) are antigenically related to the vaccine strain B/Brisbane/60/2008 (Victoria lineage). The other 21 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.

### **Outbreak Status**

There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared in Elgin St. Thomas between January 18<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup> compared to three respiratory outbreaks declared in the previous reporting period.

In Ontario, one institutional influenza outbreak was reported. Nine new institutional respiratory outbreaks, including 2 RSV outbreaks were also reported.



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

Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
<b>Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness)</b>	Decreasing	Between January 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 and January 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2012, 14% of people screened for FRI showed signs of illness and from January 15 <sup>th</sup> to the 21 <sup>st</sup> this proportion was 17%. This is an overall decrease from the previous reporting period where 19% of people screened had signs of illness which remains the highest proportion of illness so far this influenza season.
<b>Absence reports from schools</b>	Increasing	The average student absenteeism for the week of January 9 <sup>th</sup> to January 13 <sup>th</sup> ranged from 3.6% up to 9.2%. From January 16 <sup>th</sup> to the 19 <sup>th</sup> absenteeism ranged from 3.4% up to 12.9%. Average showed a slight increase over the past two weeks.
<b>Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls</b>	None reported	Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
<b>Lab-confirmed cases</b>	None reported	There were no new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza.
<b>Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks</b>	Decreasing	There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	None reported	There were no new hospitalizations due to influenza.
<b>Deaths</b>	None reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza in Elgin St. Thomas.
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>No Activity</b>	<b>Key Findings: There is currently no confirmed influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas.</b>

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.