



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like overall activity has increased 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.

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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**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report
February 16, 2011**

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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

For the week of February 2 to February 15, 2011, eight new confirmed cases of influenza A were reported. Three of these cases were related to institutional outbreaks.

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of January 30 to February 5, 2011, 424 new confirmed cases of influenza were reported in Ontario, compared to 475 in the previous week. The percent positivity of laboratory tests for influenza A in Ontario was 16.5%

Of the 6,709 results of isolate received by the Public Health Agency of Canada, 1,191 isolates tested positive for influenza A and 100 isolates tested positive for influenza B. A total of 50/51 influenza B viruses characterized were antigenically related to B/Brisbane/60/08 (Victoria lineage), which is the recommended influenza B component for the 2010-11 influenza vaccine.

Antiviral Resistance

Of the 41 H3N2, 34 influenza B and 18 pandemic H1N1 isolates tested, all influenza A (H3N2), influenza B and pandemic H1N1 isolates were sensitive to oseltamivir.

Outbreak Status

For the reporting period, two new influenza A outbreaks and one respiratory outbreak (pathogen unknown) were declared in Elgin County.

Provincially, 12 new institutional influenza A outbreaks were reported between January 30 and February 5, 2011.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).	Increasing Slightly increasing	There were 695 visits to the ER for the week of January 30 to February 5. 137 or 19.71% had symptoms of FRI. For the week of February 6 to 12, there were a total of 775 visits. 126 or 16.26% had symptoms of FRI.
Absence reports from schools	Slightly Increasing	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 2.2% to 13.6% for the week of February 7 to 11.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	Decreasing	For the week of February 2 to 15, Elgin St. Thomas was not included in ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Increasing	There were eight new laboratory confirmed cases of influenza A in Elgin County.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Increasing	There were three respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	Increasing	Five of the eight 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.