



Hi Everyone,

Please find our Influenza Surveillance Report below. It seems like overall activity is decreasing in the weeks following the last report. Influenza B is also being increasingly identified where as RSV continues to have higher percent positivity in labs.

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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Manager, Health Protection (Infectious Diseases)



**2010/2011 Influenza Surveillance Report
March 31, 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

For the week of March 16 to March 29, 2011, one new confirmed case of influenza B was reported to the Health Unit.

Influenza in Ontario

For the week of March 13 to March 19, 2011, 120 new confirmed cases of influenza were reported, compared to 147 cases reported in the previous week. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) continued to have the highest percent positivity at 14.86%.

Antigenic Characterization (Provincial)

Since September 1, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized the following strains from Ontario: 71 influenza A /Perth/16/2009-like (H3N2), 39 influenza A/California/7/2009, 83 influenza B/Brisbane/60/2008-like and 8 B/Wisconsin/01/2010-like.

Antigenic Characterization (National):

Since September 1, 2010, the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) has antigenically characterized 435 influenza viruses (202 H3N2, 90 H1N1 and 143 B viruses) that were received from Canadian laboratories.

Hospitalizations and deaths among laboratory confirmed influenza cases.

As of March 19, 2011, 1971 hospitalizations and 178 deaths have been reported among lab confirmed influenza cases reported in Ontario for the 2010-2011 season. The highest rates of death have been seen in people 65 years of age and older.

Outbreak Status

Between March 16 and March 29, 2011, no new respiratory outbreaks were declared in Elgin County. Provincially, two new institutional influenza A outbreaks were reported.



Measure	Compared to Previous Week	Explanation
Hospital emergency room visits (with Febrile Respiratory Illness).	Slightly decreasing	There were 816 visits to the ER for the week of March 13 to 19. 148 (18.1%) had symptoms of FRI. For the week of March 20 to 26, there were a total of 746 visits. 114 (15.3%) had symptoms of FRI.
Absence reports from schools	Slightly decreasing	The average student absenteeism for all causes ranged from 1.6% to 11.7% for the week of March 21 to March 25.
Telehealth Respiratory Syndrome Calls	None Reported	For the current reporting week, Elgin St. Thomas was not included in any ILI clusters reported by Telehealth.
Lab-confirmed cases	Decreasing	There was one new laboratory confirmed case of influenza B.
Long-Term Care Home Outbreaks	Decreasing	There were no new respiratory outbreaks declared for this reporting period.
Hospitalizations	Decreasing	There was one new hospitalization due to influenza
Deaths	None Reported	There have been no reported deaths associated with influenza.
OVERALL	Decreasing	KEY FINDINGS: Overall influenza activity in Elgin St. Thomas is decreasing.

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.