

Week 15: April 8-14, 2018

MEASURE	ASSESSMENT COMPARED TO PREVIOUS WEEK	EXPLANATION
OVERALL ASSESSMENT	There is localized influenza activity in Oxford County	Indicators of influenza in Oxford County are lower than and in Ontario are similar to the previous week.
Influenza activity in surrounding public health units (PHUs)- (previous week) ¹	LOWER	For the week of April 1-7, 2018, three PHUs had localized, two had sporadic and one had no influenza activity. This is lower than the previous week, when five PHUs had localized activity and one PHU had sporadic activity.
Laboratory confirmed influenza cases ^{2, 3}	LOWER	One new laboratory-confirmed influenza case (one influenza A) was reported for the week of April 8-14, 2018. This is lower than the previous week, when three new laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were reported (two influenza A and one influenza B). A total of 123 influenza cases have been reported since surveillance began on August 27, 2017.
Respiratory illness outbreaks due to influenza	SIMILAR	No new influenza outbreaks were declared in health care facilities from April 8-14, 2018. This is the same as the previous week, when no new influenza outbreaks were declared in health care facilities. There have been 20 influenza outbreaks (six influenza A, two influenza A & B, and 12 influenza B) reported in health care facilities since surveillance began on August 27, 2017.

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MEASURE	ASSESSMENT COMPARED TO PREVIOUS WEEK	EXPLANATION
Hospital emergency room reports of patients with fever and respiratory illness	SIMILAR	For the week of April 8-14, 2018, 6.3% of patients visiting emergency rooms had a fever and respiratory illness. This is similar to the previous week, when 5.9% of patients visiting emergency rooms had a fever and respiratory illness.
School absenteeism (number of schools with all cause absences >10%) ⁴	LOWER	For the school week of April 9-13, 2018, 16 schools had high absenteeism, which was much lower than the previous week, when 24 schools had high absenteeism.

OTHER RESPIRATORY VIRUS ACTIVITY MEASURES	EXPLANATION
Respiratory illness outbreaks due to non-influenza viruses ²	No new health care facility outbreaks due to a non-influenza respiratory virus were reported for the week of April 8-14, 2018. Since August 27, 2017, there have been a total of 10 non-influenza respiratory virus outbreaks reported in health care facilities.

Notes:

1. Source: Ontario Respiratory Pathogens Bulletin: Week 14. Reporting is one week behind the current week.
<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>
2. Numbers may change week by week due to retrospective reporting methods.
3. Surveillance practices and laboratory testing methods have changed this season. This may result in lower case counts and these are not comparable to previous years.
4. Includes only elementary and secondary schools in the Thames Valley District School Board within Oxford County.

Oxford County Public Health is thankful to the following community partners for providing data for this Influenza Activity Report:

- The London Health Sciences Centre
- Thames Valley District School Board