

First Lab-Confirmed Influenza (A) Case in the Simcoe Muskoka Area

Attention: Physicians, Long-Term Care Facilities, Rest & Retirement Homes, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Occupational Health Professionals, Neighbouring Health Units, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services, Medavie EMS Ontario – Muskoka, Rama Mnjikaning EMS, CLHIN, NSMLHIN

Date: November 21, 2016

The Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratory has reported Simcoe Muskoka's first locally-acquired lab confirmed case of Influenza A for the 2016-2017 season. The sample was submitted as part of an individual case investigation in the Bracebridge area.

Influenza activity has been detected in most of Ontario which is typical for this time of year. The health unit will continue to analyze surveillance data and provide updates as necessary.

The following is an update of the influenza activity in Ontario and Canada:

Ontario:

- As of November 5, 2016 (Week 44) a total of 87 cases have been detected in Ontario. Of these cases, 87.4% were influenza A. Of the 45 reported influenza A cases with subtype information available, 95.6% were H3N2 and 4.4% were H1N1.

Canada:

- Influenza activity is at interseasonal levels with the majority of regions across Canada reporting low activity.
- Influenza A (H3N2) continues to be the most common subtype detected.
- In week 44, 1.4% of visits to sentinel health care providers were due to influenza-like symptoms, a slight increase from the previous week.

This year's trivalent influenza vaccines for the 2016-2017 influenza season (northern hemisphere winter), contain the following and appear to be a good match based on what strains we are seeing to date:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- an A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

All lab-confirmed influenza cases and institutional respiratory outbreaks are reportable to public health to ensure timely follow-up. For additional information or to report influenza cases and respiratory outbreaks, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Communicable Disease Team at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 extension 8809.

Additional Information on Influenza

1. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Influenza information can be accessed at:
<http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Immunization/flu.aspx>
2. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Weekly Influenza News
<http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/SeasonalInfluenza/Surveillance.aspx>
3. Public Health Agency of Canada, Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
4. NACI Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2016-17 season can be accessed at:
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/flu-2016-grippe-eng.php>
5. Public Health Ontario now issues the Ontario Respiratory Virus Bulletin which can be accessed at:
<http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/SurveillanceServices/Pages/Ontario-Respiratory-Virus-Bulletin.aspx>