

## First Lab-Confirmed Influenza (B) Case in 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

**Date:** September 29, 2014

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The Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratory has reported Simcoe Muskoka's first locally-acquired lab confirmed case of Influenza B for the 2014-2015 season. The sample was submitted as part of a respiratory outbreak investigation in a long-term care home in the Midland area.

Influenza activity has not been detected in most of Ontario which is typical for this time of year. A total of five cases have been detected in Ontario from September 1 to September 20, 2014 (Hamilton, Toronto, Grey-Bruce and York Region). There has also been an increase in respiratory syndrome visits to a number of hospitals in Simcoe Muskoka in the last couple of weeks, more so than previous years. This first case in Midland does not necessarily indicate an early start to the influenza season. 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:**

- There have been five lab confirmed cases from September 1 to September 20, 2014. Four are influenza A and one is influenza B. Three influenza A samples have been subtyped as H3.

**Canada:**

- The national influenza-like-illness (ILI) consultation rate increased from 12.3 per 1,000 in week 36 (August 31 to September 6, 2014) to 20.1 per 1,000 in week 38 (September 14 to September 20, 2014). The rates since mid-June have been above the expected range for this time of year. There have been 44 lab confirmed cases across Canada, from August 24 to September 20, 2014. 33 (75.0%) are influenza A and 11 (25.0%) are influenza B. 15 Influenza A samples have been subtyped as H3 (45.5%).

A limited supply of Influenza vaccine can now be ordered from the health unit for high risk clients which include:

- People at high risk of influenza-related complications or hospitalization
- People capable of transmitting influenza to those at high risk
- People who provide essential community services.
- People in direct contact during culling operations with poultry infected with avian influenza

More detailed information about this year's Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) and influenza vaccine will be sent soon in our annual UIIP HealthFAX.

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. Public Health Agency of Canada, Issues of FluWatch can be accessed at:  
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/index-eng.php>
3. NACI Statement on Influenza Vaccination for the 2014-2015 season can be accessed at:  
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/flu-grippe-eng.php>
4. 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>