This report summarizes information on influenza in the community and acute care in Ottawa and the rest of the province. It also includes information about respiratory outbreaks in institutions such as long term care, retirement homes and acute care.

**Table 1: Respiratory Highlights**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab-confirmed cases (Ottawa residents only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similar to last week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term care, Retirement Home, and Hospital Influenza Outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similar to last week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa emergency room visit trends for influenza like illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher than last week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Ontario update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, the indicators show that influenza activity for week 48 was similar to week 47.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPH Influenza activity level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporadic activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data are as of 4 pm, December 16, 2015**

1. Lab confirmed cases

**Table 2: Age distribution and hospitalizations of lab-confirmed Ottawa cases of influenza**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>2015-2016 Season to date cases</th>
<th>Proportion of total lab-confirmed cases (%)</th>
<th>Incidence per 100,000</th>
<th>2015-2016 Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Age-specific hospitalization proportion (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 64</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: iPHIS, MOHLTC, extracted by Ottawa Public Health on December 17, 2015
Figure 1: Number of reported laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by episode week and age group, Ottawa residents, September 1, 2015 (week 35) to December 16, 2015 (week 50) and historical trends

Data source: iPHIS, MOHLTC, extracted by Ottawa Public Health on December 17, 2015

2. Respiratory Institutional Outbreaks

No influenza outbreaks were declared this week.

Figure 2: Respiratory Outbreaks, LTC, Acute Care, And Retirement Homes, Current Season (2015-2016), Ottawa and three year mean

Data source: iPHIS, MOHLTC, extracted by Ottawa Public Health on December 17, 2015

3. Ottawa emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI)

OPH has access to two syndromic surveillance systems which monitor the reasons for visits to the emergency room at local hospitals.
The first, the Advanced Syndromic Surveillance and Emergency Triage (ASSET) system, monitors the reason for visits based on presenting symptoms to all emergency rooms in Ottawa and detailed information is available to OPH.

The second, Acute Care Enhanced Surveillance (ACES), is supported by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and based at KFL&A Public Health. Detailed ILI reports are available at the KFL&A Public Health website (English only).

An ‘influenza-like illness’ or ILI is a possible diagnosis of influenza based on a set of common symptoms: fever, chills, body aches, coughing, shortness of breath or gastrointestinal complaints for those under 5. These counts do not represent diagnosed cases of influenza because cases may have symptoms due to other conditions. Because syndrome visits are coded from presenting complaints, ILI syndrome visit counts are not specific to ILI and may be due to other causes. This means the ILI syndrome counts will be higher than the number of visits that are genuinely due to ILI.

**Figure 3: Ottawa emergency department influenza-like illness cases with 30 day moving average and alerts**

** Alerts are caused by increases in the number of cases in the past 30 days (cumulative sum (CUSUM) algorithm) or 120 days (recursive least squares (RLS) algorithm)

The most recent Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin can be viewed at the following site: PHO Update