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Addendum: Board of Health Meeting

Meeting # 08-25

Thursday, November 20, 2025

1:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Public Health Sudbury & Districts

ADDENDUM – EIGHTH MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH
NOVEMBER 20, 2025

7.0 ADDENDUM

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

i) Respiratory Virus Season: Influenza and RSV Increase is Accelerating

- Briefing Note from Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer dated November 20, 2025

Briefing Note

To: Board of Health

From: M. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Date: November 20, 2025

Re: Update on Respiratory Virus Season: Influenza and RSV Increase is Accelerating

☒ For Information

☐ For Discussion

☐ For a Decision

Issue:

Subsequent to distribution of the Board of Health agenda package, which included a Respiratory Virus Season update within the Medical Officer of Health report, we have received new data that shows Influenza A and RSV increasing more rapidly. This likely means that both these infections will be prevalent during the holiday season, and a source of significant illness. This is of particular concern given signals that the influenza virus this season is likely going to be more severe than usual.

Recommended Action:

Board members and Public Health staff should emphasize the importance of getting vaccinated as soon as possible to Influenza (all populations) and RSV (infants and seniors, if not already done so in a previous year). Respiratory viruses have been the #3 cause of death in 2025, and December is likely to be a more deadly month than usual given the increase in these viruses that we are seeing.

Other measures to prevent respiratory illness such as staying home from work/school if sick, wearing a well-fitting mask in crowded areas, ensuring HVAC systems are set to “On” rather than “Auto”, and updating filters in HVAC systems to MERV 13 or the highest acceptable are all recommended practices during this time.

Alternative Actions:

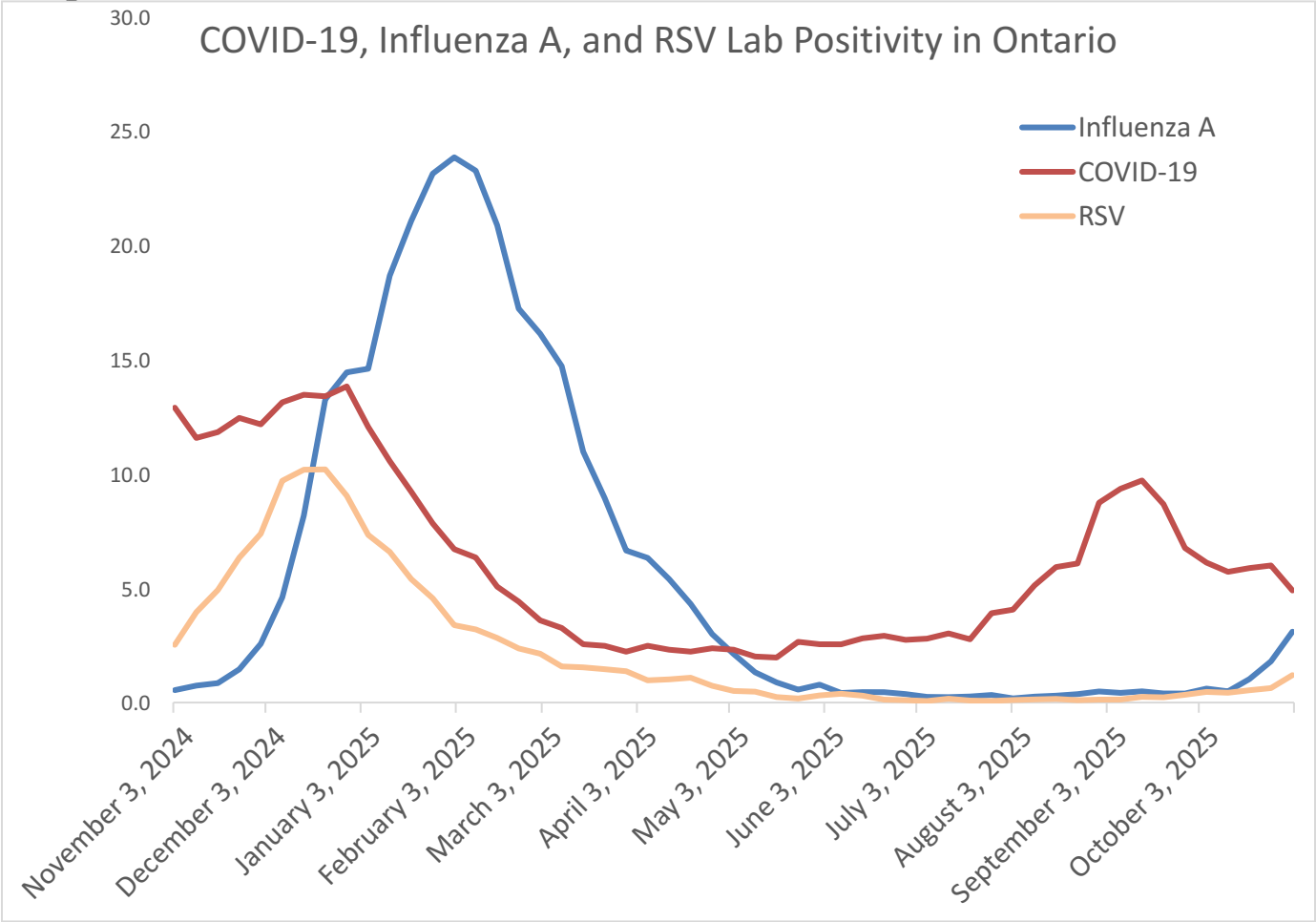
N/A

2024–2028 Strategic Priorities:

1. Equal opportunities for health
2. Impactful relationships
3. Excellence in public health practice
4. Healthy and resilient workforce

O: October 19, 2001
R: November 2025

Background:



Data from the [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool \(Public Health Ontario\)](#).

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to this briefing note.

IT team and IT infrastructure implications:

There are no IT implications to this briefing note.

Ontario Public Health Standard:

This information aligns with the Ontario Public Health Infectious Disease Standard.

Strategic Priority:

This briefing note is not aligned with any strategic priority.

Author:

M. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health & CEO

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O: October 19, 2001
R: February 2024