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Seasonality of influenza-attributable meningococcal disease in central Ontario, Canada: implications for targeting of influenza

Background: Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) is an important source of morbidity and mortality in children and adolescents. Seasonality of IMD is aligned with that of influenza, and we have identified a significant surge in IMD risk with elevated influenza incidence in Ontario in a recent publication (RR per 100 unit increase in influenza case activity = 1.18, 95% CI 1.05-1.32).
Methods: PAR
Results: PAR
Conclusions: Studies supporting a causal role for influenza A in the genesis of seasonal changes in meningococcal disease have important implications for the control of both diseases. Immunization of young age groups against influenza likely represents an under-recognized strategy for preventing IMD.