Virus WAtch

Week ending 07th June 2020

Key Points

Influenza and influenza-like illnesses (ILI)

- **Summary:** Indicators of influenza activity remain at interseasonal levels.
- After lower than usual activity early this year, ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs is now approaching levels usually seen at this time of year.
- There were no influenza notifications or laboratory detections from PathWest this week.
- Overall non-influenza activity remained low this week - the majority of detections were parainfluenza virus.

Gastroenteritis

- The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and sentinel EDs remained in the lower range of levels normally reported at this time of year.
- PathWest laboratory detections of norovirus were low in the past week, and rotavirus notifications remained at low levels.

Other vaccine-preventable diseases

- **Shingles and chickenpox:** Shingles presentations reported by sentinel GPs remained above baseline levels this week. Chickenpox activity at sentinel EDs rose above baseline level.
- **Measles:** No measles cases were notified in the past week.
- **Mumps:** No mumps cases were notified in the past week.
- **Rubella:** No rubella cases were notified in the past week.

Other diseases

- **Coronavirus COVID-19:** As of 11 June 2020, a total of 601 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in WA. See [webpage](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Infectious-disease-data/Virus-WAtch) for further information.
None of the routine PathWest influenza samples tested positive for the seventh week in a row. The single sample submitted for influenza testing by a sentinel GP tested negative. ILI activity at sentinel GPs increased this week to levels usually seen at this time of year.

The rate of ILI presentations to sentinel GPs in the past week is approaching levels usually reported during this time of year.
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Respiratory viral presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs increased for the fourth consecutive week and is approaching levels usually seen at this time of year.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs this week is approaching levels usually reported at this time of the year.

*The graph is a summary of presentations at Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) sites using the ICD codes B34.9 and J06.9 which are consistent with a clinical presentation of a viral illness. This data may differ from that presented in the Winter Respiratory Illness Report provided by the Information and System Performance Directorate.
Influenza notifications reported to the Department of Health in the past week remained below the seasonal threshold.

The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 01/06/2020 and 07/06/2020. The seasonal threshold defines a value above which may indicate epidemic seasonal influenza activity. The threshold value is calculated based on analysis of seasonal influenza data from the past four years.

The percentage of specimens positive for influenza virus at PathWest remains below levels usually reported at this time of year. None of the of 995 specimens submitted for influenza testing were positive for influenza in the past week.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples reported by PathWest, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.
There have been no positive influenza samples reported by PathWest in the past seven weeks.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for influenza reported at PathWest, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping. * These samples were tested using a rapid testing method that does not determine the influenza subtype (i.e. influenza A/H3N2 or A/H1N1).

Overall non-influenza activity remained low this week- the majority of detections were parainfluenza virus.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for a common respiratory virus other than influenza reported at PathWest.
The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs this week remains in the mid range of levels normally reported at this time of year.

Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs in the past week remained below baseline levels.

This graph is a summary of current EDIS data for gastroenteritis presentations and admissions. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations and admissions were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2015 to week 52, 2019.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains well below the range of values normally reported at this time of year.

**Viral rashes**

Shingles presentations reported by WA ASPREN GPs remained above baseline level for the third consecutive week.

Baseline levels for chickenpox and shingles presentations to WA ASPREN GPs per thousand consultations were calculated using the mean of weekly WA ASPREN data from week 1, 2015 to week 52, 2019.
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations.

**ED varicella-zoster virus presentations**

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Chickenpox presentations to sentinel EDs were above baseline level this week.

Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2015 to week 52, 2019.

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