Week ending 09th August 2020

Key Points
It is important to note that the influenza and ILI surveillance systems in WA have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore interpretation of 2020 influenza and ILI activity should be done with caution and needs to take into account the effects of changes in health seeking behaviour including accessing alternate health services such as telehealth, focused testing for COVID-19 at COVID-19 clinics or specific acute respiratory infection clinics and the impact of physical distancing measures.

Influenza and influenza-like illnesses (ILI).
- Summary: Indicators of influenza activity remain at or below interseasonal levels.
- ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs remains below levels usually seen at this time of year.
- There were no positive influenza samples reported by PathWest in the past week.
- Overall non-influenza activity remained low this week.

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: There was no shingles or chickenpox activity reported by sentinel GPs whereas shingles presentations at sentinel EDs were above baseline levels this week.
- 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.
- Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD): No IMD cases were notified in the past week.

Other diseases
- Coronavirus COVID-19: As of 06 August 2020, a total of 642* COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in WA. See webpage for further information.

*WA has changed the way cases of COVID-19 are reported, bringing WA reporting closer into line with other Australian jurisdictions. As of 1 August 2020, daily reporting will include only confirmed cases diagnosed by nose and throat swabs. See webpage for further information.
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses

The rate of ILI presentations to sentinel GPs in the past week increased sharply. This increase is due to a decrease in overall consultation numbers reported by ASPREN GPs and not due to increased ILI presentations. The single sample submitted for influenza testing by a sentinel GP this week was negative.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs increased this week, but remains below levels usually seen at this time of year.
The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remains below 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 03/08/2020 and 09/08/2020. 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 791 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.

No positive influenza samples were reported by PathWest in the past week.

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 graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for a common respiratory virus other than influenza reported at PathWest.

COVID-19 activity remains low in Western Australia.
No gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs were reported this week.

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**

There was no shingles or chickenpox activity reported by WA ASPREN GPs this 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.

Shingles presentations at sentinel EDs were above baseline levels 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.