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 EDs increased in the past week to the upper range of levels usually reported for this time of year. ILI activity at sentinel GPs remains below levels usually seen at this time of year.
- There were no positive influenza samples reported by PathWest in the past week.
- RSV detections increased again this week and are higher than usually reported at this time of year.

Gastroenteritis

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

Other vaccine-preventable diseases

- **Shingles and chickenpox**: Shingles presentations at sentinel GPs remained above baseline this week while presentations to sentinel EDs returned to below baseline levels. Chickenpox presentations at sentinel GPs and EDs were below baseline levels in the past 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 25 November 2020, a total of 810 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in WA. See [webpage](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Infectious-disease-data/Virus-WAtch) for further information.
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses

The rate of ILI presentations to sentinel GPs in the past week remains in the lower range of levels usually reported at this time of year. There were no samples submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs in the past week.

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

Respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs have increased over the week. Admissions to sentinel EDs remained steady.
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.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs is increased in the past week and was in the upper range of levels usually reported at this time of the year.

Influenza notifications reported to the Department of Health in the past week remain below the seasonal threshold. No influenza notifications were received by the Department of Health 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.

The percentage of specimens positive for influenza virus at PathWest remains below levels usually reported at this time of year. None of the 494 specimens submitted for influenza testing were positive for influenza 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).

No PCR positive influenza samples have been reported by PathWest since July.
The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for a common respiratory virus other than influenza reported at PathWest.

RSV detections increased again this week and are higher than usually reported at this time of year.

COVID-19 activity remains low in Western Australia. All recently reported cases were acquired overseas.
Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs are in the upper range of values usually reported at this time of year.

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.

Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs in the past week remain at or below baseline levels.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain well below the range of values normally reported at this time of year.

**Viral rashes**

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.

No chickenpox presentations were reported by sentinel GPs in the past four weeks. Shingles presentations remained above baseline levels.
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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Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2015 to week 52, 2019.

Chickenpox and shingles presentations at sentinel EDs were below baseline levels in the past week.