WEEK ENDING 7TH JANUARY 2018

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)
Summary: All indicators of influenza activity are at inter-seasonal levels.
- ILI presentations at sentinel GPs and EDs are fluctuating at low levels.
- PathWest laboratory detections and percent positivity continue to decrease. Only small numbers of influenza A and B viruses are currently being detected.
- Overall non-influenza respiratory virus activity remains low and stable.

GASTROENTERITIS
- Gastroenteritis activity at sentinel GPs and EDs is currently around or above expected levels for this time of year.
- Rotavirus activity increased slightly this week, whilst norovirus activity remains at moderate levels.

VARICELLA AND OTHER VACCINE-PREVENTABLE VIRAL DISEASES
- Shingles activity at both sentinel GPs and EDs was above baseline level this week, whilst chickenpox activity continues to fluctuate around baseline level.
- Rubella: no cases have been confirmed in WA since two imported cases in early April.
- Measles: one confirmed infection – the first since August 2017 - was reported in a traveller from Thailand. Perth residents might potentially have been exposed on the incoming Thai Airways Flight on 2nd January, at Perth Airport that morning, at several shopping areas in the northern suburbs between 2nd and 6th January, and at Joondalup Health Campus on 7th and 8th January.
- Mumps: two confirmed cases in elderly Perth residents were reported in the latter part of December, one acquired overseas. Two other suspect cases are currently under investigation.

Routine and sentinel influenza detections continue to decline, whilst ILI presentations reported by WA ASPREN sentinel GPs remain low. No samples were submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs this week.

The rate of ILI presentations to WA ASPREN sentinel GPs remains at interseasonal levels.
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

**Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions**

Respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs decreased further this week, whilst admissions remained stable.

**ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2014-2018**

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remains at interseasonal levels.
The number of influenza notifications received by the Department of Health is at interseasonal levels.

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 01/01/2018 and 07/01/2018. The seasonal threshold defines a value above which indicates epidemic seasonal influenza activity. The threshold value is calculated based on analysis of seasonal influenza data from the past eight years.

PathWest-QEI influenza percentage positive 2014-2018

The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza virus at PathWest continues to trend downwards. Of 154 specimens, 7 (5%) tested positive in the past week.

The graph is a summary of all WA routine and sentinel samples that have been processed by PathWest as of Wednesday 10th January 2018. This number does not include samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.
Seven routine samples were subtyped by PathWest during this reporting week; 3 (43%) influenza B; 3 (43%) influenza A/H3N2 and 1 (14%) influenza A/H1N1.

The graph is a summary of all WA routine samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest as of Wednesday 10th January 2018. This number does not include sentinel samples or samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.

Individual and overall non-influenza respiratory virus activity remains low.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs is currently in the higher range of values seen at this time of year.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2013 to week 52, 2017.

Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain above baseline level.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains in the mid-range of values observed during this time period in recent years.

Rotavirus activity increased slightly this week, whilst norovirus activity remains at moderate levels.
Shingles activity at WA ASPREN sentinel GPs increased significantly above baseline level this week. This could be due to a reporting delay over the holiday period.

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, 2013 to week 52, 2017.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations. Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2013 to week 52, 2017.

Shingles activity at sentinel EDs rose above baseline level this week. Chickenpox activity continues to fluctuate around baseline levels.