KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)
Summary: Laboratory and notification data indicate a higher level of inter-seasonal influenza activity this year than usual, although influenza-like illness activity is at average levels.
- ILI presentations at sentinel GPs and EDs are fluctuating at low levels.
- Influenza notifications are fluctuating around the seasonal threshold level, above levels experienced during recent inter-seasonal periods. PathWest laboratory detections and percent positivity increased this week.
- Overall non-influenza respiratory virus activity remains low.

GASTROENTERITIS
- Gastroenteritis activity at sentinel GPs and EDs is currently around expected levels for this time of year.
- Rotavirus activity remains low, while norovirus activity has declined over recent weeks.

VARICELLA AND OTHER VACCINE-PREVENTABLE VIRAL DISEASES
- Chickenpox and shingles activity at both sentinel GPs and EDs continues to fluctuate around baseline levels.
- Rubella: no cases have been confirmed in WA since two imported cases in early April 2017.
- Measles: no cases have been confirmed since an imported case was reported in early January.
- Mumps: no cases have been reported in the past week. Four cases have been confirmed to date in 2018, only one of which was acquired in WA.


Virus WAWatch is a weekly electronic publication by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) and key collaborators. It provides a brief summary of General Practice and Hospital Emergency Department sentinel surveillance data on influenza-like illness, gastroenteritis and varicella-zoster disease, together with relevant laboratory information, to alert health care workers in WA to important circulating viruses. All figures and data were accurate at time of publication, but subject to change. The data collections used to create this publication include:
- Sentinel General Practice data collected by WA members of the Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network (ASPREN)
- Emergency Department data provided by the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS), which currently incorporates data from the following hospitals: Fiona Stanley Hospital, Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital, St John of God Midland, Bunbury Hospital, Armadale Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, and Rockingham General Hospital.
- Notification data derived from disease notifications receive by CDCD, WA Department of Health from medical providers and public or private laboratories in WA. These data are updated routinely to include admission status for all public and public/private hospitals in WA and hospitalisation data are included in the report during the influenza season.
- Viral laboratory data obtained from PathWest laboratories at QEII Medical Centre, as well as via notification data sent by all WA laboratories to CDCD, WA Department of Health.
Routine influenza detections increased this week, whilst ILI presentations reported by WA ASPREN sentinel GPs remained low. One of two samples submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs tested positive.

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.

Respiratory viral presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs remain stable.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remained stable this week, and in the mid range of interseasonal levels.
The number of influenza notifications received by the Department of Health is fluctuating around the calculated seasonal threshold level and above levels experienced during recent inter-seasonal periods. 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 12/02/2018 and 18/02/2018. 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.

The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza virus at PathWest increased sharply this week, and is currently higher than values usually reported at this time of year. Of 162 specimens, 23 (14%) tested positive in the past week.
Twenty-three routine samples were subtyped by PathWest during this reporting week; 8 (35%) influenza A/H3N2; 8 (35%) influenza B; and 7 (30%) influenza A/H1N1.

Overall non-influenza respiratory virus activity remains low.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs remains in the lower range of values usually 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 and admissions to sentinel EDs continue to fluctuate around 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 and activity remains low, while norovirus activity has declined over the past few weeks.
Shingles and chickenpox activity at WA ASPREN sentinel GPs is fluctuating around baseline levels.
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.

Chickenpox presentations at sentinel EDs are around baseline level, whilst shingles presentations fell below baseline level.