WEEK ENDING 25TH MARCH 2018

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)
Summary: Influenza activity is currently at inter-seasonal levels.
- ILI presentations at sentinel GPs and EDs are fluctuating at low levels.
- Influenza notifications and PathWest laboratory detections and percent positivity have declined over recent weeks, and are now consistent with interseasonal levels experienced in recent seasons.
- Non-influenza respiratory virus activity increased this week, driven by an increase in RSV detections.

GASTROENTERITIS
- Gastroenteritis activity at sentinel GPs and EDs is currently around expected levels for this time of year.
- Rotavirus and norovirus activity remains low.

VARICELLA AND OTHER VACCINE-PREVENTABLE 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.
- Mumps: one confirmed locally acquired case. Source unknown.

MEASLES ALERT
Four unrelated overseas-acquired cases have now been notified in WA residents over the past 10 days (two infected in Bali, one in Malaysia and the other most likely in Thailand or Malaysia). People could potentially have been exposed to these cases at health-care facilities (including Bentley, Royal Perth and Joondalup Hospitals, GP surgeries, and pharmacies) and other sites around Perth. Secondary cases might present up until around mid-April. Moreover, there may be an ongoing increased risk of measles infection in Bali at present. It is recommended that measles vaccine be considered for people travelling overseas who were born after 1965 and who do not have documentation of having had two doses of measles vaccine.

Routine influenza detections and ILI presentations reported by WA ASPREN sentinel GPs remain low. The single sample 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.

**Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions**

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

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

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs increased this week, and is now in the higher range of interseasonal levels.
The number of influenza notifications received by the Department of Health has declined over recent weeks and levels are currently consistent with those experienced at this time in recent seasons.

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 19/03/2018 and 25/03/2018. 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 four years.

The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza virus at PathWest is currently in the low to mid-range of values usually reported at this time of year. Of 179 specimens, 9 (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 21st March 2018. This number does not include samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.
Eight routine samples were subtyped by PathWest during this reporting week; 4 (50%) influenza A/H3N2; 2 (25%) influenza A/H1N1; and 2 (25%) influenza B.

The graph is a summary of all WA routine samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest as of Wednesday 28th March 2018. This number does not include sentinel samples or samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.

Non-influenza respiratory virus activity increased this week, driven by an increase in RSV detections.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs increased this week and levels are now in the mid-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 and admissions were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2013 to week 52, 2017.

Gastroenteritis ED Presentations

Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs remained below baseline level this week.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remained low this week.

Rotavirus and norovirus activity remained low this week.
Chickenpox and shingles activity at WA ASPREN sentinel GPs was around baseline level 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, 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 and shingles presentations at sentinel EDs remained around baseline levels this week.