KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary:
Influenza activity is currently low and steady, but RSV activity is increasing.

- ILI presentations at sentinel GPs and EDs are fluctuating at low levels.
- Influenza notifications and PathWest laboratory detections and percent positivity remained low this week.
- Influenza A/H1N1 and A/H3N2 viruses are currently being detected in around equal numbers, while influenza B detections have declined.
- RSV activity continues to increase whereas parainfluenza and rhinovirus detections decreased this week.

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 increased this week.
- Rubella: no cases have been confirmed in WA since two imported cases in early April 2017.
- Mumps: no cases have been reported for around two weeks. Nine cases have been confirmed to date in 2018. Cases have been associated with infection acquired overseas or interstate, and with limited local transmission at a Perth secondary school.

MEASLES ALERT

There have been nine measles cases confirmed in Perth residents since mid-March, including four adults, four infants too young for vaccination, and one teenager. Seven of the nine cases were infected while travelling overseas, including two infants exposed to an infectious case on international flights. The imported cases have been infected in Bali, Thailand, India and Malaysia. In addition, two cases have been infected in WA – one in a hospital Emergency Department attended by one of the imported cases, and the other from an unknown source, probably somewhere in the Kalamunda area. It is now almost one incubation period since the end of the infectious period in the most recent case, a hopeful sign that there may have been no further local transmission. It is recommended that measles vaccine be considered for all people travelling overseas, including to Bali, who were born after 1965 and who do not have clear documentation of having previously received two doses of measles vaccine.

HEPATITIS A ALERT

A second locally acquired case of hepatitis A, with illness onset in mid-April, has now been linked to a national outbreak associated with consumption of Creative Gourmet brand Frozen Pomegranate Arils, sold through Coles stores. The implicated product has been subject to a voluntary recall, but given the long incubation period of hepatitis A, it is possible further cases could present over coming weeks.

Routine influenza detections and ILI presentations reported by WA ASPREN sentinel GPs have been low over the past three weeks. The single sample submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs was negative.

The rate of ILI presentations to WA ASPREN sentinel GPs remains low.

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

**Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions**

- **Number of ILI presentations**
- **Number of ILI admissions**
- **ILI/1000 presentations**
- **ILI/1000 admissions**

Respiratory viral presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs remained stable this week.

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

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs is in the mid range of inter-seasonal levels.
The number of influenza notifications received by the Department of Health remains at inter-seasonal 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 23/04/2018 and 29/04/2018. 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 testing positive for influenza virus at PathWest is currently in the lower range of values usually reported at this time of year. Of 199 specimens, 4 (2%) 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 2nd of May 2018. This number does not include samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.
Four routine samples were subtyped by PathWest during this reporting week; two (50%) influenza A/H1N1; and two (50%) influenza A/H3N2.

The graph is a summary of all WA routine samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest as of Wednesday 2nd May 2018. This number does not include sentinel samples or samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.

RSV activity continues to increase whereas parainfluenza and rhinovirus activity decreased this week.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs is 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 and admissions were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2013 to week 52, 2017.

Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remain below baseline level this week.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs is in the lower range of values seen at this time of year.

Rotavirus and norovirus activity remains low and relatively steady.
Chickenpox and shingles presentations at WA ASPREN sentinel GPs increased 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.

Shingles presentations at sentinel EDs remained above baseline for the second week in a row.
Chickenpox presentations increased above baseline level this week.

Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2013 to week 52, 2017.