WEEK ENDING 13TH MAY 2018

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)
Summary: Influenza activity is currently low and steady.
- 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 B, influenza A/H1N1 and influenza A/H3N2 viruses continue to co-circulate at low levels.
- Overall non-influenza virus activity fell this week, primarily due to a decline 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
- Shingles activity at sentinel GPs and EDs remained around baseline level this week, but chickenpox activity is relatively low.
- Rubella: no cases have been confirmed in WA since two imported cases in early April 2017.
- Mumps: One confirmed overseas-acquired infection notified this week. Ten cases have been confirmed to date in 2018, associated with infection acquired overseas or interstate, and with limited local transmission at a Perth secondary school.

MEASLES ALERT
A further overseas-acquired case of measles was confirmed last week, with potential exposures to other passengers on Qantas flight QF 585 from Adelaide to Perth on Saturday 5 May. People could also have been exposed in the arrivals and baggage collection areas of the Qantas domestic terminal that afternoon, in the period from around 4 pm to 5 pm. Susceptible people who were exposed to the latest case could potentially develop measles symptoms in the period between 12 and 23 May.

There have been ten measles cases confirmed in Perth residents since mid-March, including four adults, five infants too young for vaccination, and one teenager. Eight of the ten cases were infected while travelling overseas. The imported cases have been infected in Bali, Thailand, India, Afghanistan and Malaysia. To date, two cases have been infected in WA. 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
Two locally acquired cases of hepatitis A, the latest with illness onset in mid-April, have 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, further cases could present over coming weeks.
Routine influenza detections remained steady this week. One of the two (50%) samples submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs tested positive.

The rate of ILI presentations to WA ASPREN sentinel GPs is in the lower range of values reported at this time of year.
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 and admissions to sentinel EDs remained stable this week.

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

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remains 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 07/05/2018 and 13/05/2018. 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 mid-range of values usually reported at this time of year. Of 186 specimens, 8 (4%) 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 16th of May 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; four (50%) influenza A/H1N1; 2 (25%) influenza B; and two (25%) influenza A/H3N2.

The graph is a summary of all WA routine samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest as of Wednesday 16th May 2018. This number does not include sentinel samples or samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.

Overall non-influenza activity continued to fall this week, primarily due to a decline in RSV detections.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs continues to fluctuate at relatively low levels.

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 decreased this week; however admissions remain just above baseline level.
The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs is fluctuating within the range of values seen at this time of year.

Rotavirus and norovirus activity remains low.
Shingles presentations at WA ASPREN sentinel GPs remained above baseline this week, whilst chickenpox presentations remained low.

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.

**Varicella-Zoster Virus GP Presentations**

Shingles and chickenpox presentations at sentinel EDs fell below baseline levels 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.