WEEK ENDING 20TH 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 and influenza A (both H1N1 and H3N2) viruses continue to co-circulate at low levels.
- Overall non-influenza virus activity continued to fall 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 interstate-acquired infection notified this week. Eleven 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: 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 now at least one incubation period since the end of the infectious period in all cases, and it appears unlikely that there has been any additional 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
Three locally acquired cases of hepatitis A, the latest with illness onset in early May, 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.

Virus WAtch 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 received 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 were low this week—this could be due a laboratory delay—updated numbers will be available next week. The sole sample submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs did not test positive.
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 increased slightly 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 14/05/2018 and 20/05/2018. 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 lower range of values usually reported at this time of year. Of 96 specimens, 4 (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 23rd 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/H3N2; and 2 (50%) influenza B.

The graph is a summary of all WA routine samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest as of Wednesday 23rd 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 remained below baseline level this week.
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 just 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.

Shingles and chickenpox presentations at sentinel EDs remained 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.