WEEK ENDING 24TH MARCH 2019

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)
Summary: Influenza activity decreased this week but remain above inter-seasonal levels.

- ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs declined this week.
- PathWest influenza detections and percent positivity decreased this week, and are at or approaching levels usually seen at this time of year.
- Influenza A/H3N2 comprised the largest proportion of influenza detections this week (47%) followed by influenza A/H1N1 (37%), influenza A/untyped (5%) and influenza B (11%).
- Overall non-influenza activity was low this week.

GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis activity at sentinel GPs and EDs was in the higher range of values usually seen at this time of year.
- PathWest laboratory detections of norovirus and rotavirus remain at low levels.

OTHER VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

- Shingles and chickenpox: Shingles and chickenpox activity at sentinel GPs was below baseline levels this week.
- Measles: No measles cases confirmed this week.
- Mumps: No mumps cases notified this week.
- Rubella: No rubella cases notified this week.
- Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD): One meningococcal case notified this week, serogroup W.
The number of routine PathWest influenza detections decreased this week. One of the three samples (33%) submitted by sentinel GPs for influenza testing tested positive.

The rate of ILI presentations to WA ASPREN sentinel GPs is in the mid-range of values typically reported at this time of the year.
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 fell this week.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs decreased this week, and remains within the mid-range of levels typically reported at this time of the year.
The number of influenza hospitalisations remain high for this time of year, particularly in adults.

The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had a specimen collection date between 18/03/2019 and 24/03/2019. Paediatric notifications were defined as individuals less than 18 years of age.

The number of influenza notifications received by the Department of Health continued to decrease this week, and has fallen below the seasonal threshold level.

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 18/03/2019 and 24/03/2019. 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 continued to decrease this week, but remains above values typically reported at this time of year. Of 201 specimens, 19 (9%) tested positive in the past week.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples reported by PathWest as of Wednesday 27th of March 2019, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.

Nineteen samples were subtyped by PathWest during this reporting week; 7 (37%) influenza A/H1N1, 9 (47%) influenza A/H3N2, 1 (5%) influenza A/untyped and 2 (11%) influenza B.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for influenza reported at PathWest as of Wednesday 27th of March 2019, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.
Overall non-influenza activity was low this week.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for a common respiratory virus other than influenza reported at PathWest as of Wednesday 27th of March 2019.

Gastroenteritis

Australian Sentinel Practices Research Network - GP surveillance
Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2015-2019

The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs is in the mid to high range of values normally reported 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, 2015 to week 52, 2018.
Both gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs were around baseline levels this week.

The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remained in the higher range of values normally reported at this time of year.
Viral Rashes

Shingles activity reported by WA ASPREN GPs fell below baseline levels this week. There was no chickenpox activity reported 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, 2015 to week 52, 2018.

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, 2015 to week 52, 2018.