KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Influenza activity continues to fluctuate above inter-seasonal levels.

- ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs remained above levels usually seen at this time of year.
- PathWest influenza detections and test percent positivity was also above levels usually seen at this time of year.
- Influenza A/H3N2 comprised the largest proportion of influenza detections at Pathwest this week (58%) followed by influenza B (26%), and influenza A/H1N1 (16%).
- Overall non-influenza activity fell this week and is around levels expected for this time of year.

GASTROENTERITIS

- The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains in the higher range of values normally reported at this time of year.
- PathWest laboratory detections of norovirus and rotavirus remain at low levels.

OTHER VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

- **Shingles and chickenpox**: Shingles presentations at sentinel EDs were above 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)**: No meningococcal cases notified this week.


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, Perth Children’s 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.
The number of routine PathWest influenza detections decreased this week. The single sample submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs was positive.

The rate of ILI presentations to WA ASPREN sentinel GPs rose this week and is higher than 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 presentations to sentinel EDs increased this week.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remains higher than levels typically reported at this time of the year.
The number of influenza hospitalisations have been higher than expected during the interseasonal period, 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 22/04/2019 and 28/04/2019. Paediatric notifications were defined as individuals less than 18 years of age.

The number of influenza notifications reported to the Department of Health has been fluctuating above interseasonal levels in 2019.

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 22/04/2019 and 28/04/2019. 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 positive for influenza virus at PathWest is above levels typically reported at this time of year. Of 222 specimens, 31 (14%) tested positive in the past week.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples reported by PathWest as of Wednesday 01st of May 2019, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.

Thirty one samples were subtyped by PathWest during this reporting week; 5 (16%) influenza A/H1N1; 18 (58%) influenza A/H3N2; and 8 (26%) influenza B.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for influenza reported at PathWest as of Wednesday 01st of May 2019, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.
Overall non-influenza activity fell this week and is around levels expected for this time of year. The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for a common respiratory virus other than influenza reported at PathWest as of Wednesday 01st of May 2019.

The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs is in the mid-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.
Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs remained around baseline level this week.

The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains in the higher range of values normally reported at this time of year.
There was no shingles or chickenpox activity reported by WA ASPREN GPs 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 presentations at sentinel EDs were above 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.