KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Indicators of influenza activity continued to decrease this week following sharp increases since early May, but remain well above levels usually reported at the peak of the influenza season in WA.

- ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs remains well above levels normally reported during influenza season.
- PathWest influenza detections and test percent positivity continue to be above levels usually seen at this time of year.
- Influenza A/H3N2 comprised the largest proportion of influenza detections at PathWest this week (43%) followed by influenza A/not subtyped* (38%), and influenza B (19%).
- Overall non-influenza activity decreased this week, mostly due to a decrease in parainfluenza and human metapneumovirus detections.

GASTROENTERITIS

- The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs is in the mid-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 activity at sentinel GPs and EDs was above baseline levels this week.
- **Measles**: Two measles cases were confirmed this week in overseas travellers to Southeast Asia.
- **Mumps**: One mumps case, acquired overseas, was confirmed.
- **Rubella**: No rubella cases notified this week.
- **Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD)**: No meningococcal cases notified this week.

*these samples were tested using a rapid testing method that does not determine the influenza subtype (i.e influenza A/H3N2 or A/H1N1).
The number of routine PathWest influenza detections decreased this week. Fourteen of the 23 samples (61%) submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs tested positive.

The rate of ILI presentations remains above levels usually reported during this time of year.
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

Respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remained high this week.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs remains well above levels normally reported during previous influenza seasons.

*This graph is a summary of presentations at Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) sites using the ICD codes B34.9 and J06.9 which are consistent with a clinical presentation of a viral illness. This data may differ from that presented in the Winter Respiratory Illness Report provided by the Information and System Performance Directorate.
The number of influenza hospitalisations declined again this week, following previous early high activity this season.

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 01/07/2019 and 07/07/2019. Paediatric notifications were defined as individuals less than 18 years of age.

Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2015 to 2019

Influenza notifications reported to the Department of Health decreased this week, but remain much higher than peaks of previous seasons.

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 01/07/2019 and 07/07/2019. 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 remains above levels typically reported at this time of year. Of 890 specimens, 268 (30%) tested positive in the past week.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples reported by PathWest, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for influenza reported at PathWest, excluding samples referred by other private laboratories for influenza subtyping. *these samples were tested using a rapid testing method that does not determine the influenza subtype (i.e influenza A/H3N2 or A/H1N1).
Overall non-influenza activity decreased this week, mostly due to a decrease in parainfluenza and human metapneumovirus detections. RSV activity remains high.

The graph is a summary of all WA samples positive for a common respiratory virus other than influenza reported at PathWest.

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 admissions to sentinel EDs were similar to baseline levels this week.**

**ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 201 to 2019**

The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains in the mid-range of values normally reported at this time of year.
Shingles activity reported by WA ASPREN GPs remained above baseline 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.