INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Indicators of influenza activity continued to decrease this week following sharp increases since early May, but remain high for this time of year.

- ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs remains above levels normally reported during influenza season.
- PathWest test percent positivity is returning to levels usually reported at this time of year.
- Influenza A/H3N2 comprised the largest proportion of influenza detections at Pathwest this week (48%) followed by influenza A/not subtyped* (24%), and influenza B (27%).
- Overall non-influenza activity decreased this week, mostly due to a decrease in RSV activity. Human metapneumovirus detections increased this week.

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: Chickenpox activity at sentinel EDs was at baseline levels this week.
- Measles: One measles case was notified 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.
The number of routine PathWest influenza detections decreased this week. Seven of the 9 samples (78%) 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 are decreasing, but remain high overall.

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

*These graphs 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 08/07/2019 and 14/07/2019. Paediatric notifications were defined as individuals less than 18 years of age.

Influenza notifications reported to the Department of Health decreased sharply this week, but remain 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 08/07/2019 and 14/07/2019. 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 is returning to levels usually reported at this time of year. Of 817 specimens, 189 (23%) 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.

One hundred and eighty nine samples were tested by PathWest during this reporting week; results indicated there were: 2 (1%) influenza A/H1N1, 90 (48%) influenza A/H3N2, and 51 (27%) influenza B. Forty six (24%) influenza A samples were not subtyped*

*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 RSV activity. Human metapneumovirus detections increased this week.

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

Gastroenteritis

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

The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs is in the mid-range of values normally reported at this time of year.
Gastroenteritis admissions to sentinel EDs were similar to baseline levels this week.

This graph is a summary of current EDIS data for gastroenteritis presentations and admissions. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations and admissions were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2014 to week 52, 2018.

The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remains in the mid-range of values normally reported at this time of year.
Shingles and chickenpox activity reported by WA ASPREN GPs was below baseline levels 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, 2014 to week 52, 2018.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations.

Chickenpox presentations at sentinel EDs were at baseline levels this week.
Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2014 to week 52, 2018.