WEEK ENDING 21ST JULY 2019

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Indicators of influenza activity are returning to levels usually reported during influenza season in WA.

- ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs continued to decrease this week.
- PathWest influenza detections and 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 (49%) followed by influenza A/not subtyped* (28%), and influenza B (22%).
- Whilst overall non-influenza activity decreased this week, RSV activity increased slightly.

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 and chickenpox activity at sentinel GPs was above 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): Two meningococcal W 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 continued to decrease this week. One of the 11 samples (9%) submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs tested positive.

The rate of ILI presentations is now returning to 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 continues to decline but remains 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 15/07/2019 and 21/07/2019. 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 sharply this week, and is returning to levels usually seen during previous influenza 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 15/07/2019 and 21/07/2019. 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 has returned to levels usually reported at this time of year. Of 705 specimens, 146 (21%) 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 forty-six positive samples were subtyped by PathWest during this reporting week comprising: 1 (<1%) influenza A/H1N1, 71 (49%) influenza A/H3N2, 32 (22%) influenza B and 1 (<1%) mixed infection. Forty-one (28%) influenza A samples were not subtyped*.

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).
Whilst overall non-influenza activity decreased this week, RSV activity increased slightly.

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

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 presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs were below 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.
Viral Rashes

Shingles and chickenpox activity reported by WA ASPREN GPs was above 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 above 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.