WEEK ENDING 18TH AUGUST 2019

KEY POINTS

INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

Summary: Indicators of influenza activity have returned to levels usually reported during influenza season in WA.

- ILI activity at sentinel GPs and EDs remained steady this week.
- PathWest influenza detections and test percent positivity has returned to levels usually reported at this time of year.
- Influenza A accounted for the largest proportion of influenza detections at PathWest this week, with influenza A/not subtyped* (30%), influenza A/H3N2 (36%), and influenza A/H1N1(6%), accounting for 72% of all samples, followed by influenza B (28%).
- Overall non-influenza activity decreased this week, mostly due to a fall in RSV 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 and chickenpox activity at sentinel GPs and EDs was at or above baseline levels this week.
- Measles: No measles cases were confirmed this week.
- Mumps: Two mumps cases notified this week.
- Rubella: No rubella cases notified this week.
- Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD): One meningococcal case, serogroup B notified this week.
The number of routine PathWest influenza detections remained steady this week. None of the eight samples submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs tested positive this week.

The rate of ILI presentations has returned 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 and admissions to sentinel EDs remained steady this week.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs has returned to levels 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 12/08/2019 and 18/08/2019. 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 again this week, and is consistent with past activity following a peak in notifications.

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 12/08/2019 and 18/08/2019. 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 now below levels usually reported at this time of year. Of 466 specimens, 36 (7%) 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.

Thirty six positive samples were reported by PathWest this week comprising: 13 (36%) influenza A/H3N2, 2 (6%) influenza A/H1N1, and 10 (28%) influenza B. 11 (30%) 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).
Overall non-influenza activity decreased this week, mostly due to a fall in RSV detections. 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 upper-range of values normally reported at this time of year.
Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs remained 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.
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.

Shingles and chickenpox presentations at sentinel EDs were at or 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.