Key Points

Influenza and influenza-like illnesses (ILI)

- **Summary:** Indicators of influenza activity were below levels usually reported during this time of year in WA.
- ILI activity at sentinel GPs remained low in the previous weeks.
- ILI presentations at sentinel EDs decreased in the past week, while admissions increased.
- PathWest influenza detections and test percent positivity were at levels usually reported at this time of year.
- Influenza A accounted for (91%) influenza cases at PathWest in the past week, comprising 64% influenza A/H1, 2% influenza A/H3 and 9% influenza A/not subtyped. Influenza B accounted for 9% of cases
- Non-influenza activity in sentinel EDs increased slightly in the past week.

Gastroenteritis

- While the rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs remained in the mid-range of levels normally reported at this time of year, the number of presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs has been higher than baseline levels.
- PathWest laboratory detections of norovirus decreased in the past week, and rotavirus remained at low levels.

Other vaccine-preventable diseases

- **Shingles and chickenpox:** There were no chickenpox presentations to sentinel GPs in the previous weeks and the number of presentations to sentinel EDS was similar to the baseline levels. The rate of shingles presentations at sentinel GPs and the number of presentations to sentinel EDs was higher than baseline levels in previous week.
- **Measles:** No measles cases were notified in the past week.
- **Mumps:** No mumps case was notified in the past week.
- **Rubella:** No rubella cases notified in the past week.
- **Invasive meningococcal disease (IMD):** Two meningococcal cases were notified in the past week.
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses

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 in the past week and there was no samples submitted for influenza testing by sentinel GPs in the previous weeks. Sentinel GP data for 05/01/2020 is not yet available.

The rate of ILI presentations to sentinel GPs in previous weeks was in the lower range of levels usually reported during this time of year. Sentinel GP data for 05/01/2020 is not yet available.
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

While respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs decreased in the past week, admissions increased.

The number of respiratory viral presentations to sentinel EDs decreased in the past week and is above levels usually reported during this time of year.

*The 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.
Influenza notifications reported to the Department of Health in the past week remained similar to the seasonal threshold.

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 30/12/2019 and 05/01/2020. 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.

Influenza notifications reported to the Department of Health in the past week remained similar to the seasonal threshold.

The percentage of specimens positive for influenza virus at PathWest was at levels usually reported at this time of year. Of 126 specimens submitted, 11 (8.7%) tested positive in the past week.
Eleven positive samples were reported by PathWest in the past week which included 10 influenza A and one influenza B. Of the influenza A samples, seven were A/H1, two were A/H3 and one was not subtyped.

Overall non-influenza activity increased slightly 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 rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs increased in the past week has remained in the mid-range of levels normally reported at this time of year. Sentinel GP data for 05/01/2020 is not yet available.

Gastroenteritis presentations and admissions to sentinel EDs in the past week were higher than baseline levels.

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 decreased in the past week but remained higher than the values normally reported at this time of year.

**Viral rashes**

There were no chickenpox presentations reported by WA ASPREN GPs in the week of 29/12/2019 and the rate of shingles presentations was higher than baseline levels. Sentinel GP data for 05/01/2020 is not yet available.

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.

### ED varicella-zoster virus presentations

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<thead>
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<th>Week ending</th>
<th>No. of chickenpox presentations</th>
<th>No. of shingles presentations</th>
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<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/01/20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chickenpox presentations to sentinel EDs in the past week were similar to the baseline levels, and the number of shingles presentations were higher.

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

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