

Report No. 15: Week ending 13 August 2017

Overview: The 2017 influenza season so far

Influenza surveillance systems are at **average levels**. **ILI rates** are at average seasonal levels.

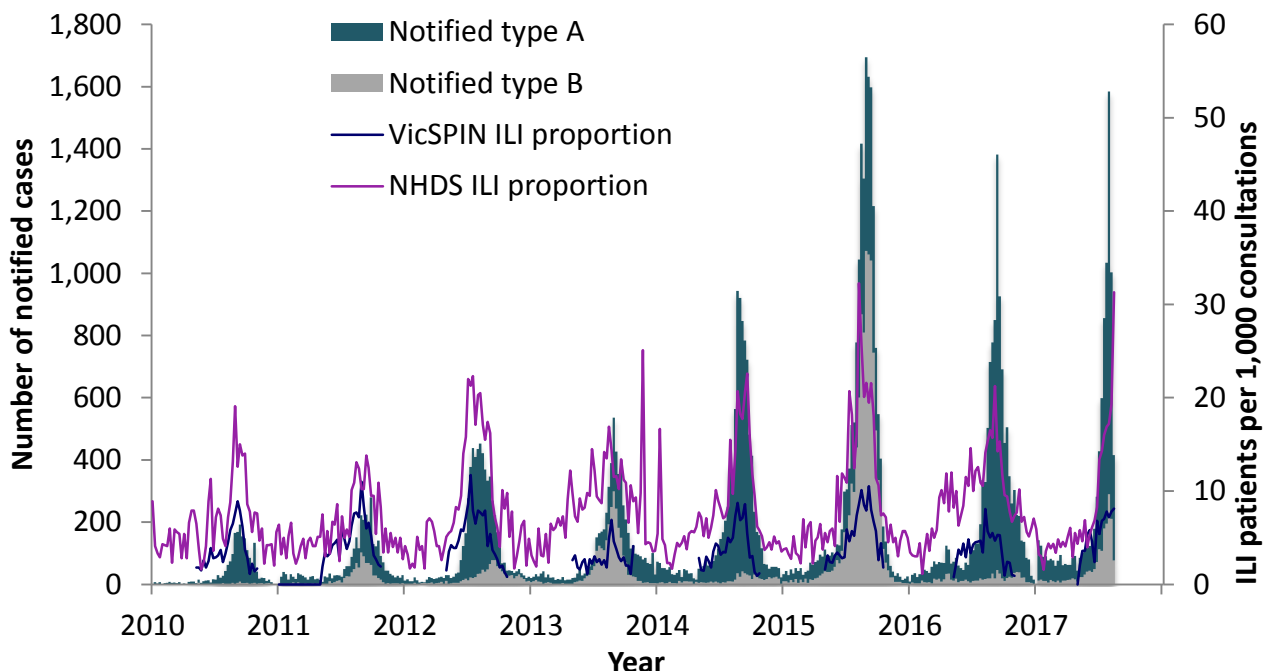
The number of notified **laboratory confirmed influenza** cases for the year to 13 August is **160% higher** than at the same time in 2016. The increase in cases to mark the start of the season occurred earlier this year (late June) compared to last year (early August), and in the last few weeks the number of notifications has been higher than in the previous year. Most notified cases year-to-date have been type A (80%).

Twenty nine swabs were received this week, of which nine were positive for influenza (H3), two were positive for influenza A(H1), two were influenza A untyped and three was positive for influenza B. Influenza is the most commonly detected respiratory virus from VicSPIN swabs so far this season.

This year we are encouraging GPs to swab **all** ILI patients (where possible) and ensure **all** ILI patients are recorded on the tally sheet.

The new database will be rolled out in the next week.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2010-2017



National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for the week was 31.3 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI proportions have increased substantially this week but remain within the upper end of average seasonal levels.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- Total influenza-like illness (ILI) proportions measured by VicSPIN are at average levels this week with 8.1 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figures 1 & 2).
- Twenty nine swabs were received this week, of which nine were positive for influenza (H3), two were positive for influenza A(H1), two were influenza A untyped and three was positive for influenza B. Influenza is the most commonly detected respiratory virus from VicSPIN swabs so far this season.

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 13 August 2017

	Total	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners notifying	70 (78%)	96% (average)
Total patients seen	5,161	88,670
Total patients with ILI	2	495
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	8.1	5.6
Number of specimens received	29	329
Number (%) positive for influenza	16 (55%)	119 (36%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017

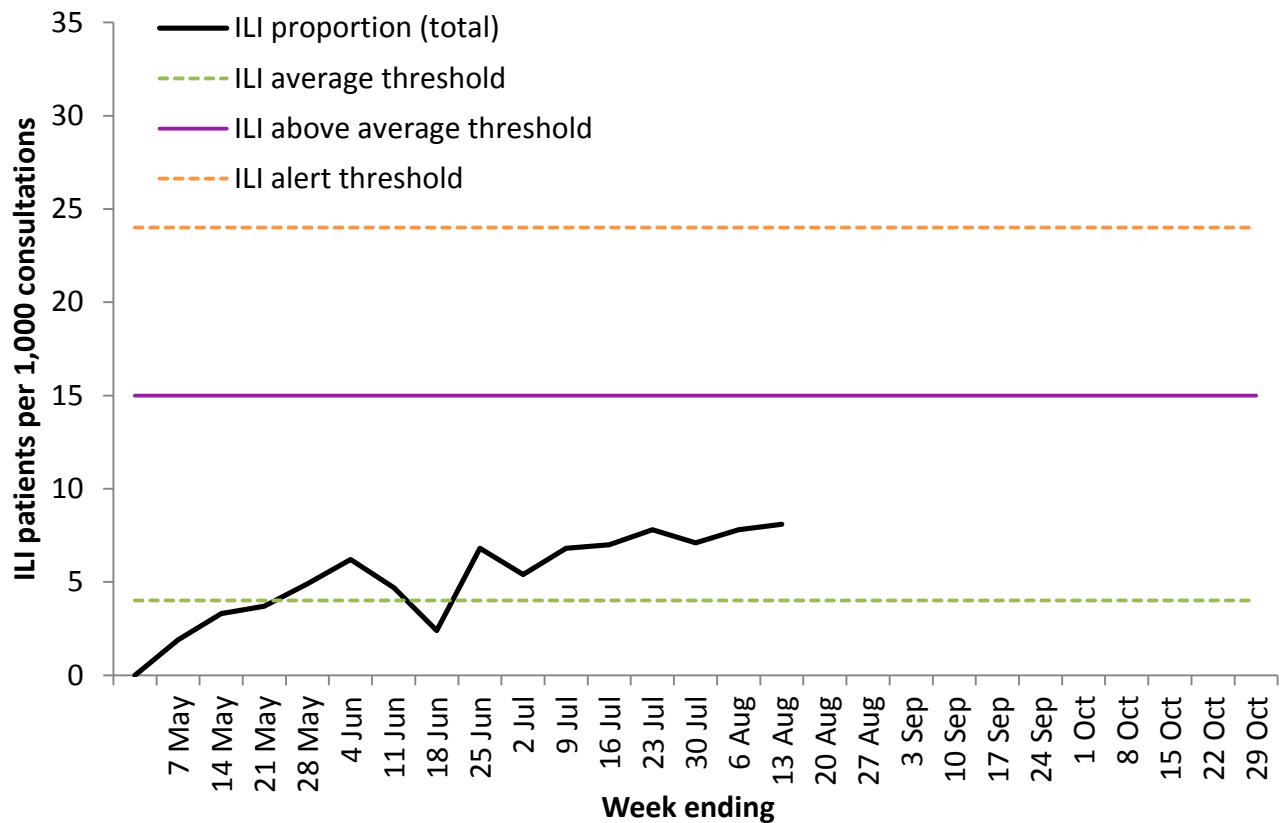
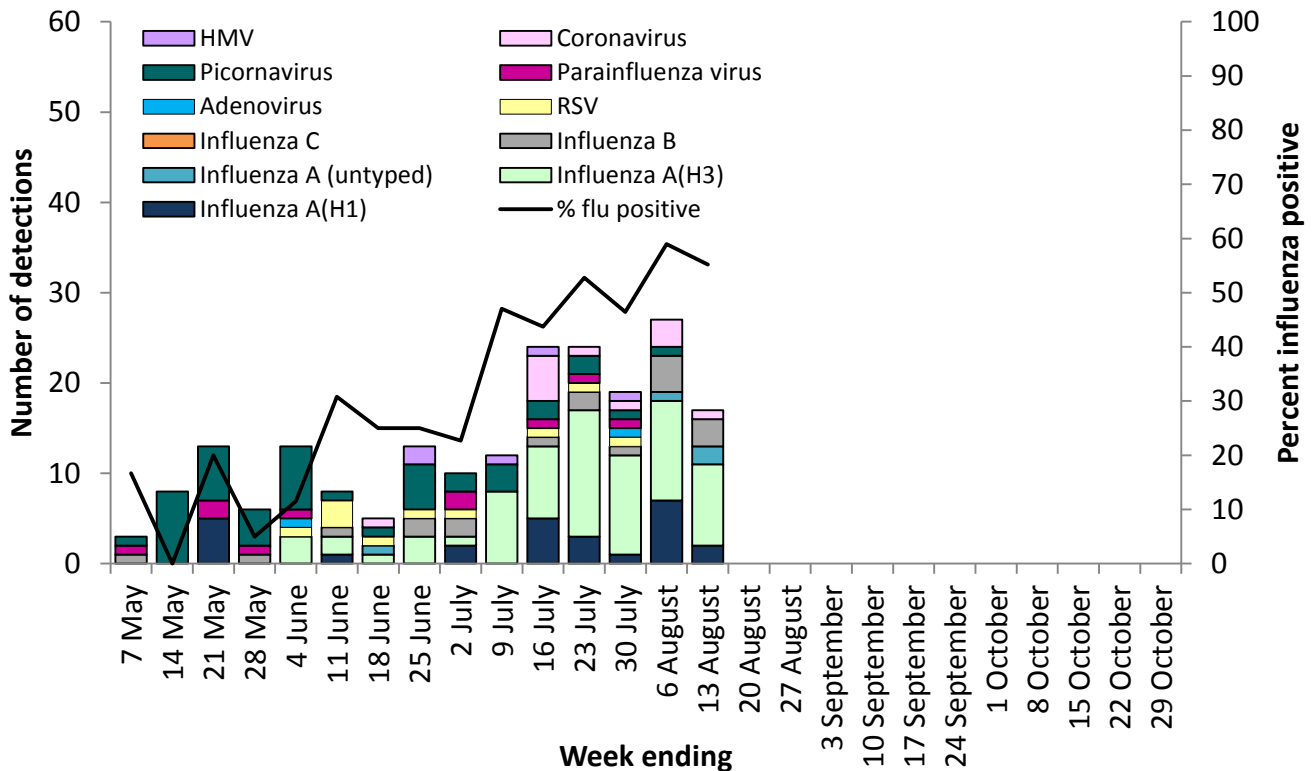


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2017



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services processed notifications for 418 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza for the week, the apparent decrease is likely due to an administrative backlog and notifications will be revised up as data are updated (Figure 1).
- A total of 8,664 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been notified so far in 2017, 160% more than the same period in 2016 (3,327).
- Most cases notified during the week were type A (82%), similar to the 80% overall for 2017. Elderly cases aged ≥ 65 years comprise a higher proportion of type A cases (25%) than type B cases (16%).

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

- The strains included in the 2017 quadrivalent influenza vaccine are: A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus; B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus; B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.
- Fifty nine Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO so far in 2017; twenty four were A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-Like; eleven were B/Phuket/3073/2013-like; two were B/Brisbane/60/2008-like and twenty two were A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like.
- One isolate has shown resistance to Zanamivir, A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09, in the 641 Australian isolates tested so far in 2017.