

Report No. 17: Week ending 3 September 2017

Overview: The 2017 influenza season so far

Influenza surveillance systems are at **average to above average levels**.

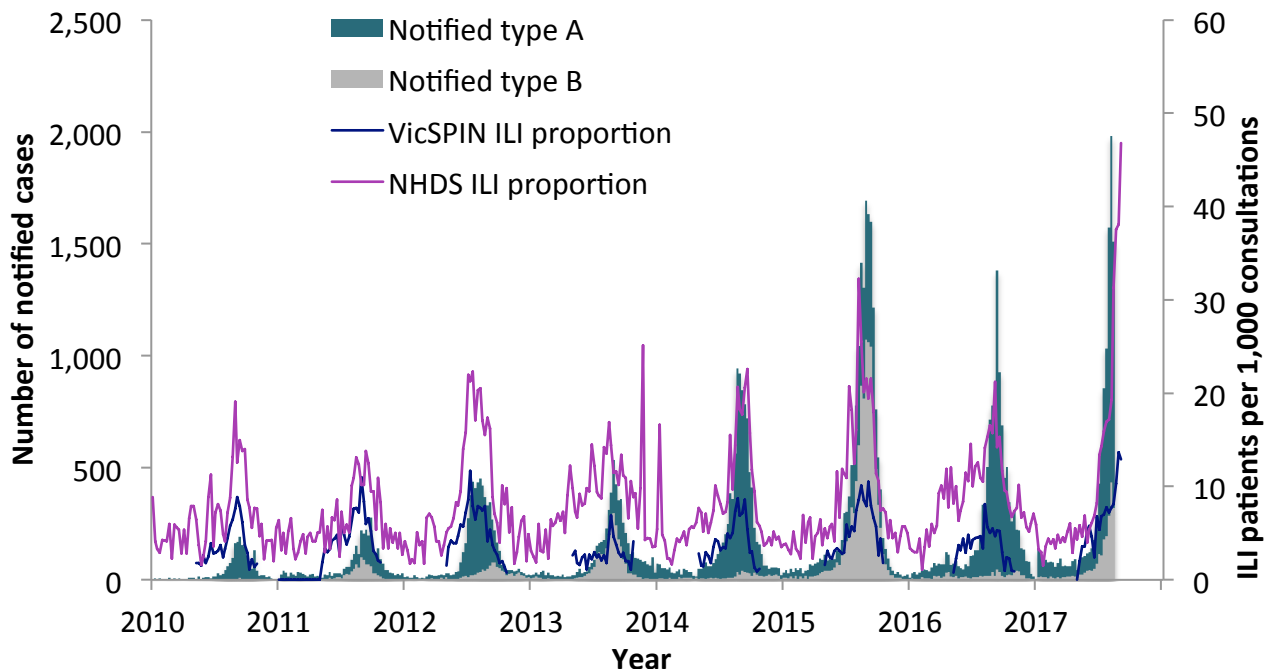
The number of notified **laboratory confirmed influenza** cases for the year to 3 September is **higher** than at the same time in 2016. The increase in cases to mark the start of the season occurred earlier this year (late June) compared to last year (early August), and in the last several weeks the number of notifications has been higher than in the previous year. Most notified cases year-to-date have been type A (79%).

Forty five swabs were received from VicSPIN GPs this week, of which seven were positive for influenza A(H3), one was positive for influenza A(H1), and seven were positive for influenza B. Of the last five weeks, this is the first week in which less than 50% of swabs have been positive for influenza.

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 has been rolled out at www.vicspin.com.au. We have sent login details to all practices and would encourage all GP's to use the database for data entry. Please contact us with any feedback.

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 46.8 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI proportions have increased substantially in the last two weeks and remain at 'above average' seasonal levels this week.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- Total influenza-like illness (ILI) proportions measured by VicSPIN are near the top of average levels this week with 12.9 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figures 1 & 2).
- Forty-five swabs were received this week, of which seven were positive for influenza A(H3), one was positive for influenza A(H1), and seven were positive for influenza B. Of the last five weeks, this is the first week in which less than 50% of swabs have been positive for influenza.

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 3 September 2017

	Total	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners notifying	70 (80%)	95% (average)
Total patients seen	4,899	105,123
Total patients with ILI	63	708
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	12.9	6.7
Number of specimens received	45	510
Number (%) positive for influenza	15 (33%)	203 (40%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017

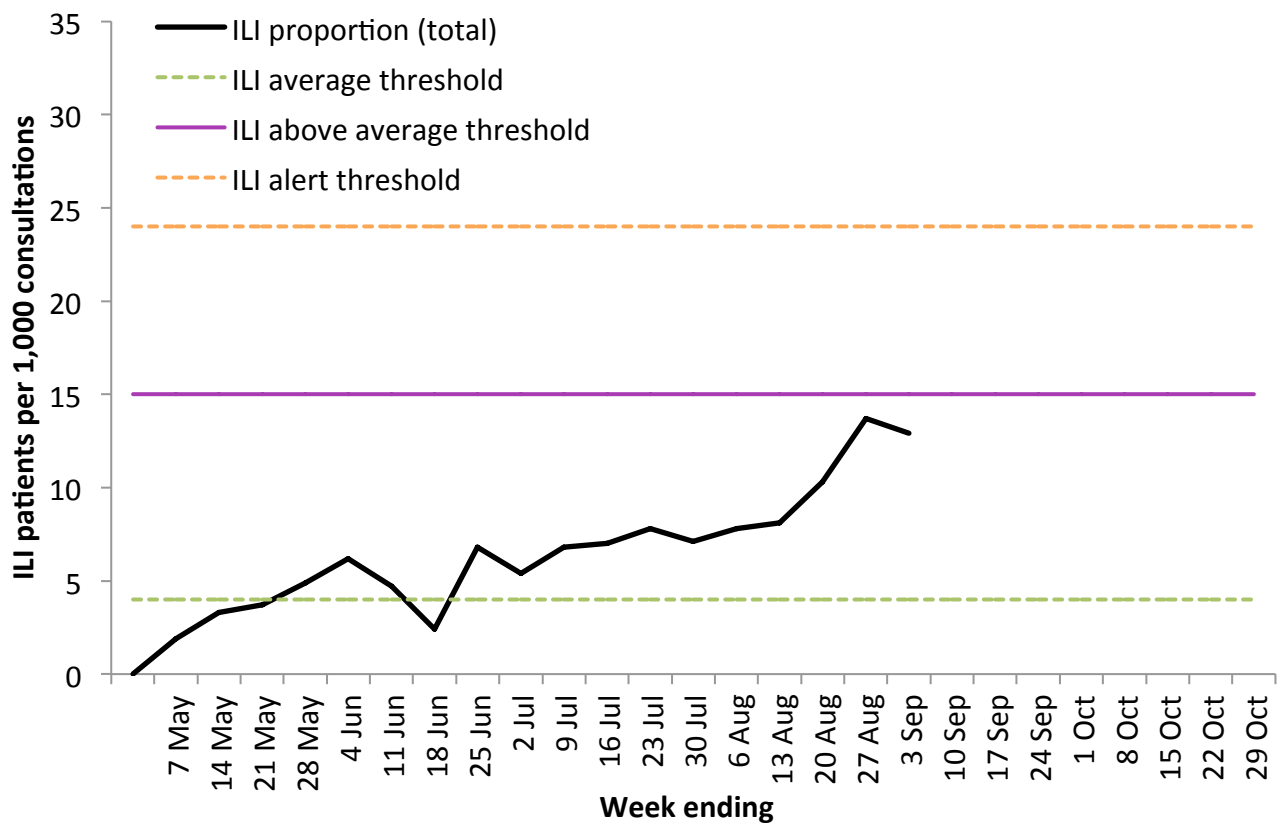
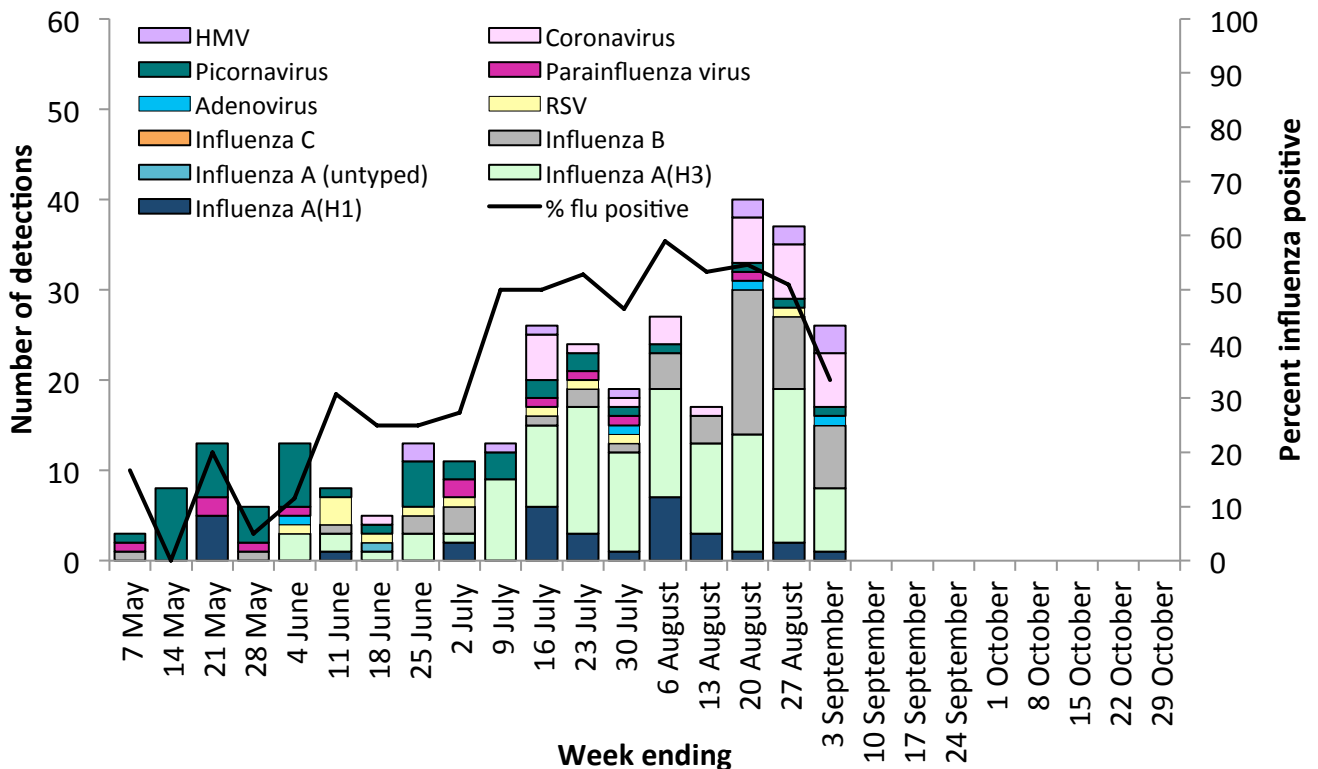


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2017



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- A total of 11,399 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2017 (Figure 1), although notifications will be revised up as data are updated.
- Most cases notified were type A (79%). Elderly cases aged ≥ 65 years comprise a higher proportion of type A cases (25%) than type B cases (17%).

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.
- One hundred and thirty six Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO so far in 2017; fifty two were A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-Like; forty were B/Phuket/3073/2013-like; three were B/Brisbane/60/2008-like and forty one were A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like.
- One isolate has shown resistance to Zanamivir, A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09, in the 1109 Australian isolates tested so far in 2017.