

Report No. 11: Week ending 16 July 2017

Overview: The 2017 influenza season so far

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

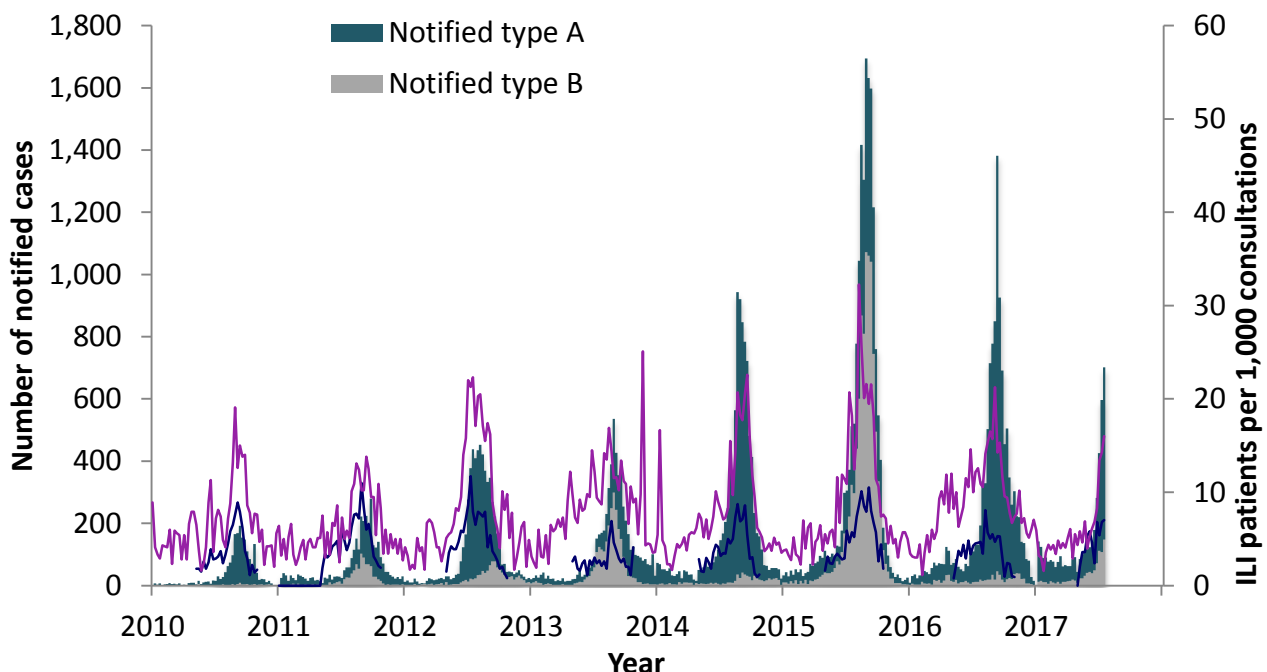
The number of notified **laboratory confirmed influenza** cases for the year to 16 July is **117% higher** than at the same time in 2016. The increase in cases to mark the start of the season has occurred earlier this year (late June) compared to last year (early August). There has been an increase in notifications in the last few of weeks for both influenza A and B. Most notified cases year-to-date have been type A (70%).

Thirty two swabs were received this week, of which **five were positive for influenza (H1), eight were positive for influenza (H3) and two were positive for influenza B**. Influenza is now 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.

Final stage testing of the new database is now underway, and will hopefully be rolled out in a couple of weeks.

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 16.0 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI proportions have been variable in the last several weeks and this week have remained at average seasonal levels.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- Total influenza-like illness (ILI) proportions measured by VicSPIN are at average levels this week with 7.0 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figures 1 & 2).
- Thirty two swabs were received this week, of which five were positive for influenza (H1), eight were positive for influenza (H3) and two were positive for influenza B. Influenza is now 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 16 July 2017

	Total	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners notifying	73 (81%)	96% (average)
Total patients seen	5,461	67,405
Total patients with ILI	38	319
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	7.0	4.7
Number of specimens received	32	206
Number (%) positive for influenza	15 (47%)	62 (30%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017

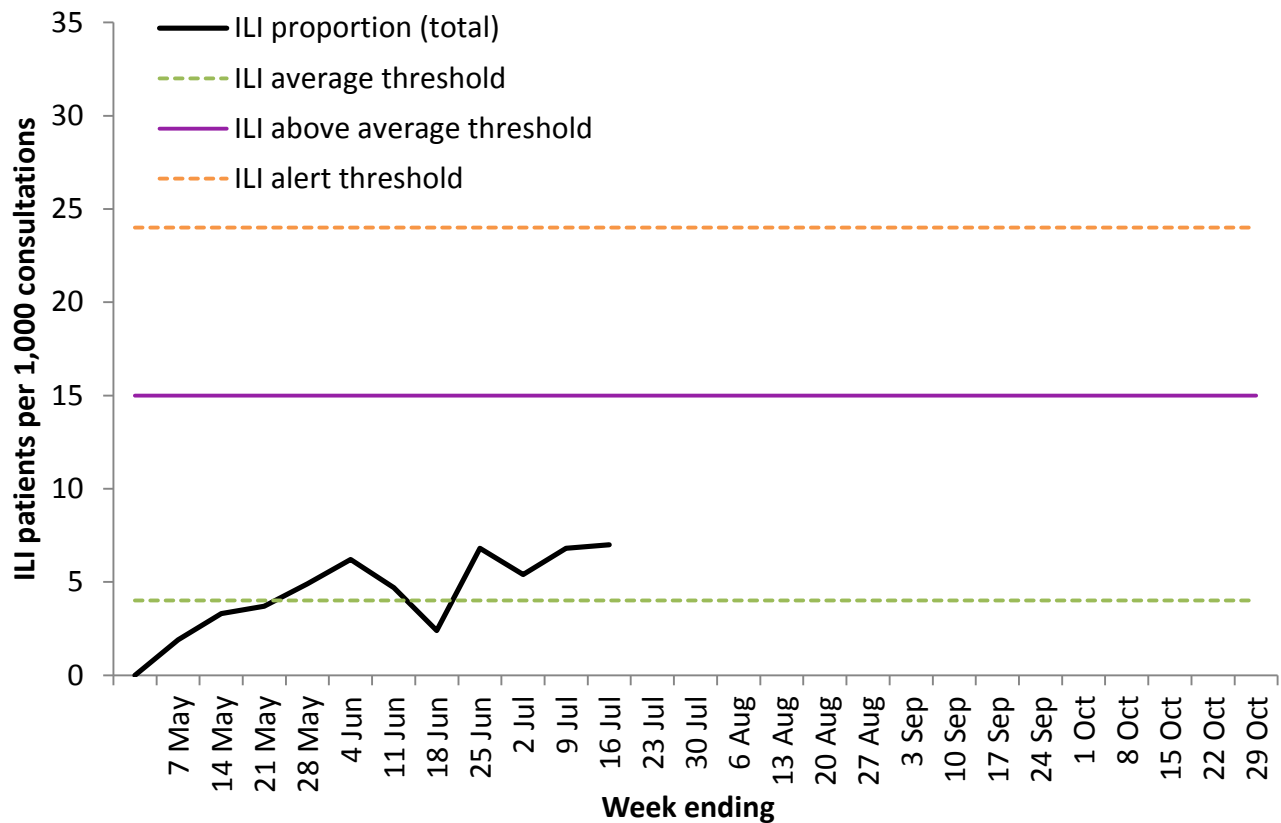
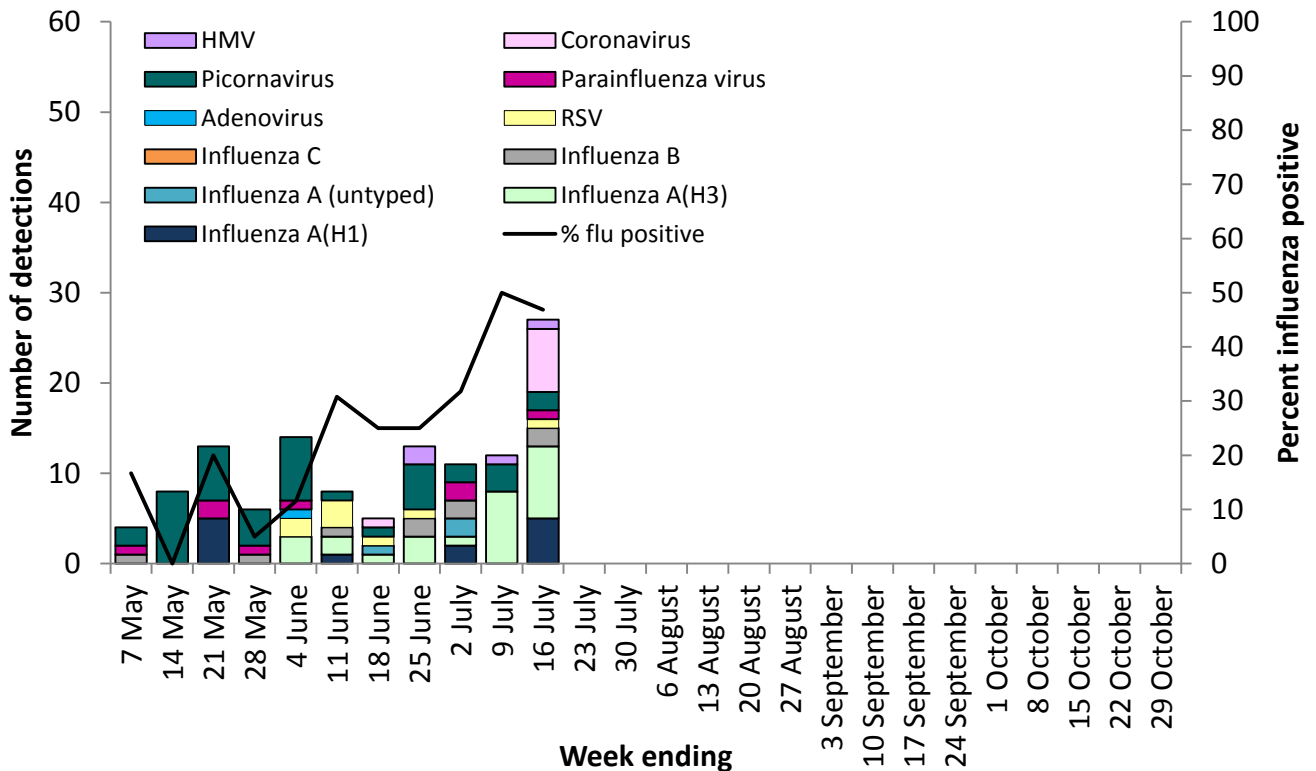


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2017



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services received notifications for 705 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza for the week, although this is likely to be revised up as data are updated (Figure 1).
- A total of 4,251 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been notified so far in 2017, 117% more than the same period in 2016 (1,958).
- Most cases notified during the week were type A (70%), lower than the 78% overall for 2017. Elderly cases aged ≥65 years comprise a higher proportion of type A cases (24%) than type B cases (15%).

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.
- Only twenty two Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO so far in 2017; fifteen were A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-Like and seven were A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like.
- No resistance to neuraminidase inhibitors has been detected in Australian isolates tested so far in 2017.