

Report No. 16: Week ending 20 August 2017

Overview: The 2017 influenza season so far

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

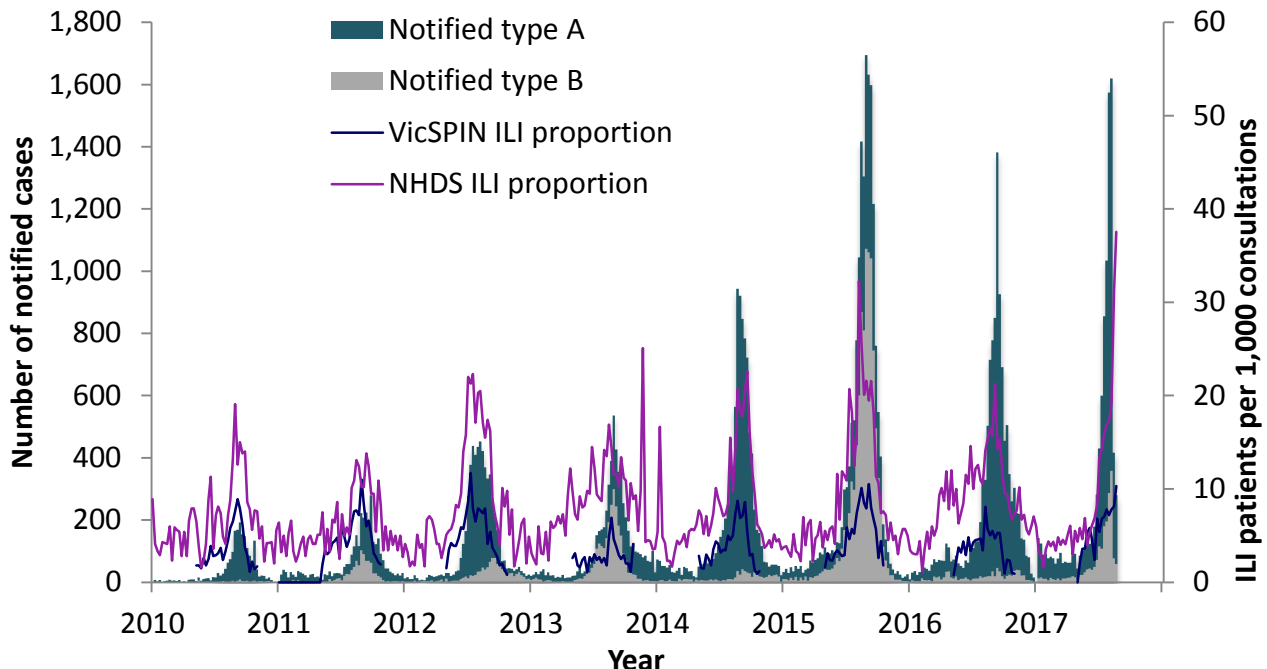
The number of notified **laboratory confirmed influenza** cases for the year to 20 August is **131% higher** than at the same time in 2016. The increase in cases to mark the start of the season occurred earlier this year (late June) compared to last year (early August), and in the last few weeks the number of notifications has been higher than in the previous year. Most notified cases year-to-date have been type A (80%).

Fifty four swabs were received this week, of which thirty were positive: thirteen were positive for influenza (H3), one was positive for influenza A(H1), and sixteen were 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 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 37.5 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI proportions have increased substantially in the last two weeks and crossed into 'above average' seasonal levels this week.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- Total influenza-like illness (ILI) proportions measured by VicSPIN continue to increase and are at average levels this week with 10.3 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figures 1 & 2).
- Fifty four swabs were received this week, of which thirteen were positive for influenza (H3), one was positive for influenza A(H1), and sixteen were 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 20 August 2017

	Total	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners notifying	85 (96%)	96% (average)
Total patients seen	6,209	95,063
Total patients with ILI	64	563
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	10.3	5.9
Number of specimens received	54	383
Number (%) positive for influenza	30 (56%)	149 (39%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017

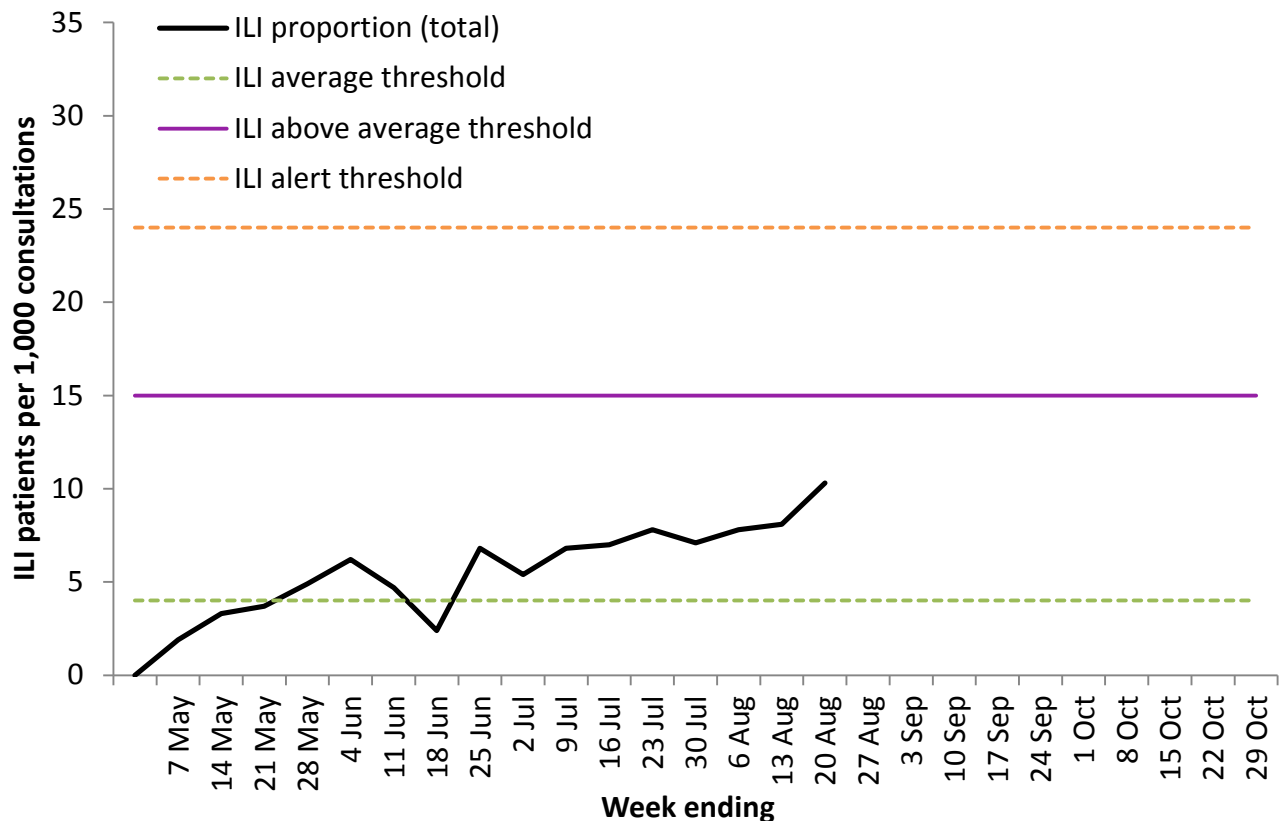
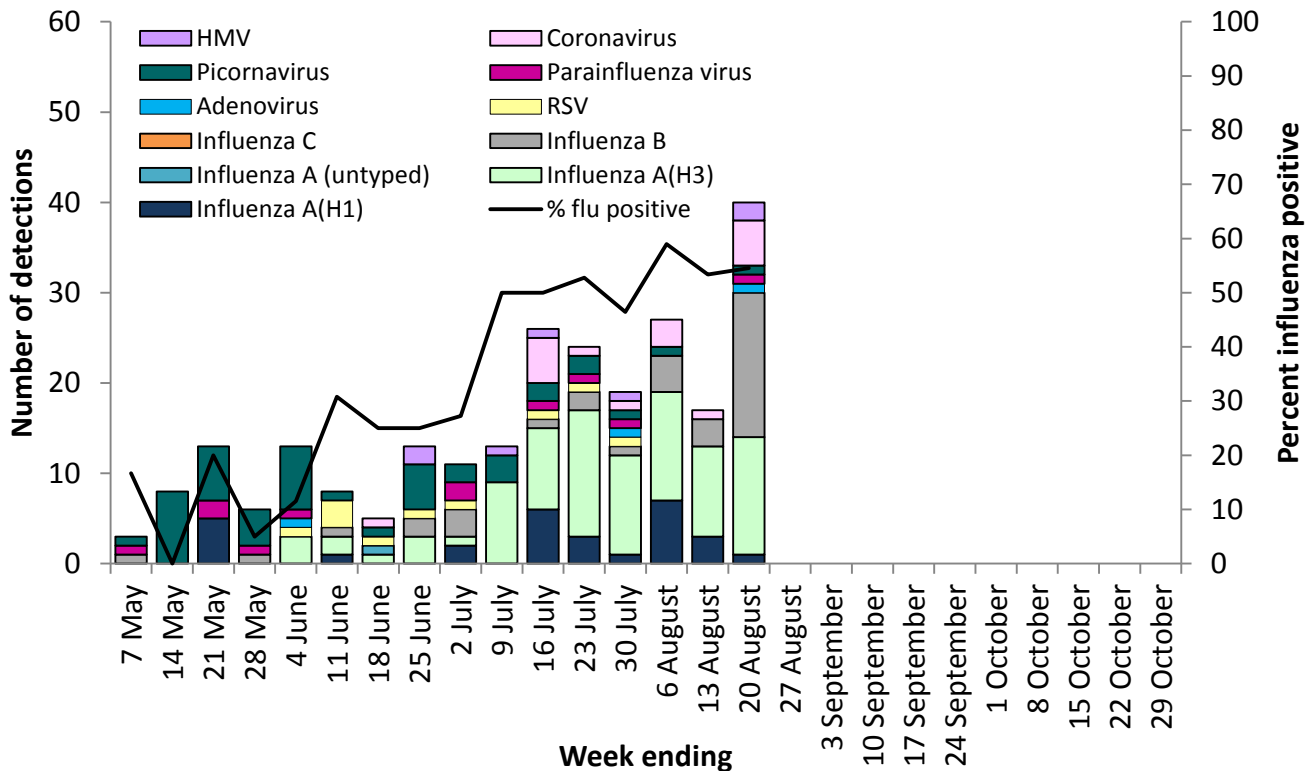


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2017



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services processed notifications for 280 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza for the week, the apparent decrease is due to an administrative backlog and notifications will be revised up as data are updated (Figure 1).
- A total of 9,347 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been notified so far in 2017, 131% more than the same period in 2016 (4,046).
- Most cases notified during the week were type A (79%), 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 (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 sixteen Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO so far in 2017; fifty two were A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-Like; twenty five were B/Phuket/3073/2013-like; three were B/Brisbane/60/2008-like and thirty six were A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like.
- One isolate has shown resistance to Zanamivir, A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09, in the 955 Australian isolates tested so far in 2017.