

Report No. 17: Week ending 26 August 2018

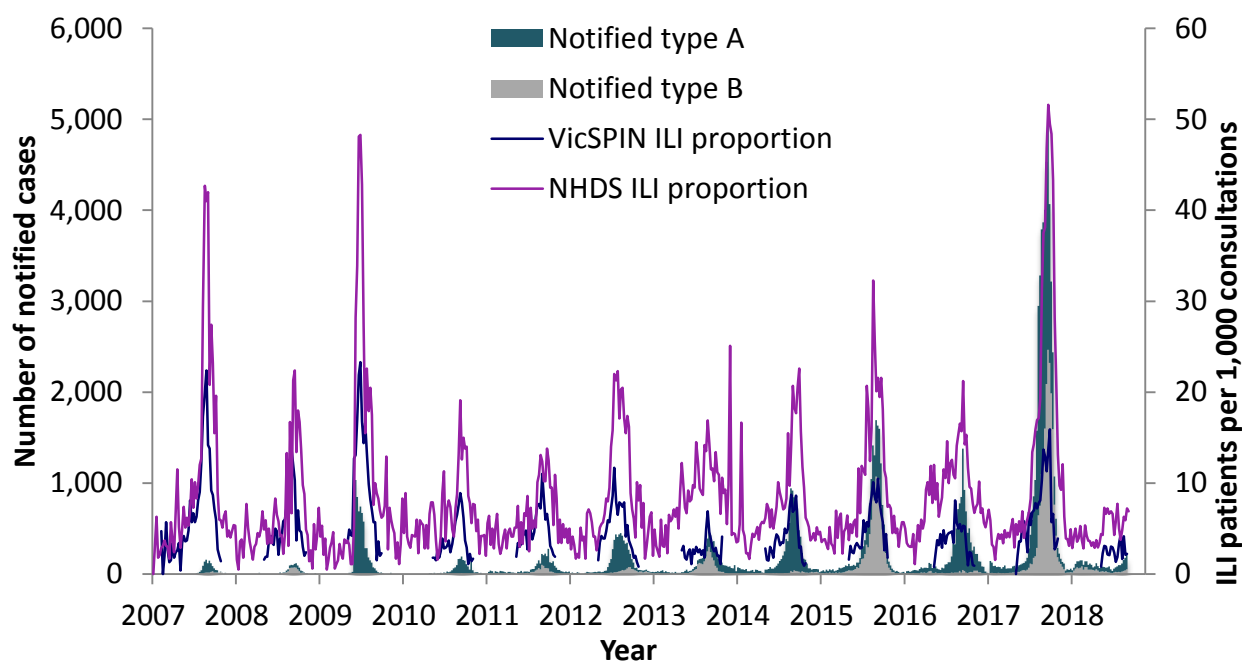
Overview: The 2018 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness activity is fluctuating around the **threshold between baseline and average**.

The number of notified cases has increased in each of the last four weeks, of which 76% have been type A (median age: 36 years) and 24% type B (median age: 39 years). However, the influenza season to date is still very quiet, with the 3,633 cases notified year-to-date 83% lower than the 20,982 notified at the same time in 2017.

Ten swabs were received from VicSPIN this week, of which none were positive for influenza A. Picornavirus remains the most commonly detected respiratory virus for the year.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2007-2018



National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for the week was 6.9 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1), remaining within the baseline activity threshold.

Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The total influenza-like illness (ILI) proportion measured by VicSPIN increased slightly still within average activity with 2.2 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen this week. (Figures 1 & 2).
- Ten swabs were received from VicSPIN this week, of which none were positive for influenza A. Picornavirus remains the most commonly detected respiratory virus.

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 26 August 2018

	Total	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners notifying	93 (93%)	92 (92%)
Total patients seen	5,954	105,151
Total patients with ILI	13	264
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	2.2	2.5
Number of specimens received	10	200
Number (%) positive for influenza	0 (0%)	10 (5%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2018

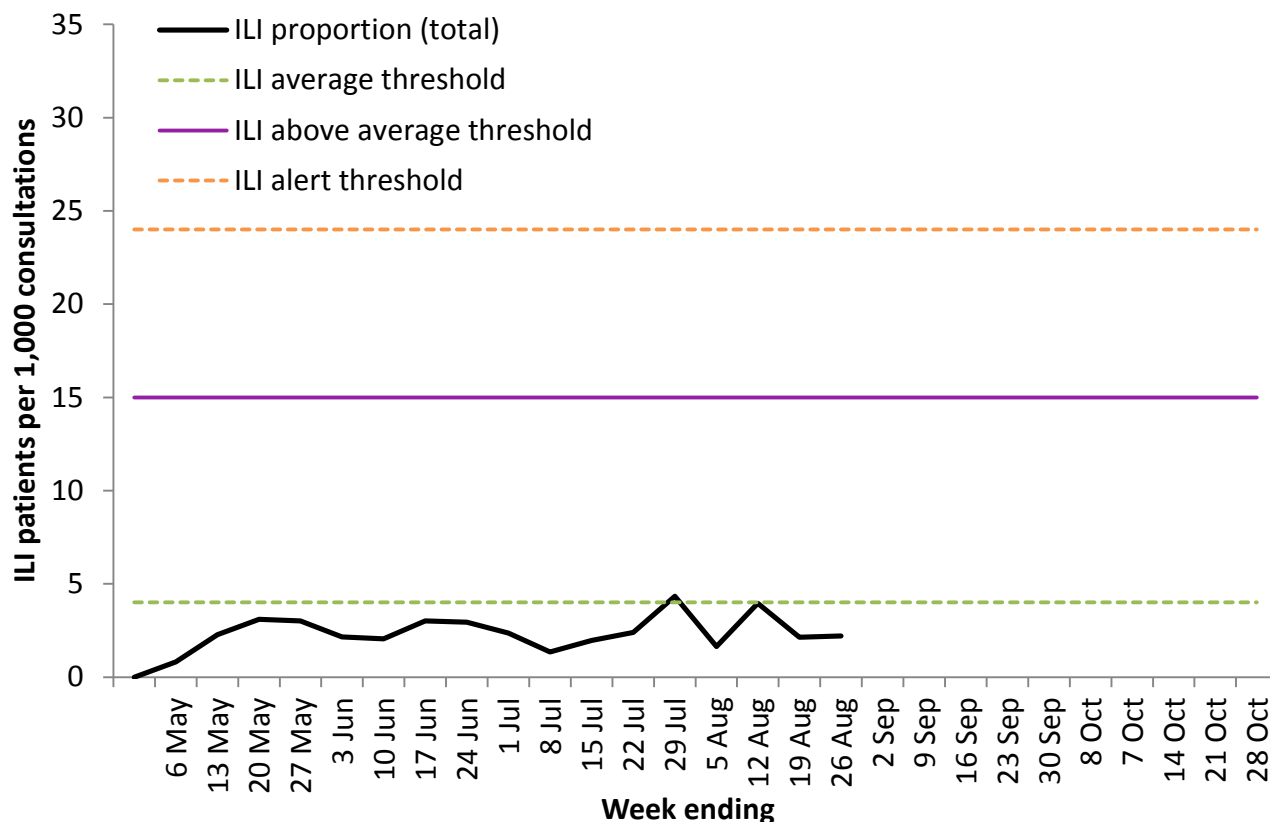
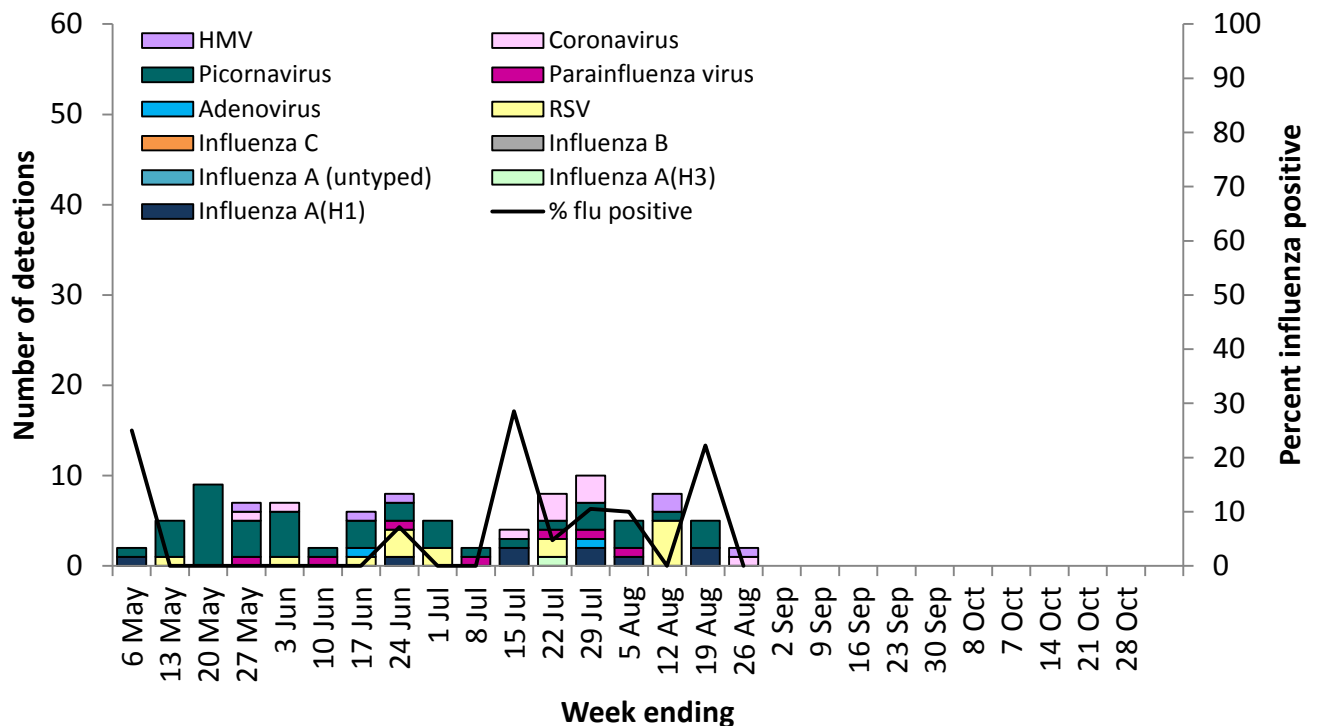


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2018



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- A total of 3,633 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2018 compared with 20,982 in 2017, an 83% decrease (Figure 1).
- The number of notified cases has increased in each of the last four weeks, of which 76% have been type A (median age: 36 years) and 24% type B (median age: 39 years).

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

- The strains included in the 2018 quadrivalent influenza vaccine are: A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus; B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus with the quadrivalent vaccine including B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus as well.
- One Victorian isolate was strain-typed by the WHO as A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09.
- No isolate has shown resistance to zanamivir, among the 190 Australian isolates tested so far in 2018.