

## Report No. 14: Week ending 5 August 2018

### Overview: The 2018 influenza season so far

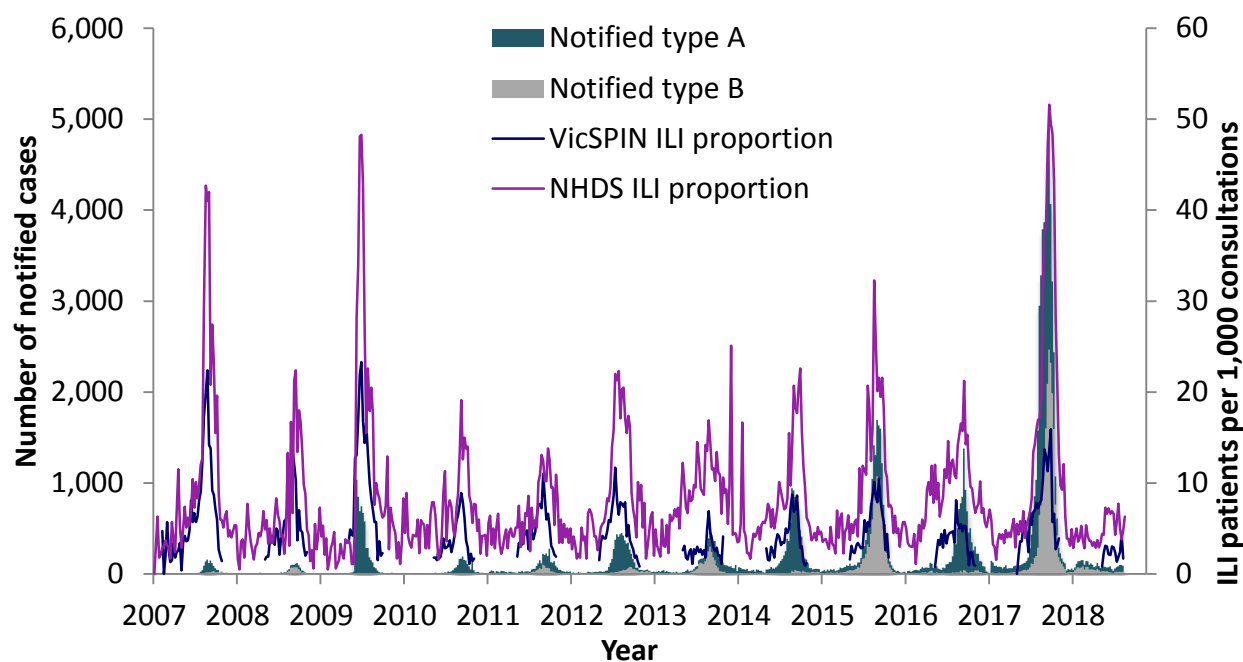
The influenza season in Victoria is still at low levels with **influenza-like illness** activity fluctuating between **baseline and average**, and **cases of influenza A detected for four consecutive weeks** in sentinel surveillance.

A total of 3,072 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2018 compared with 9,991 in 2017, a **70% decrease** (Figure 1). Cases notified year-to-date have been type A (58%) and type B (42%). Type A cases had a median age of 41 years and type B cases median age 46 years.

Ten swabs were received from VicSPIN this week, of which one (10%) was positive for influenza A (H1N1).

Picornavirus remains the most commonly detected respiratory virus.

*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 6.3 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 returned to baseline activity with 1.7 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen this week. (Figures 1 & 2).
- Ten swabs were received from VicSPIN this week, of which one (10%) was positive for influenza A (H1N1). Picornavirus remains the most commonly detected respiratory virus.

*Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 5 August 2018*

|  | Total    | Year-to-date |
|--|----------|--------------|
| Number (%) of general practitioners notifying  | 88 (88%) | 93 (93%)     |
| Total patients seen                            | 6,036    | 88,271       |
| Total patients with ILI                        | 10       | 214          |
| Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients) | 1.7      | 2.4          |
| Number of specimens received                   | 10       | 164          |
| Number (%) positive for influenza              | 1 (10%)  | 8 (5%)       |

*Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2018*

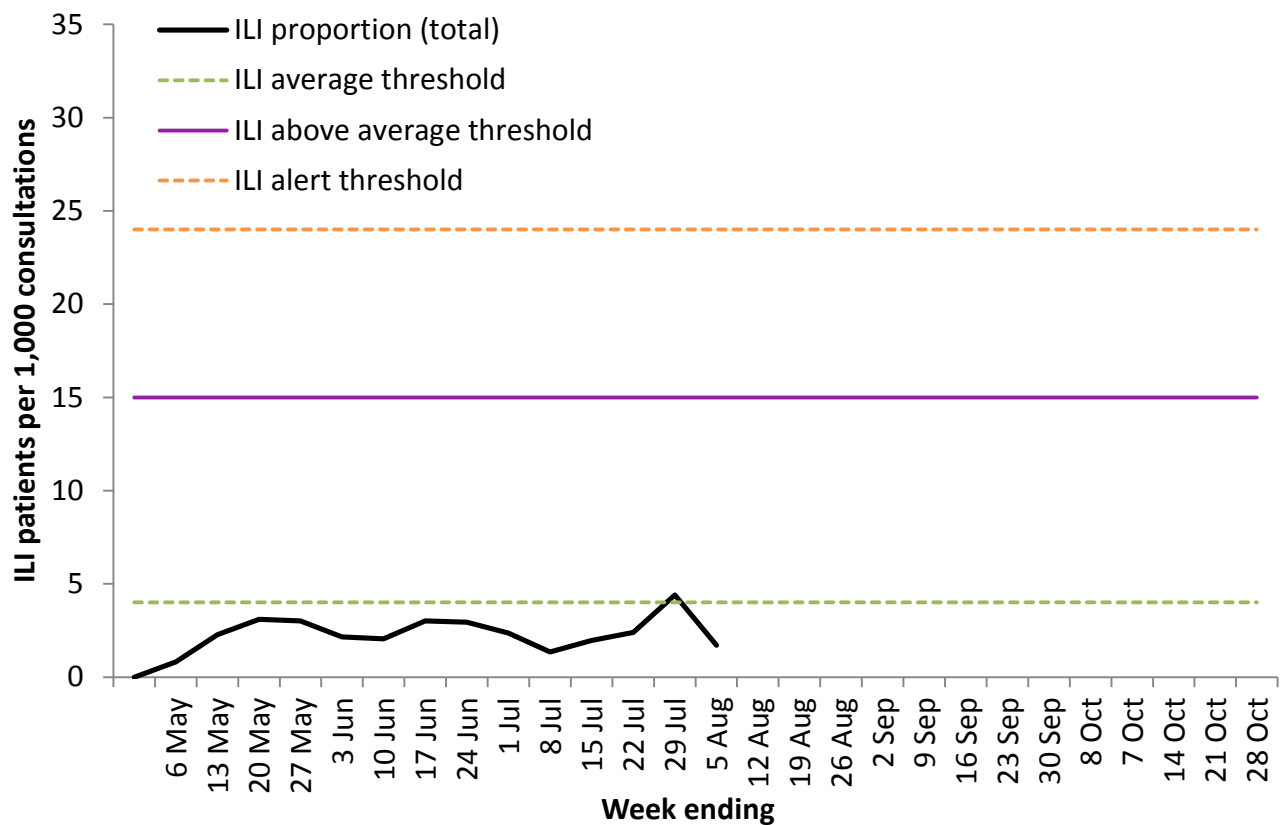
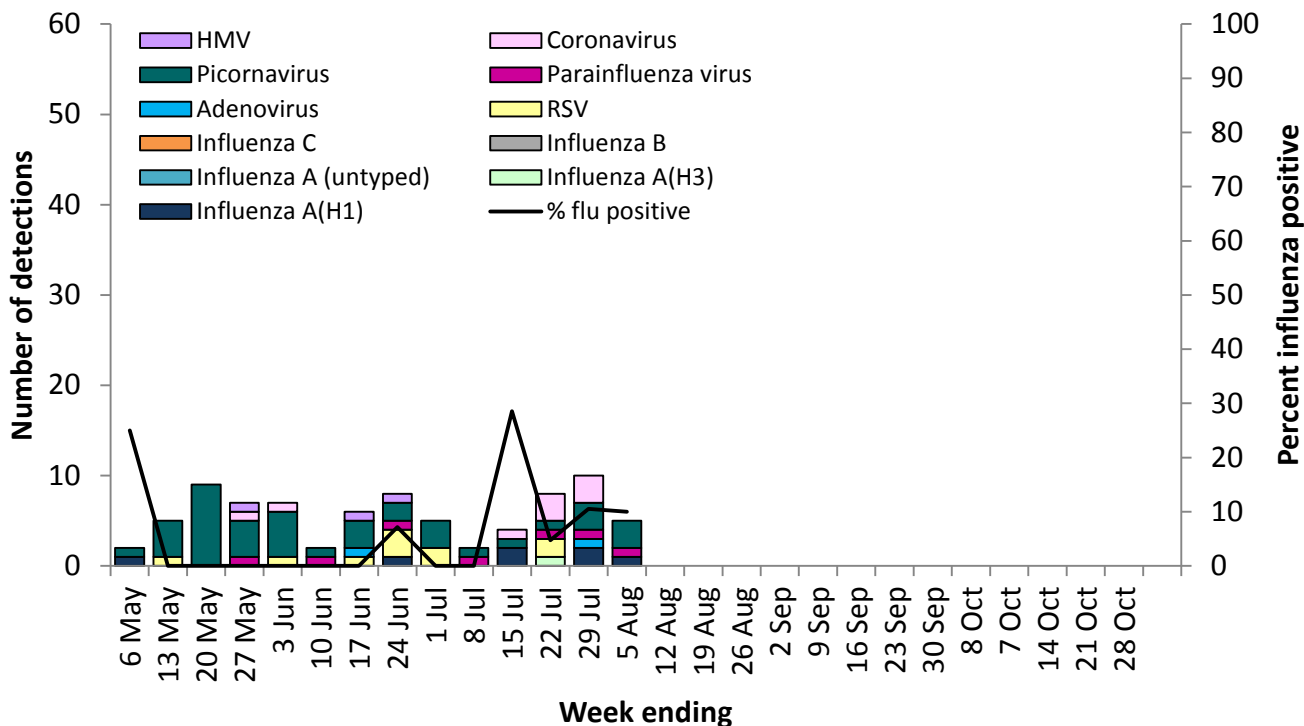


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2018



## Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

### Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- A total of 3,072 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2018 compared with 9,991 in 2017, a 70% decrease (Figure 1).
- Cases notified year-to-date have been type A (58%) and type B (42%). Type A cases had a median age of 41 years and type B cases median age 46 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.
- No Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO so far in 2018.
- No isolate has shown resistance to zanamivir, among the 176 Australian isolates tested so far in 2018.