

## Report No. 2: Week ending 19 May 2019

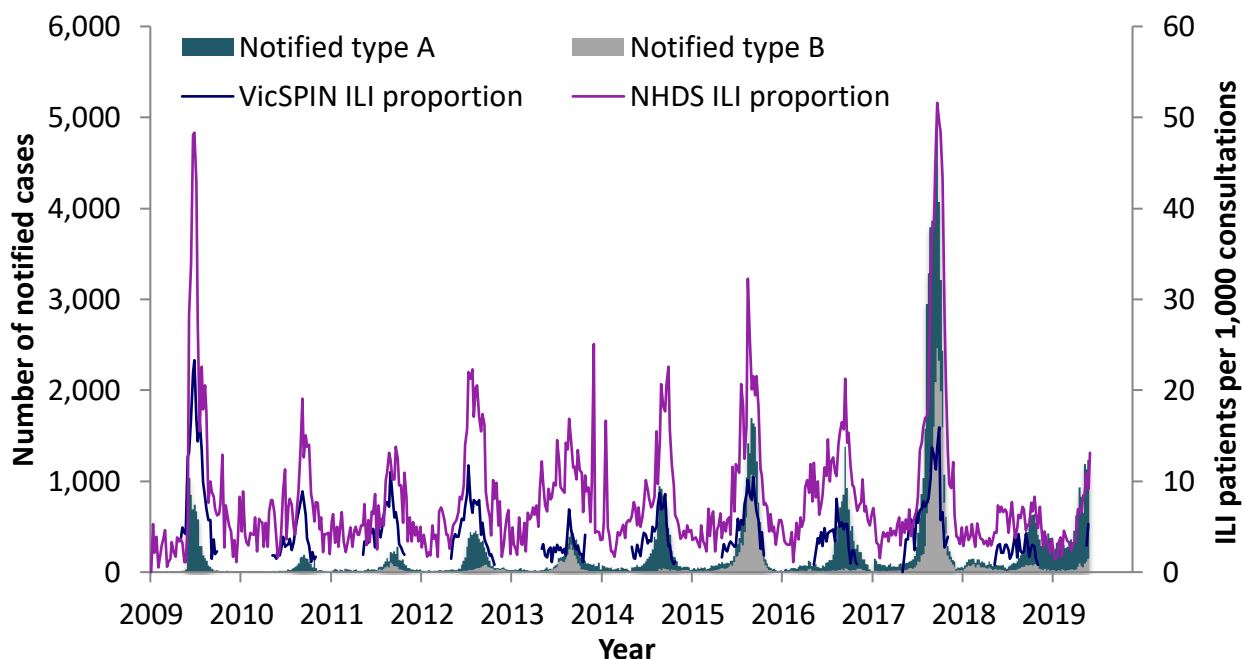
### Overview: The 2019 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness activity is currently within the **average** threshold.

The number of **notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is five times higher than at the same time in 2018**. More than **90% of notified cases are type A** and are **older than notified type B** cases; 30% of type B cases are aged less than 10 years compared to 17% of type A cases, and 19% of type A cases are aged 65 years and older compared to 6% of type B cases.

**Thirty-one swabs were received** from VicSPIN this week, of which **35% were positive for influenza**.

*Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2007-2019*



### National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for the week increased from 9.1 the previous week to 13.1 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI activity is now within the average activity threshold range of 10-35 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen.

## Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The total influenza-like illness (ILI) proportion measured by VicSPIN increased to the average activity level, with 5.3 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen this week. (Figures 1 & 2).
- Thirty-one swabs were received this week, of which 11 (35%) were positive for influenza (two of type A(H1); four each of A(H3) and A (untyped); and one type B). Picornavirus virus was detected from five (16%) swabs (Figure 3).

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 19 May 2019

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	84 (95%)	
Total patients seen	6,827	13,977
Total patients with ILI	36	57
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	5.3	4.1
Number of specimens received	31	52
Number (%) positive for influenza	11 (35%)	18 (35%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2019

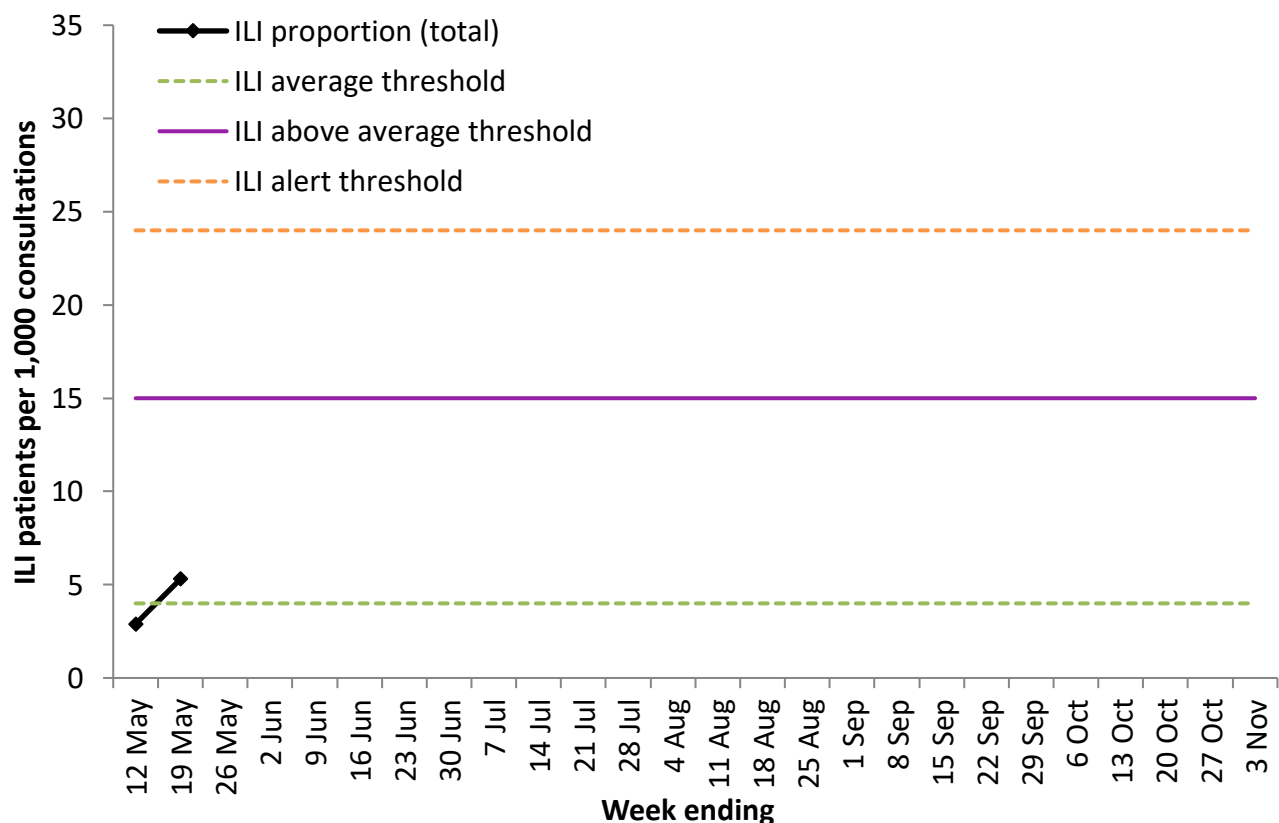
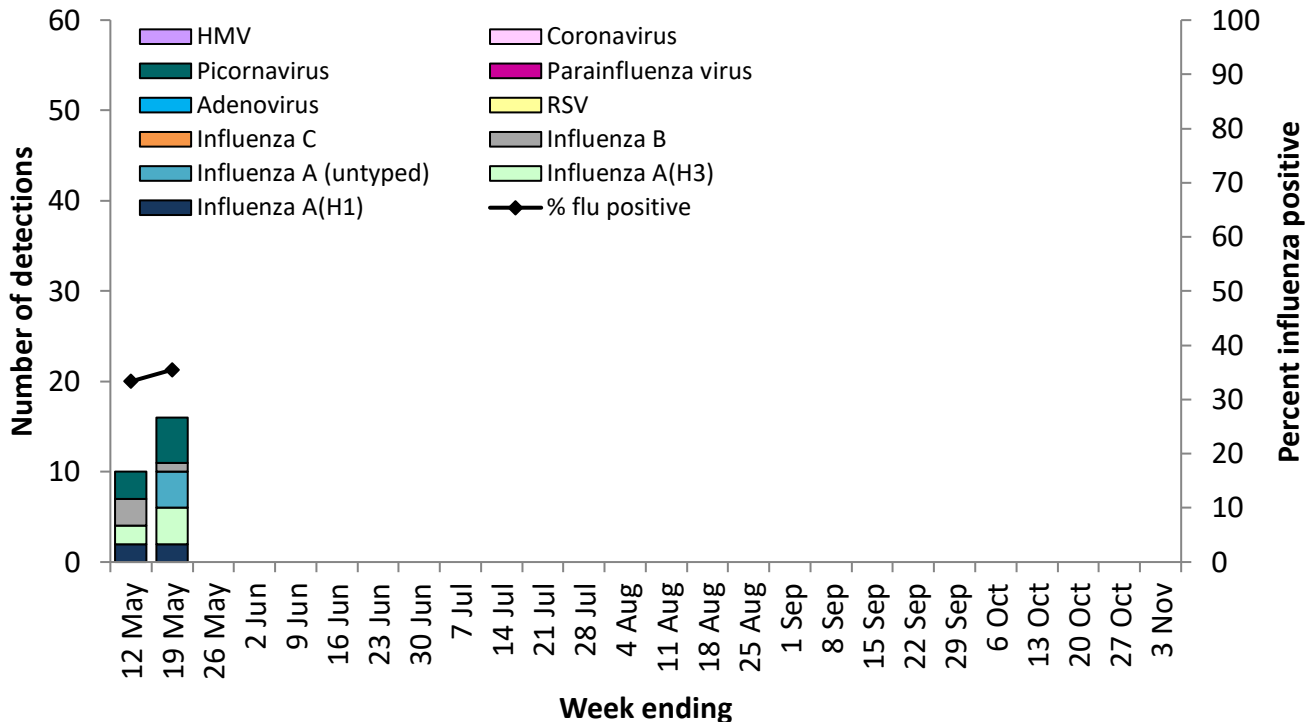


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2019



## Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

### Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza increased 10% from 1,127 to 1,236 cases from the previous week. (Note: this number is subject to change as notifications are processed and entered).
- A total of 11,087 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2019, five times the 2,196 cases notified at the same time in 2018 (Figure 1).
- Year to date, 91% of notified cases have been type A (17% aged less than 10 years and 19% aged 65 years and over) and 9% have been type B (30% aged less than 10 years and 6% aged 65 years and over).

### World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

- The strains included in the 2019 quadrivalent influenza vaccine are: A/Michigan/45/2015-Like (H1N1)pdm09 virus; A/Switzerland/8060/2017-like (H3N2) virus; B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus with the quadrivalent vaccine including B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus as well.
- Seventy-two Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO to date: 53 as A/Michigan/45/2015-Like; one as A/Michigan/45/2015-Low Reactor; seven as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Like; seven as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Low Reactor; two as B/Colorado/6/2017-Like; one as B/Colorado/6/2017-Low Reactor; and one as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Like.
- No isolate has shown resistance to oseltamivir or zanamivir, among the 676 Australian isolates tested so far in 2019.