

Report No. 11: Week ending 21 July 2019

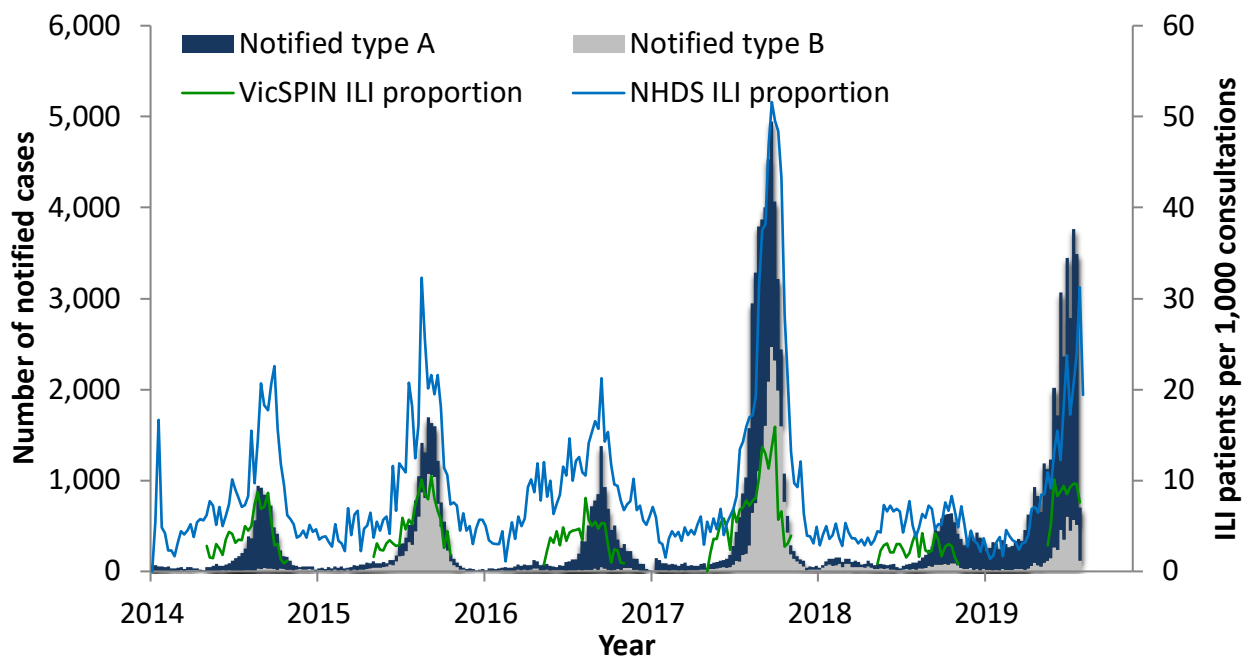
Overview: The 2019 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness activity remains within the **average** threshold. Although activity has been fairly constant over the past several weeks, this week activity has decreased, and while still higher than at the same time in 2018 it is very similar to that observed in 2017.

The number of **notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is over twelve times higher than at the same time in 2018 and over six times higher than at the same time in 2017**. The majority of notified cases are **type A (83%)**, and type A cases are older than type B cases; 34% of type B cases are aged less than 10 years compared to 21% of type A cases, and 17% of type A cases are aged 65 years and older compared to 4% of type B cases.

Thirty-three swabs were received from VicSPIN this week, of which **42% were positive for influenza**. To date, influenza A(H3) was co-detected with A(H1N1)pdm09 in one case. In four additional cases, influenza was co-detected with another respiratory virus.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2014-2019



National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for the week decreased from 31.2 the previous week to 19.4 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen (Figure 1).
- ILI activity remains 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 has decreased, but remains within the average activity level, with 7.6 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen this week. This is higher for the current week than at the same time in 2018, but approximately the same as that observed in 2017. (Figures 1 & 2).
- Thirty-three swabs were received this week, of which 14 (42%) were positive for influenza (ten of A(H3); four A(H1)). Other respiratory viruses were only detected in six swabs. (Figure 3).

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 21 July 2019

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	85 (100%)	
Total patients seen	5,956	68,859
Total patients with ILI	45	542
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	7.6	7.9
Number of specimens received	33	436
Number (%) positive for influenza	14 (42%)	146 (33%)

Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017, 2018 and 2019

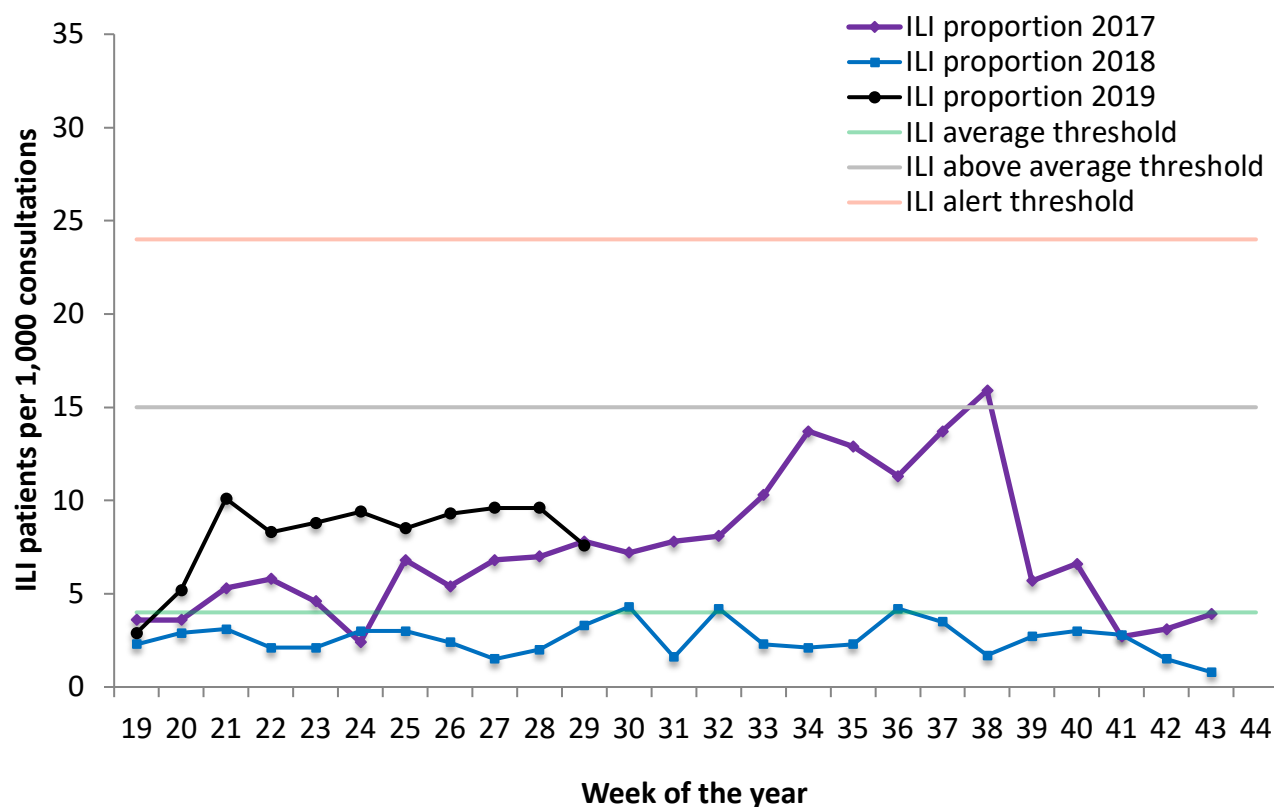
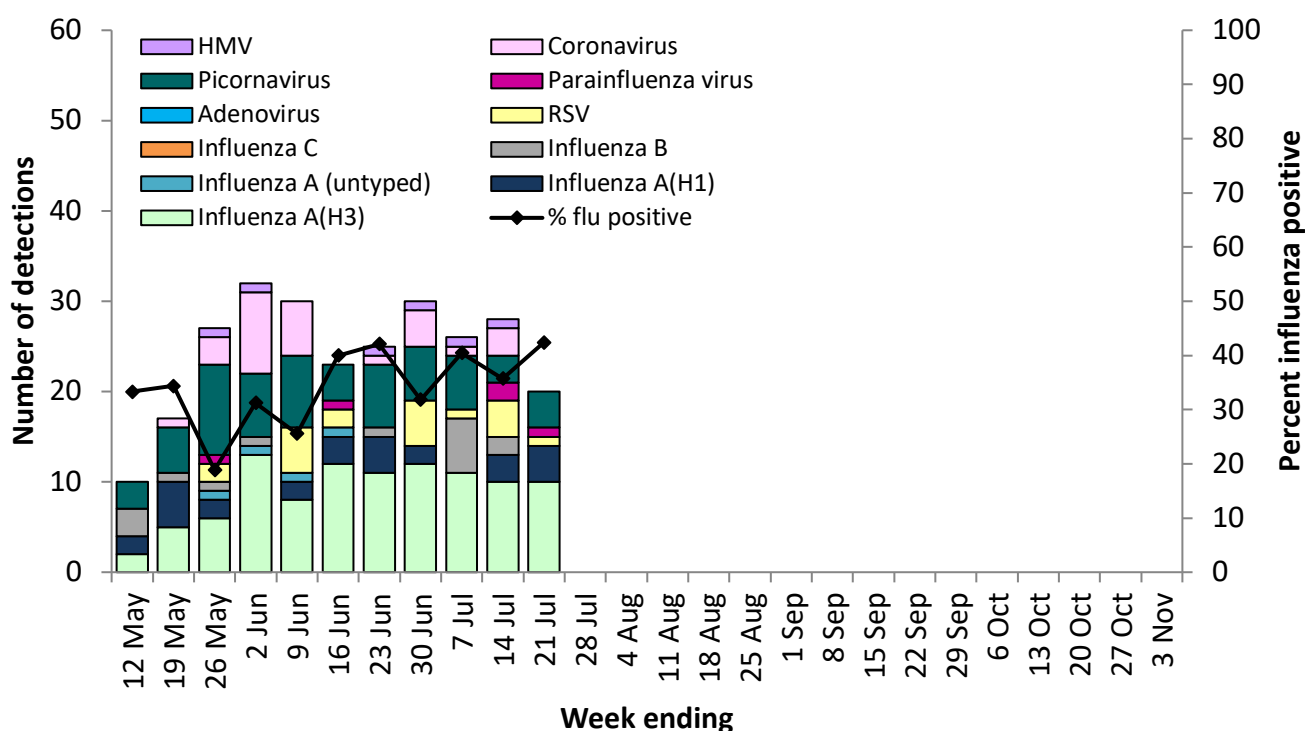


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2019



Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza appears lower than last week, at 708 cases compared with 3,506 cases in the previous week, however this number is subject to change as notifications are processed and entered.
- A total of 34,505 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2019, over twelve times the 2,847 cases notified at the same time in 2018 and over six times the 5,455 cases notified at the same time in 2018 (Figure 1).
- Year to date, 83% of notified cases have been type A (21% aged less than 10 years and 17% aged 65 years and over) and 17% have been type B (34% aged less than 10 years and 4% 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.
- A total of 195 Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO to date: 103 as A/Michigan/45/2015-Like; one as A/Michigan/45/2015-Low Reactor; 59 as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Like; 15 as A/Switzerland/8060/2017-Low Reactor; ten as B/Colorado/6/2017-Like; six as B/Colorado/6/2017-Low Reactor; and one as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Like.
- No isolates have shown resistance to zanamivir however, one isolate has shown resistance to oseltamivir among the 1470 Australian isolates tested so far in 2019.