

## Report No. 1: Week ending 9 May 2021

### Overview: The 2021 influenza season so far

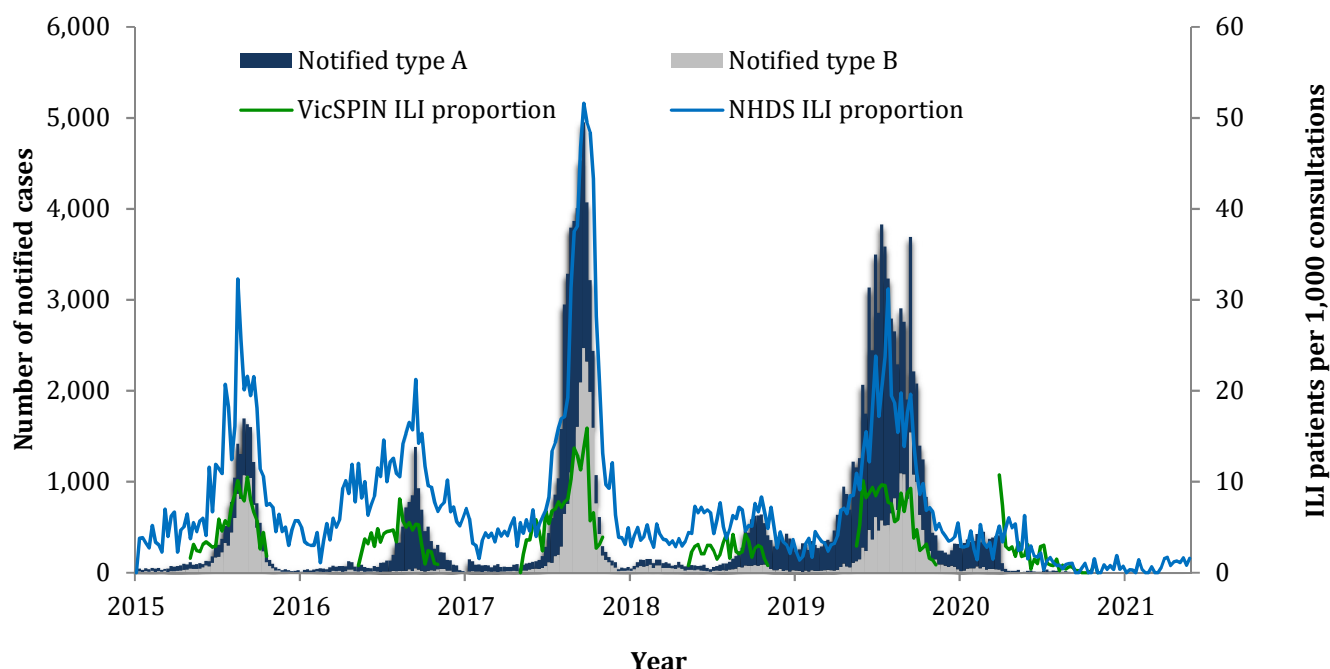
VicSPIN influenza surveillance has commenced with a smaller cohort of GPs contributing data due to changes in clinical practice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some GPs have elected not to collect swabs but will continue to report all ILIs even when the patient has been referred to alternative clinics for swab collection.

**Influenza-like illness (ILI) is below the average activity threshold for the first reporting week of 2021, with 2.6 ILIs per 1000 patients seen.**

The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is **99% lower** than the number notified by the same time in 2020. The majority of notified cases have been **type A (90%)**. There has also been one influenza type C case.

**Four swabs** were received from VicSPIN this week, of which 0 tested positive for influenza. Seasonal coronavirus was detected in one swab.

*Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases, VicSPIN and National Home Doctor Service (NHDS) ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2015 – 2021*



### National Home Doctor Service (Victoria)

- The ILI proportion for this week is **1.6 0 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen** (Figure 1).
- ILI activity is **well below** the average activity threshold range of 10-35 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen.

## Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The ILI proportion measured by VicSPIN for this week is below the average activity threshold with 2.6 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen. (Figures 1 & 2, and Table 1).
- Four swabs were received from VicSPIN this week (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- There were 0 that tested positive for influenza. (Figure 3 and Table 1).
- Seasonal coronavirus was detected from one swab. (Figure 3).

*Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 9 May 2021.*

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	30 (100%)	
Total patients seen	3081	3081
Total patients with ILI	8	8
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	2.6	2.6
Number of specimens received	4	4
Number (%) positive for influenza	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

*Figure 2. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021*

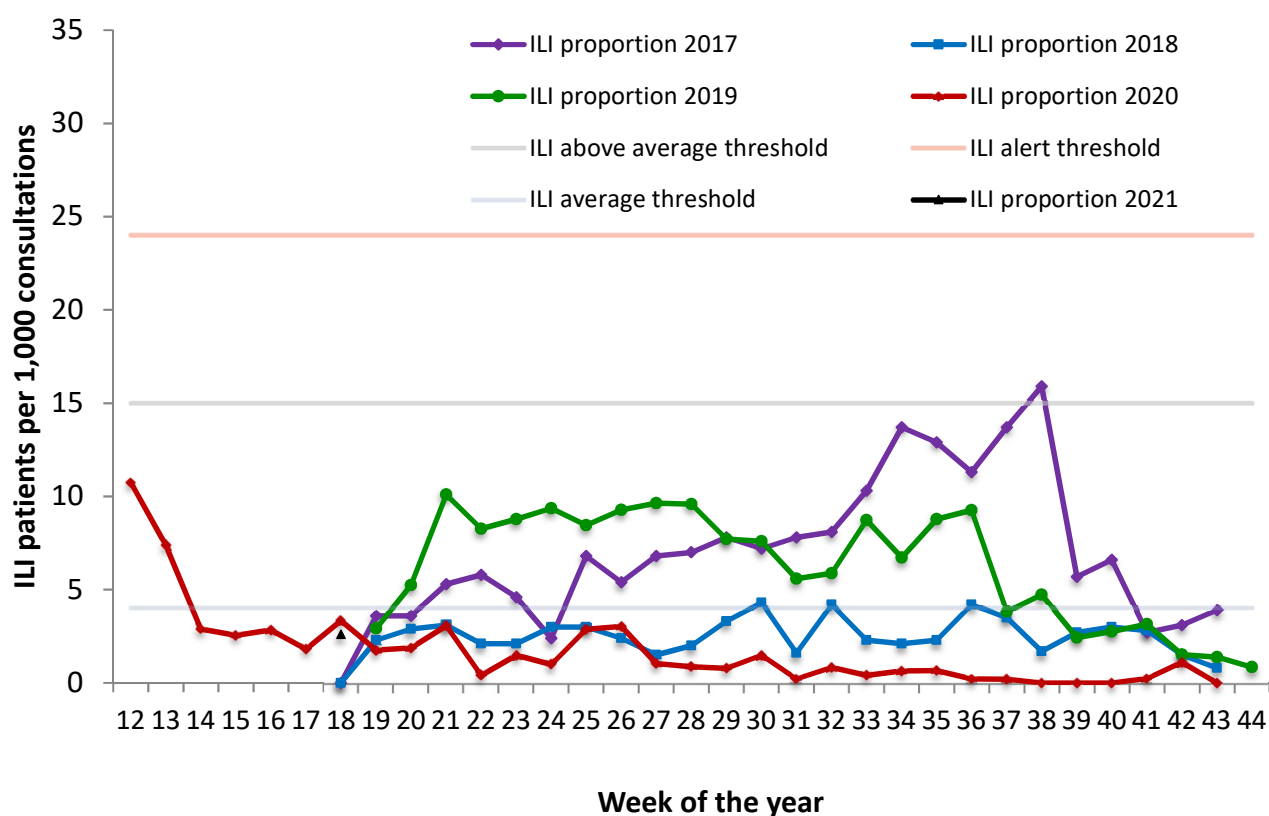
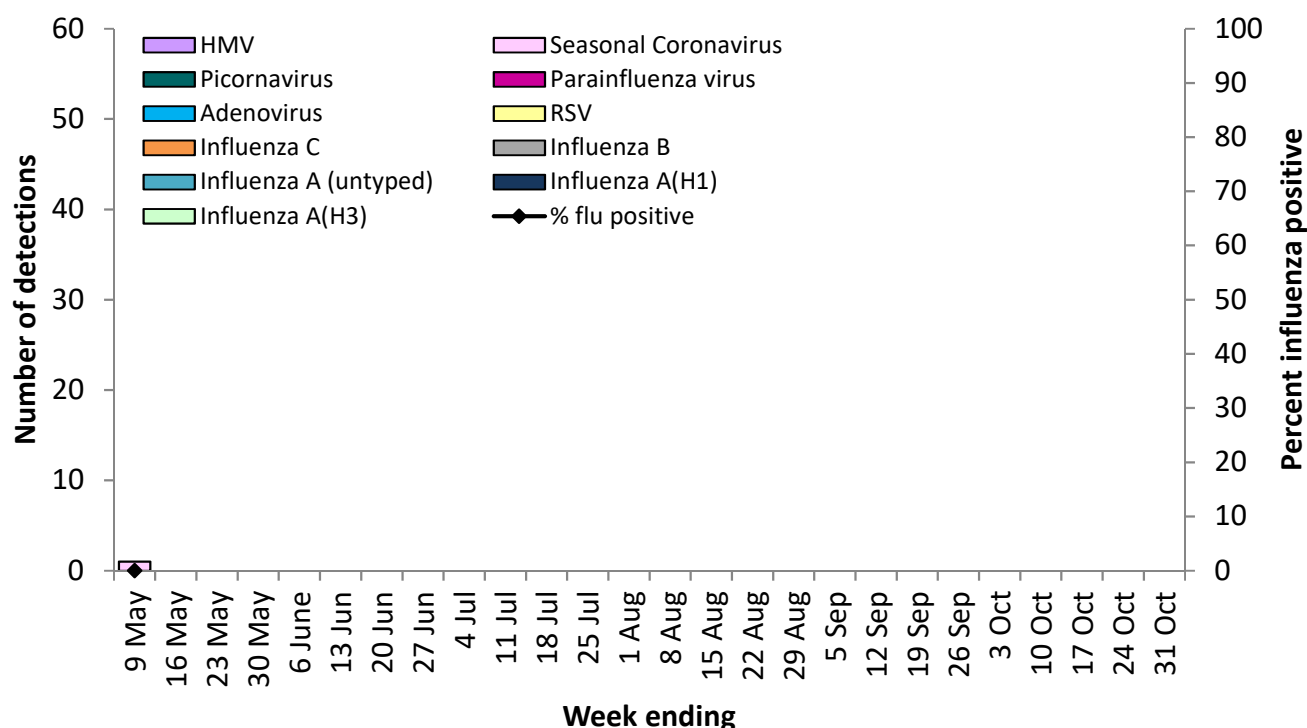


Figure 3. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2021



## Observations from other influenza surveillance systems

### Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza

- The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza for this week, is 0 cases.
- A total of 60 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2021, a 99% decrease on the number notified by the same time in 2020 (Figure 1).
- Year to date, 90% of notified cases have been type A (22% of Type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 19% aged 65 years and over) and 8% have been type B (100% of Type B cases are aged between 10 and 65 years).
- There has been one notified case of influenza type C.

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

- The strains included in the 2021 egg-based influenza quadrivalent vaccine are: A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus, B/Washington/02/2019-like (B/Victoria lineage) and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus. The trivalent vaccine excludes the B/Yamagata lineage virus.
- The strains included in the 2021 cell-based influenza quadrivalent vaccine are: A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus, B/Washington/02/2019-like (B/Victoria lineage) and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus.

- A total of 0 Victorian isolates have been strain-typed by the WHO to date:

0 as A/Victoria/2570/2019-Like

0 as A/Victoria/2570/2019-Low Reactor

0 as A/Darwin/726/2019-Like

0 as A/Darwin/726/2019-Low Reactor

0 as B/Washington/02/2019-Like

0 as B/Washington/02/2019-Low Reactor

0 as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Like

0 as B/Phuket/3073/2013-Low Reactor

N.B. A/Darwin/726/2019 is the cell equivalent of A/Hong Kong/2671/2019-H3N2 vaccine strain.

- No isolates have shown resistance to zanamivir or oseltamivir, among the 5 Australian isolates tested so far in 2021.