

Report No. 6: Week ending 15 May 2022

Overview

In 2022, the Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network (**VicSPIN**), will report on influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses circulating in the community.

The 2022 influenza season so far

Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity is currently **within the average** threshold for this week with **14.2 ILIs per 1000 patients seen**.

The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is **over 70 times higher** than the number notified by the same time in 2021. Most notified cases have been **type A (99.98%)** (17% of Type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 8% aged 65 years and over), and only **one case has been type B (0.02%)** (between 10 and 65 years).

Twelve swabs were received from VicSPIN this week.

Eight swabs tested positive for **influenza**.

The 2022 SARS-CoV-2 case numbers so far

The number of routinely notified COVID-19 cases based on PCR and RAT testing so far in 2022 is **1,550,347 cases**.

The number notified by the same time in 2021 was **170 cases**.

There have been **87,407 cases** reported in the past week.

There have been **20,794,566** PCR tests to date. The total number of rapid antigen tests (RATs) conducted is unknown.

One swab received from VicSPIN this week tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.

Figure 1. Routinely notified influenza cases and VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2015 – 2022

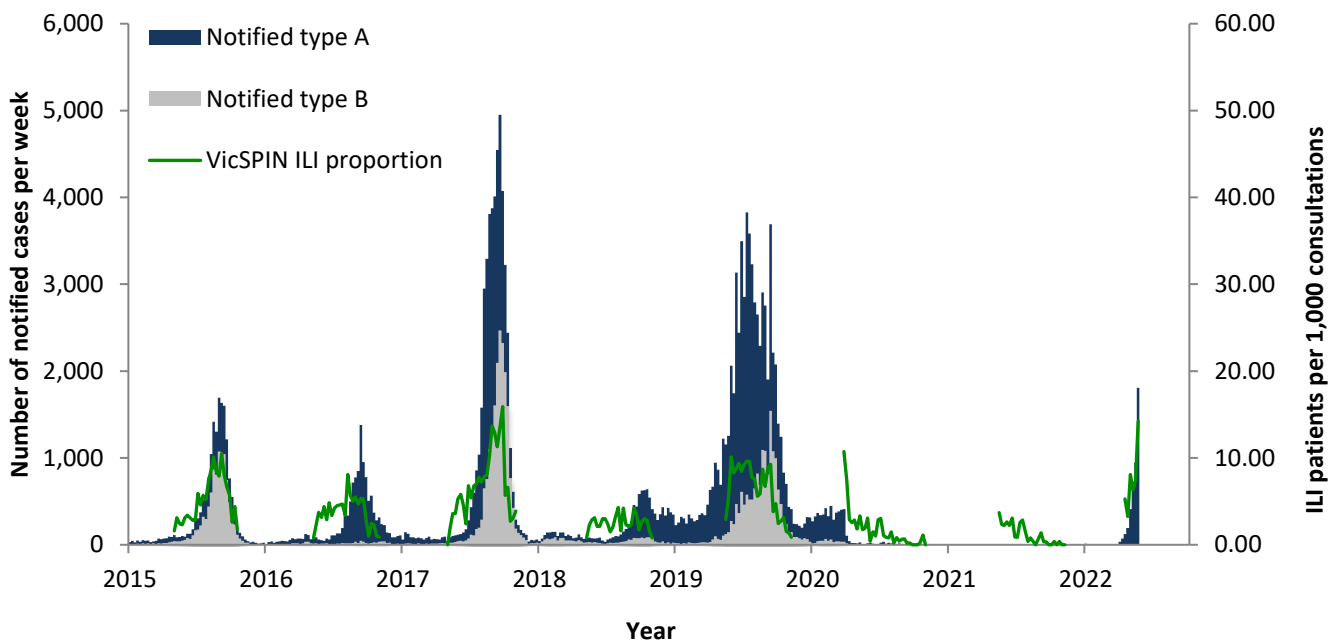
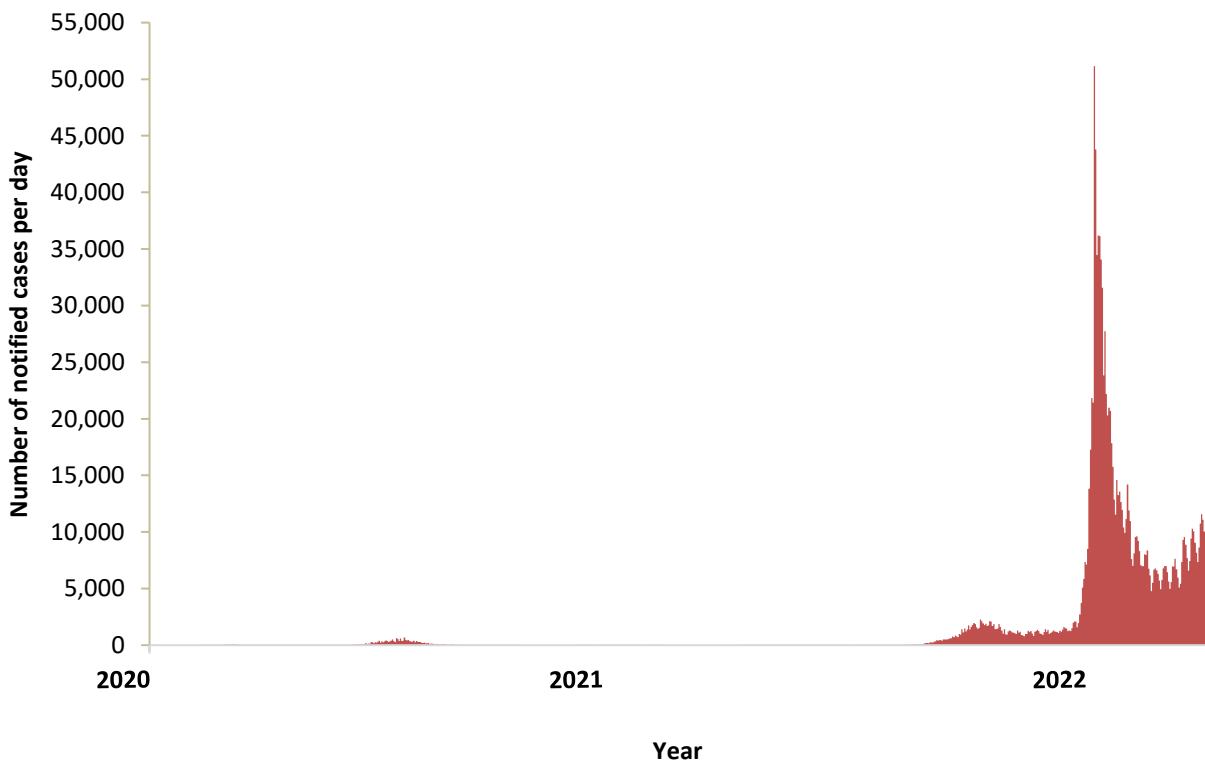


Figure 2. Daily routinely notified SARS-CoV-2 cases based on PCR and RAT testing, Victoria, 2020 – 2022



Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The ILI proportion measured by VicSPIN for this week is within the average activity threshold with **14.2 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen**. (Figures 1 & 3, and Table 1)
- **Twelve swabs** were received from VicSPIN this week. (Figure 4 and Table 1)
- **Eight swabs** tested positive for influenza. (Figure 4 and Table 1)
- **One swab** tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. (Figure 4 and Table 1)

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 15 May 2022.*

	Week	Year-to-date
Number (%) of general practitioners reporting	26 (100%)	
Total patients seen	1,756	9,807
Total patients with ILI	25	75
Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients)	14.2	7.6
Number of specimens received	12	28
Number (%) positive for influenza	8 (66.7%)	12 (42.8%)
Number (%) positive for SARS-CoV-2	1 (8.3%)	2 (7.1%)

* These numbers are subject to change as data are processed and updated.

Figure 3. VicSPIN ILI consultation proportions, Victoria, 2018 – 2022

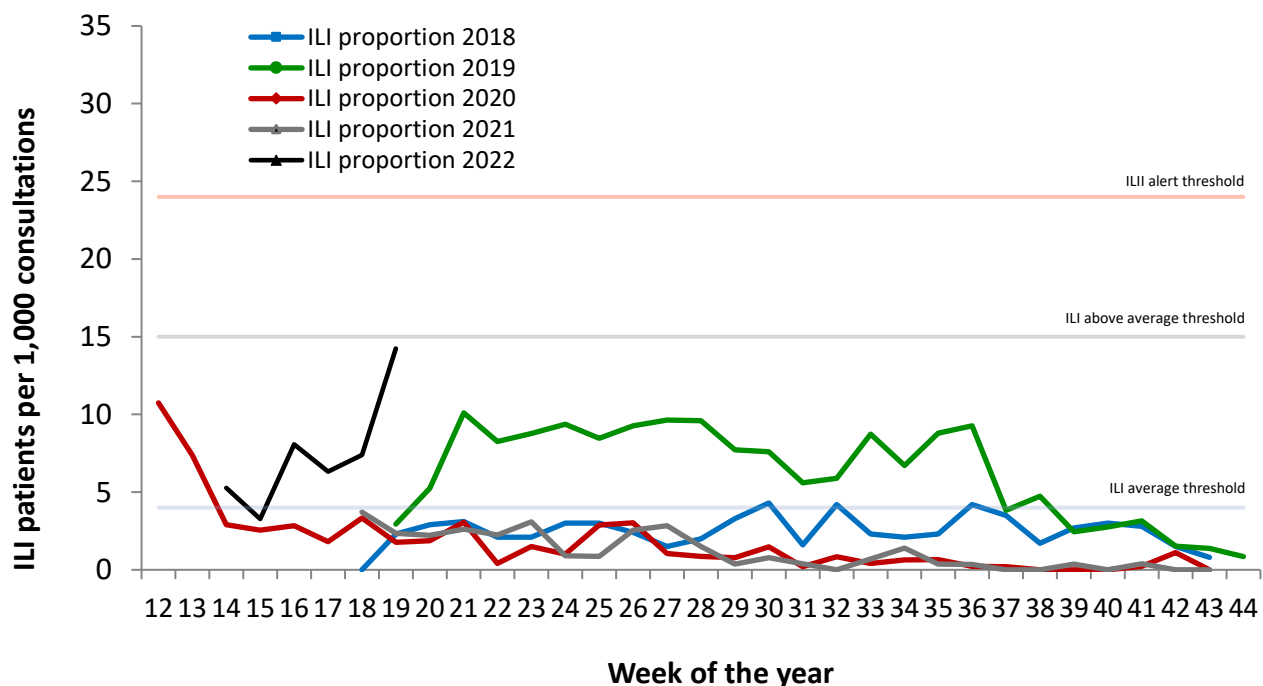
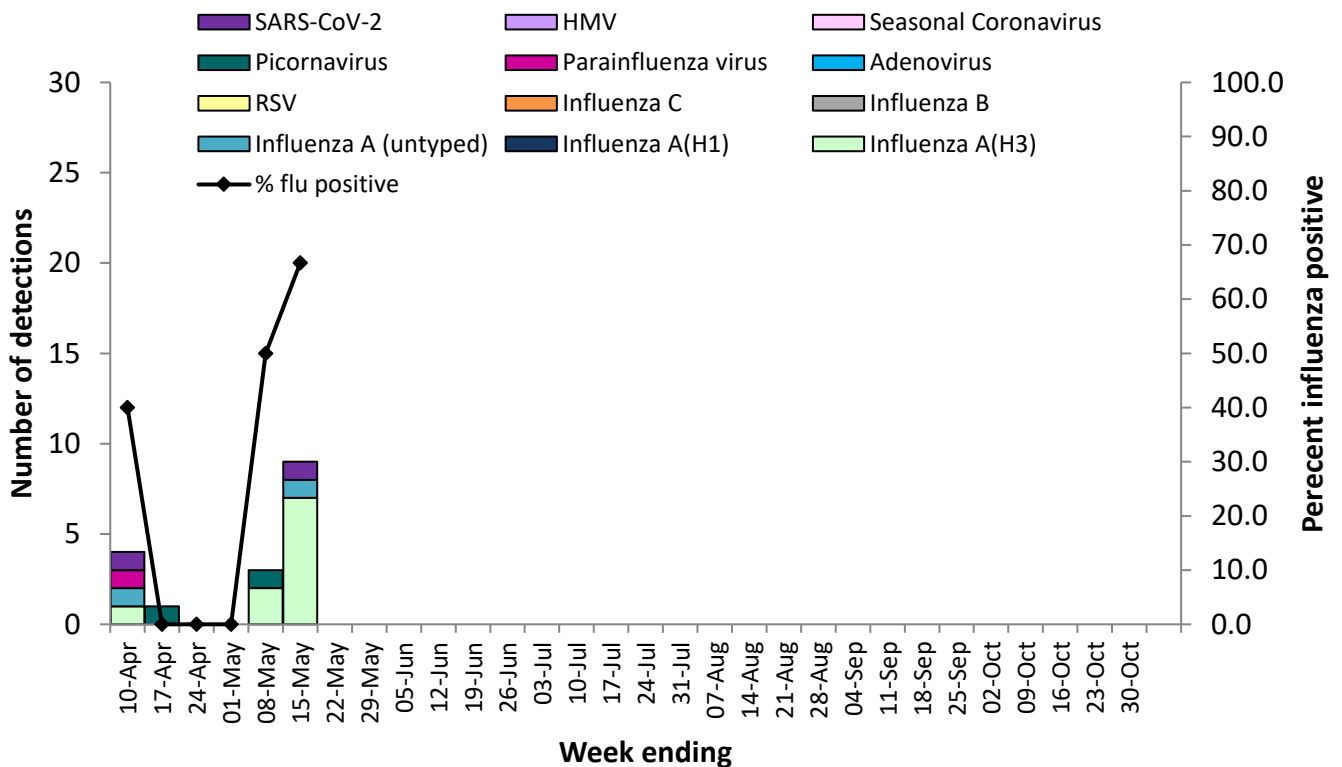


Figure 4. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2022



Observations from other influenza and SARS-CoV-2 surveillance systems

Notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza and SARS-CoV-2

- The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza for this week is 1,806 (Table 2).
- A total of 4,254 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2022, over 70-fold increase on the number notified by the same time in 2021 (Figure 1 and Table 2).
- Year to date, 99.98% of notified cases have been type A (17% of Type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 8% aged 65 years and over) and 0.02% (1 case) has been type B (aged between 10 and 65 years).
- The number of total SARS-CoV-2 cases for this week is 87,407 (Table 2).
- A total of 1,550,347 probable and confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases have been notified so far in 2022 compared with 170 for the same in 2021 (Table 2)
- There have been 20,794,566 PCR tests to date. The total number of rapid antigen tests (RATs) conducted is unknown
- These numbers are subject to change as data are processed and uploaded.

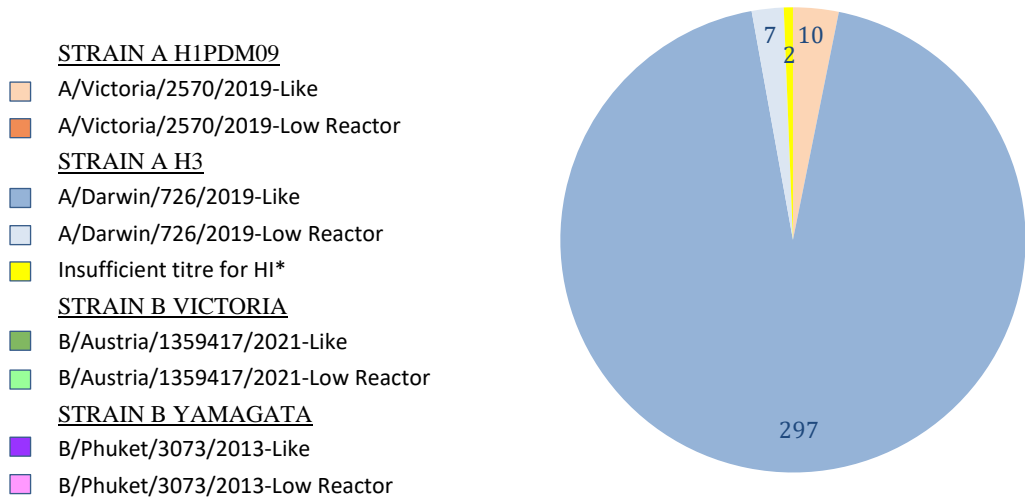
Table 2. Summary of notified influenza and SARS-CoV-2 cases, week ending 15 May 2022.

	Week	2022 Year-to-date	2021 Year-to-date
Notified influenza cases	1,806	4,254	60
Notified SARS-CoV-2 cases	87,407	1,550,347	170

World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza

- The strains included in the 2022 egg-based Southern Hemisphere seasonal influenza quadrivalent vaccines are: A/Victoria/2570/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus, B/Austria/1359417/2021-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus.
- The strains included in the 2022 cell-based Southern Hemisphere seasonal influenza quadrivalent vaccines are: A/Wisconsin/588/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, A/Darwin/9/2021 (H3N2)-like virus, B/Austria/1359417/2021-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus and B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus.
- A total of 314 Victorian isolates has been strain-typed by the WHO to date. (Fig. 5)

Figure 5. Victorian influenza isolates typed by haemagglutination inhibition assay, samples collected year-to-date, 2022.



* Insufficient titre for HI means viruses were unable to be characterised in the HI assay.

- N.B. A/Darwin/6/2019 is the cell equivalent of A/Darwin/9/2021 - H3N2 vaccine strain.
- No isolates have shown resistance to zanamivir or oseltamivir, among the 227 Australian isolates tested so far in 2021.