

Report No. 7: Week ending 22 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 **above the average** threshold for this week with **16.3 ILIs per 1000 patients seen**.

The number of notified cases of laboratory confirmed influenza is **almost 118 times higher** than the number notified by the same time in 2021 but only 0.6-fold the number in 2019 prior to the COVID pandemic. **Most** notified cases have been **type A (99.95%)** (22% of type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 7% aged 65 years and over), **one case has been type B** and **one case has been type A and type B**.

Seven swabs were received from VicSPIN this week.

Two 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 **1,633,482 cases**.

The number notified by the same time in 2021 was **173 cases**.

There have been **83,321 cases** reported in the past week.

There have been **20,922,368** PCR tests to date. The total number of rapid antigen tests (RATs) conducted is unknown.

Two of the seven swabs 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

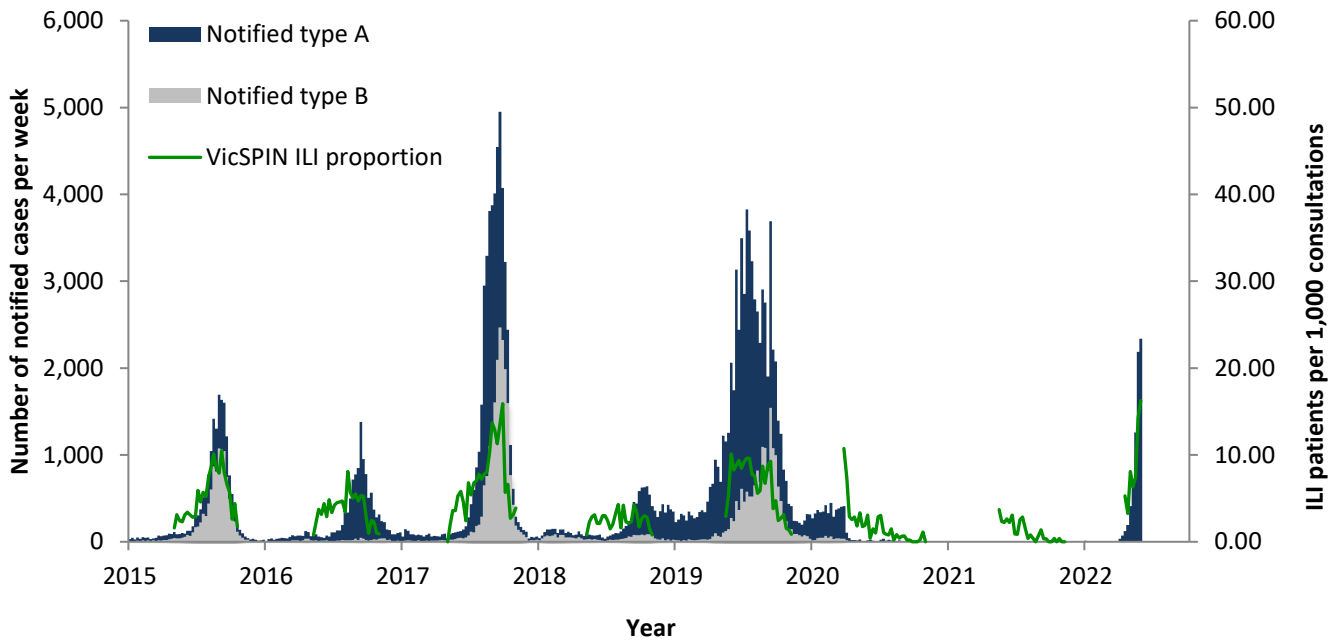
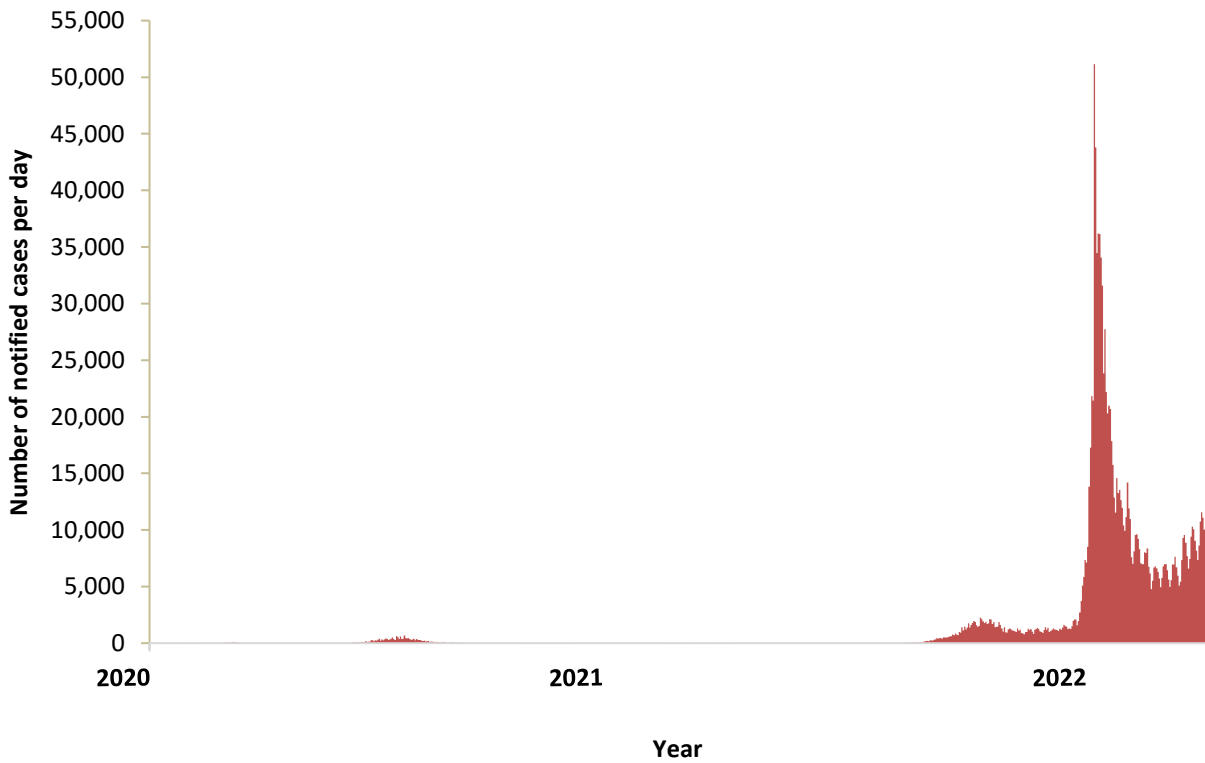


Figure 2. Daily routinely notified SARS-CoV-2 cases based on PCR and RAT testing, Victoria, 2020 – 2022



Victorian Sentinel Practice Influenza Network

- The ILI proportion measured by VicSPIN for this week is **above** the average activity threshold with **16.3 ILI cases per 1,000 patients seen**. (Figures 1 & 3, and Table 1)
- **Seven swabs** were received from VicSPIN this week. (Figure 4 and Table 1)
- **Two swabs** tested positive for influenza. (Figure 4 and Table 1)
- **Two swabs** tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. (Figure 4 and Table 1)

Table 1. Summary of reporting from general practice sentinel sites, week ending 22 May 2022.*

| | Week | Year-to-date |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| Number (%) of general practitioners reporting | 26 (100%) | |
| Total patients seen | 1,537 | 11,344 |
| Total patients with ILI | 25 | 98 |
| Consultation rate for ILI (per 1,000 patients) | 16.3 | 8.6 |
| Number of specimens received | 7 | 38 |
| Number (%) positive for influenza | 2 (28.6%) | 17 (44.7%) |
| Number (%) positive for SARS-CoV-2 | 2 (28.6%) | 4 (10.5%) |

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

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

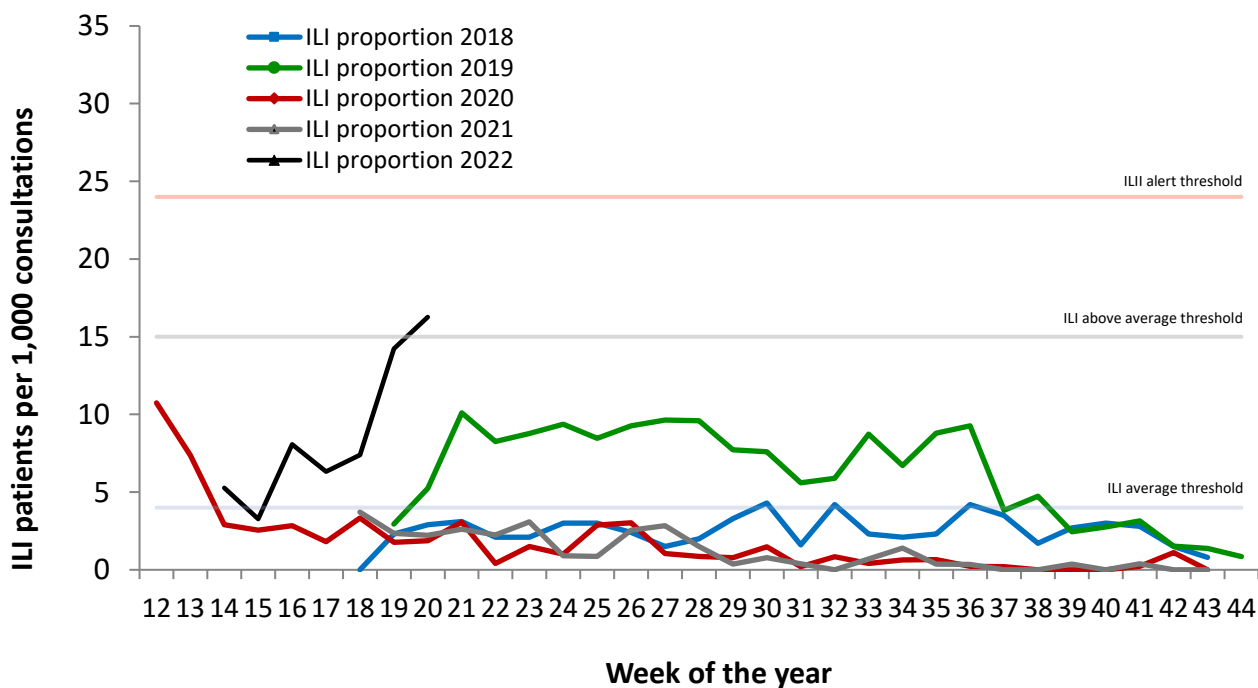
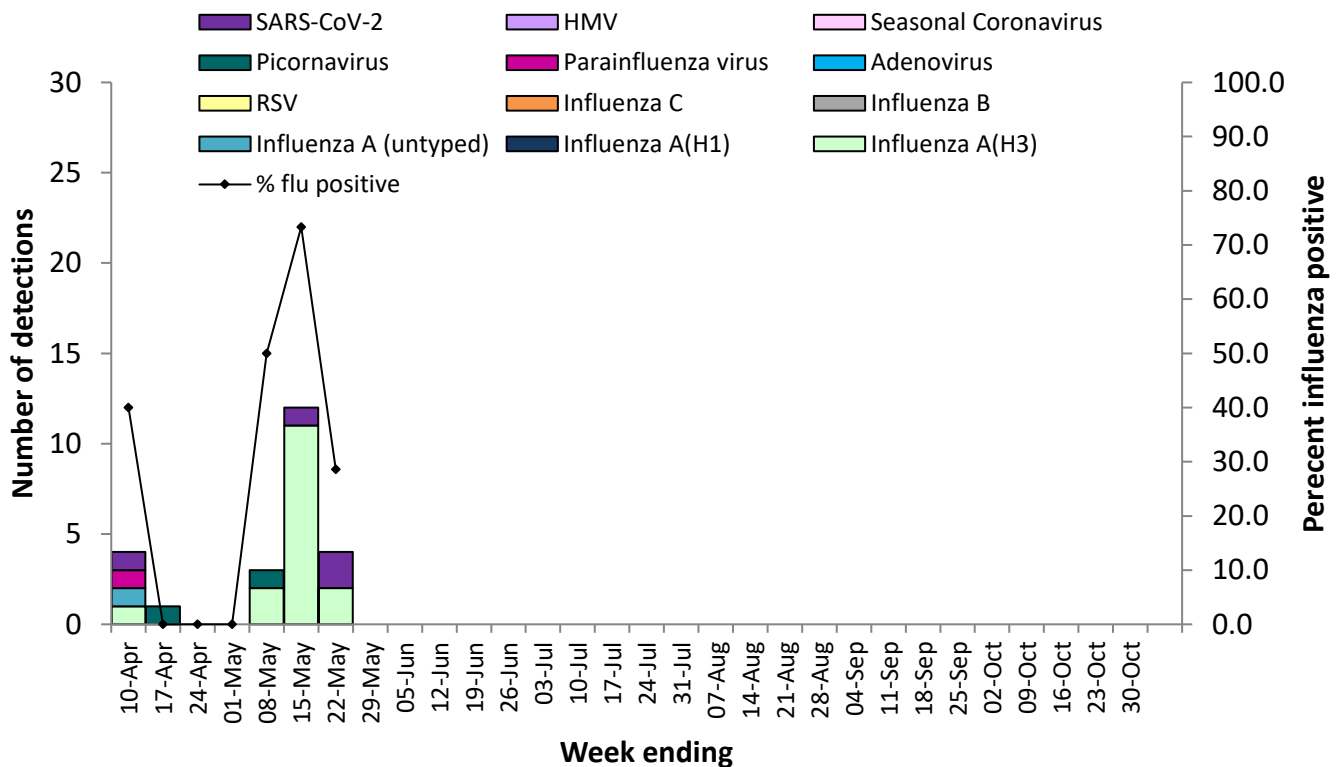


Figure 4. VicSPIN respiratory virus detections and percent influenza positive, Victoria, 2022



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 2,339 (Table 2).
- A total of 7,306 cases of laboratory confirmed influenza have been processed so far in 2022, almost 118-fold increase on the number notified by the same time in 2021, but only 0.6-fold the number in 2019 prior to the COVID pandemic (Figure 1 and Table 2).
- Year to date, 99.95% of notified cases have been type A (22% of Type A cases are aged less than 10 years and 7% aged 65 years and over), one case has been type B and one case has been type A and B.
- The number of total SARS-CoV-2 cases for this week is 83,321 (Table 2).
- A total of 1,633,482 probable and confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases have been notified so far in 2022 compared with 173 for the same in 2021 (Table 2)
- There have been 20,922,368 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.

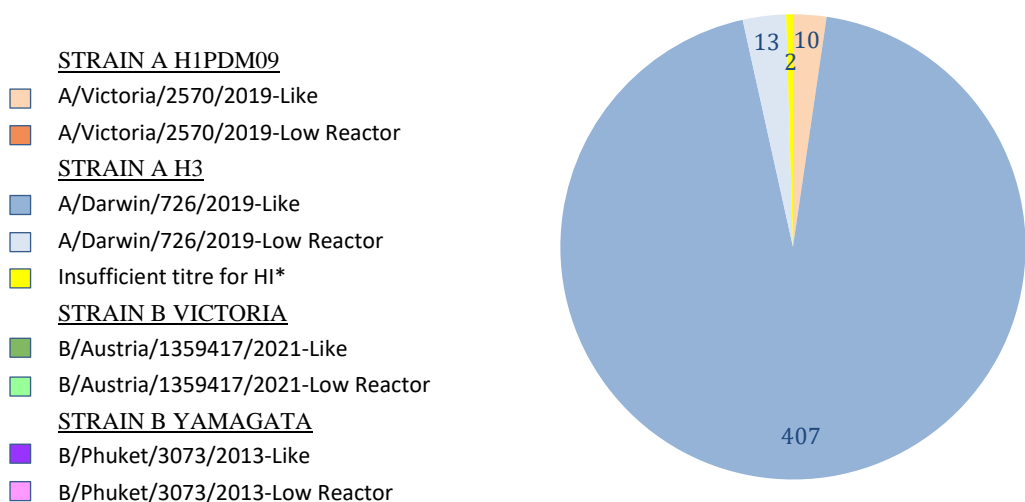
Table 2. Summary of notified influenza and SARS-CoV-2 cases, week ending 22 May 2022.

| | Week | 2022 Year-to-date | 2021 Year-to-date |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Notified influenza cases | 2,339 | 7,306 | 62 |
| Notified SARS-CoV-2 cases | 83,321 | 1,633,482 | 173 |

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 430 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 397 Australian isolates tested so far in 2022.