



WEEK ENDING 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014

## KEY POINTS

### INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES (ILI)

**Summary:** Respiratory syncytial virus activity (RSV) remains elevated this week, but influenza activity remains low.

- ILI presentations to sentinel general practitioners (GPs) and emergency departments (EDs) remain low and consistent with inter-seasonal levels.
- The number of persons hospitalised with influenza remains low.
- Influenza virus detections remain low, with influenza A/H3N2 and influenza B co-circulating.
- Non-influenza respiratory virus detections varied, with an increase in parainfluenza activity, a decrease in rhinovirus and adenovirus activity, and little change in the activity of RSV or human metapneumovirus.

### GASTROENTERITIS

- Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs are around expected levels. Norovirus detections increased but remain relatively low.

### VARICELLA AND VIRAL RASHES

- Shingles presentations to sentinel GPs and EDs were near expected levels this week, and no chickenpox was reported.
- No cases of measles, mumps or rubella were reported this week.

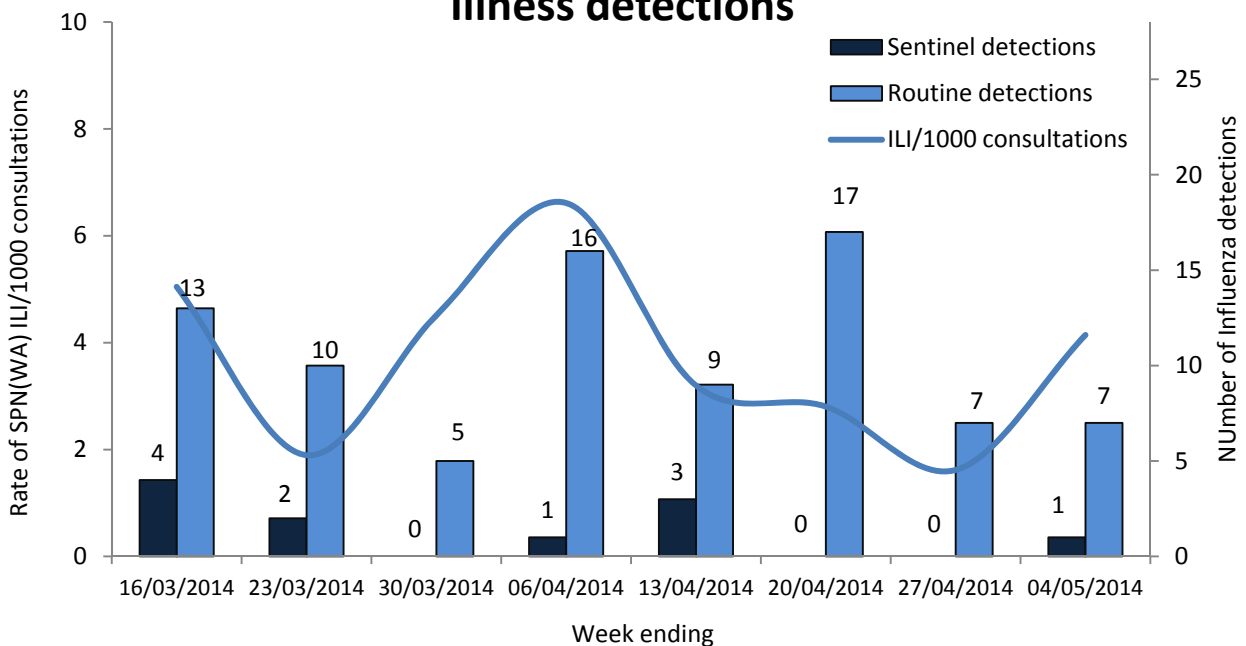
Current and archived issues of Virus Watch [http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus\\_watch.pm](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/487/3/virus_watch.pm)

*Virus Watch is a weekly electronic publication by the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) and key collaborators. It provides a brief summary of General Practice and Hospital Emergency Department sentinel surveillance data on influenza-like illness, gastroenteritis and varicella-zoster disease, together with relevant laboratory information, to alert health care workers in WA to important circulating viruses. General Practice data are collected by members of the Sentinel Practitioners Network of Western Australia - SPN(WA). Emergency Department data are provided by the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS), which incorporates data from the following hospitals: Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Princess Margaret Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Bunbury Hospital, Armadale Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Swan District Hospital and Rockingham General Hospital. Viral laboratory data are obtained from PathWest laboratories at QEII Medical Centre and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, as well as via notification data sent by all WA laboratories to CDCD, WA Department of Health.*

*All figures and data were accurate at time of publication, but subject to change.*

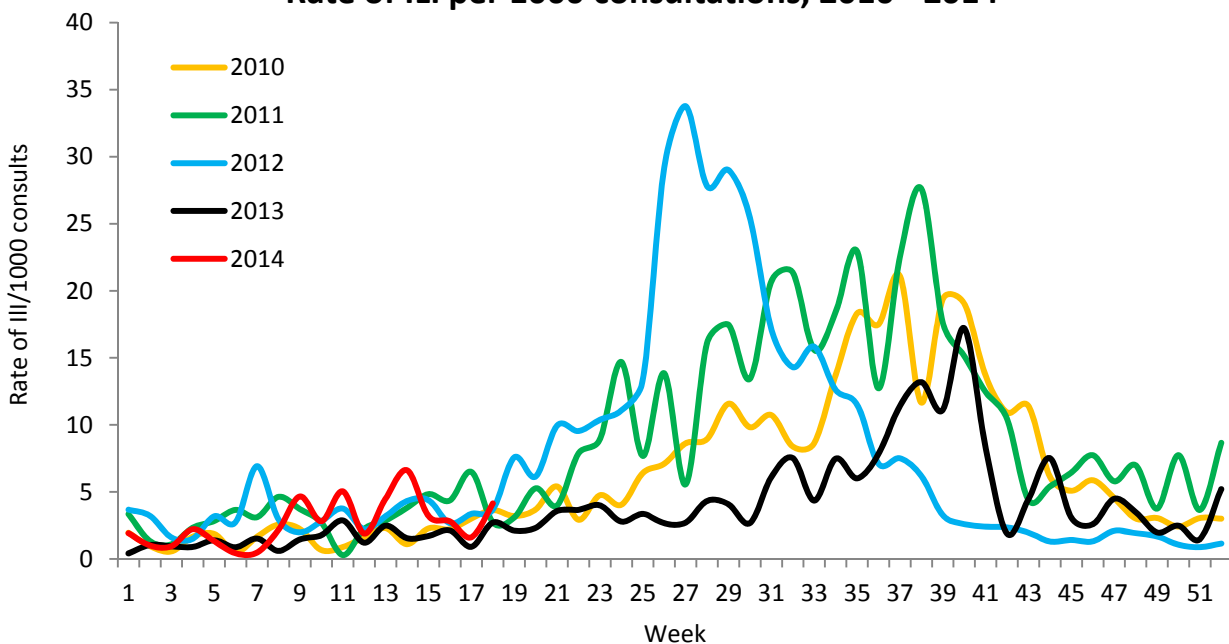
# Influenza and Influenza-like Illnesses

## Sentinel and Routine Influenza and Influenza-like-Illness detections



Detections of influenza virus and ILI attendance at sentinel practices continue to fluctuate at low levels. Twelve swabs were collected in sentinel practices, one (8%) of which tested positive for influenza virus; of 212 routinely collected specimens, 7 (3%) tested positive.

## Sentinel Practitioner Network of WA - GP surveillance Rate of ILI per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014

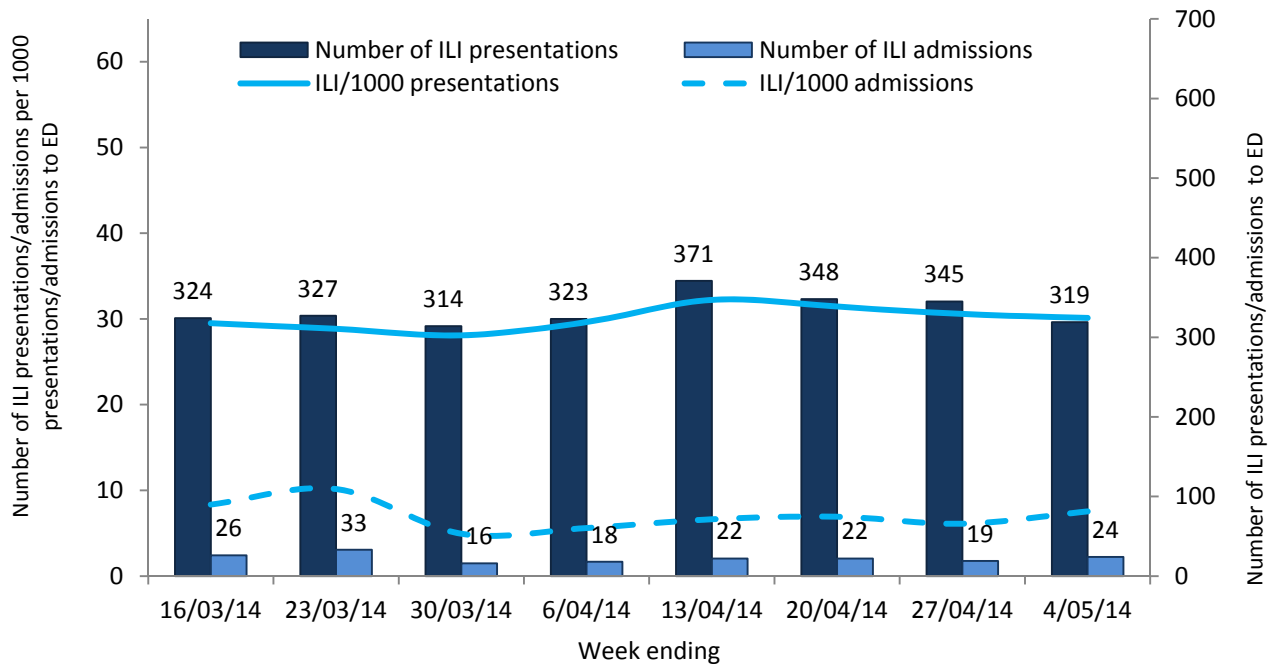


The rate of ILI presentations to SPN(WA) GPs increased to 4 cases per 1000 consultations this week, which is in the mid-range of levels seen during the corresponding period in recent years.



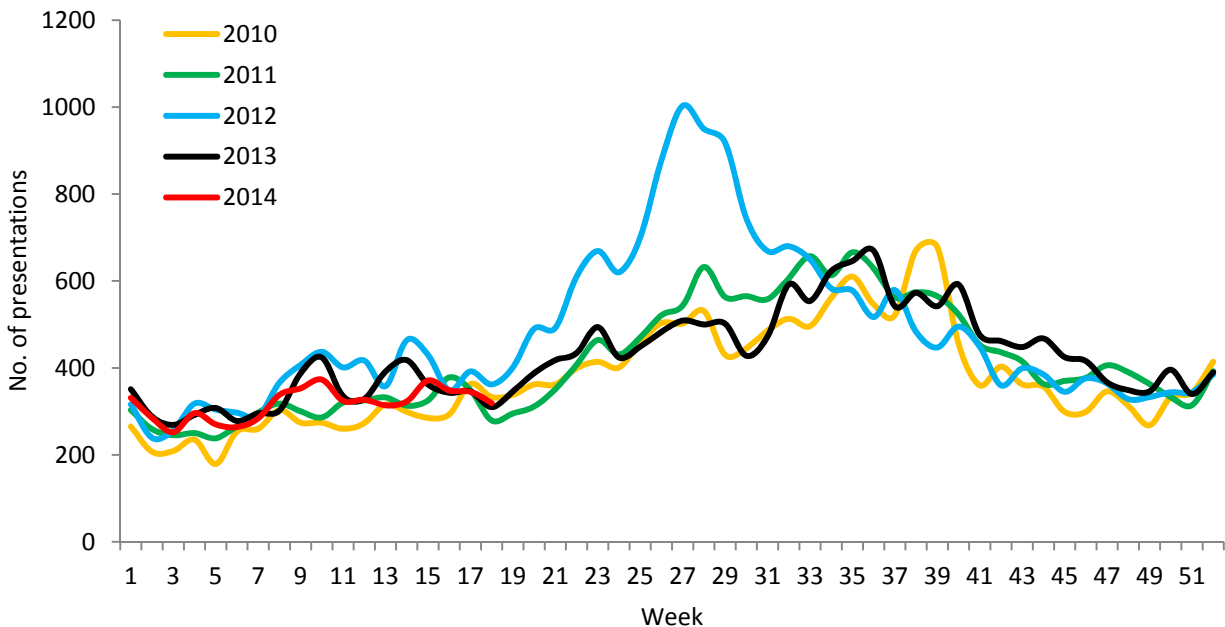
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for respiratory viral presentations.

### Viral Respiratory ED Presentations and Admissions



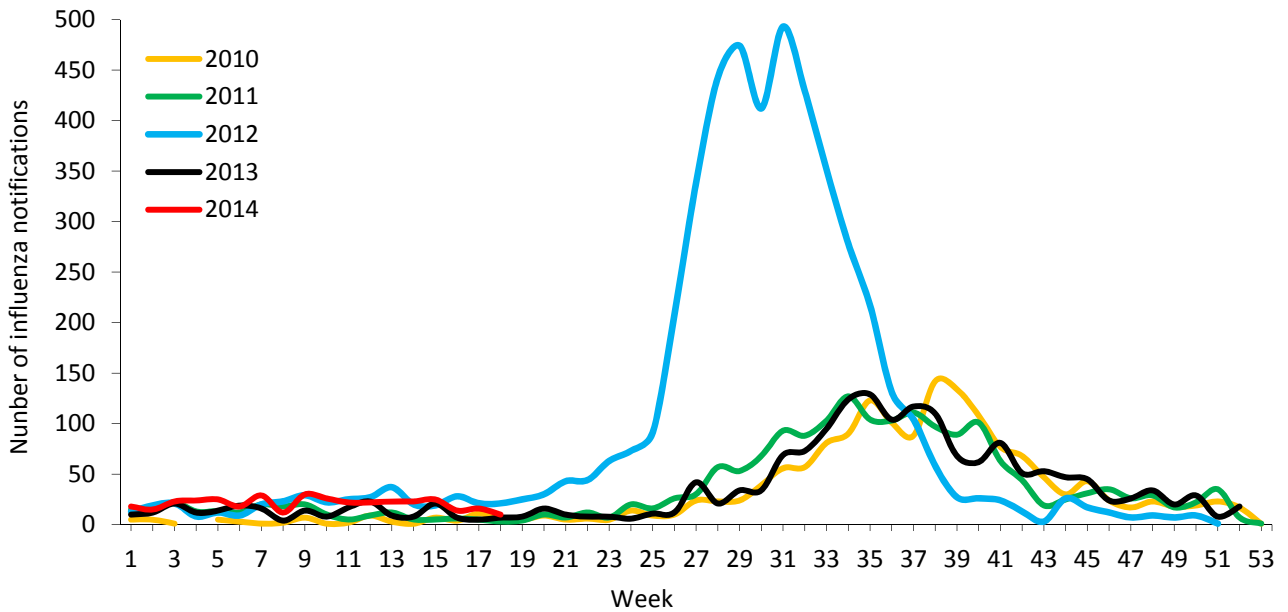
ED presentations and admissions for viral respiratory diseases remain steady this week.

### ED Respiratory Viral Presentations, 2010 - 2014



The number of ILI presentations to sentinel EDs remains similar to presentations during the same time period in recent years.

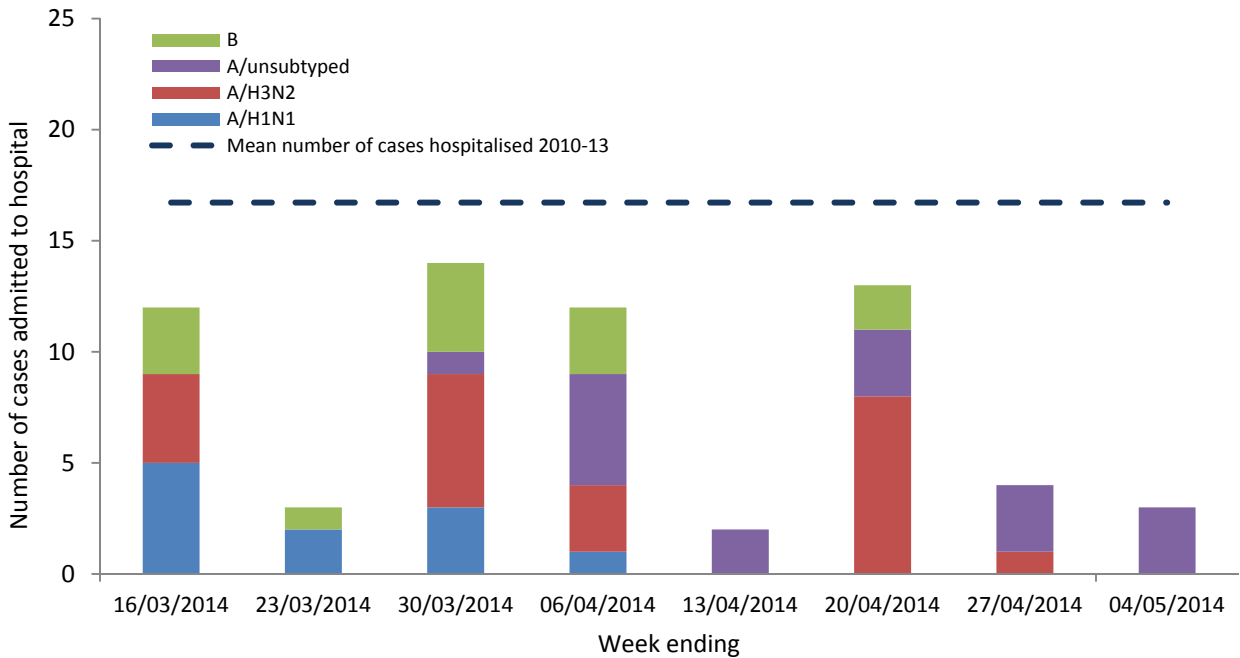
### Influenza notifications in Western Australia by week, 2010 to 2014



**Ten confirmed influenza cases were reported to the Department of Health this week, consistent with inter-seasonal levels.**

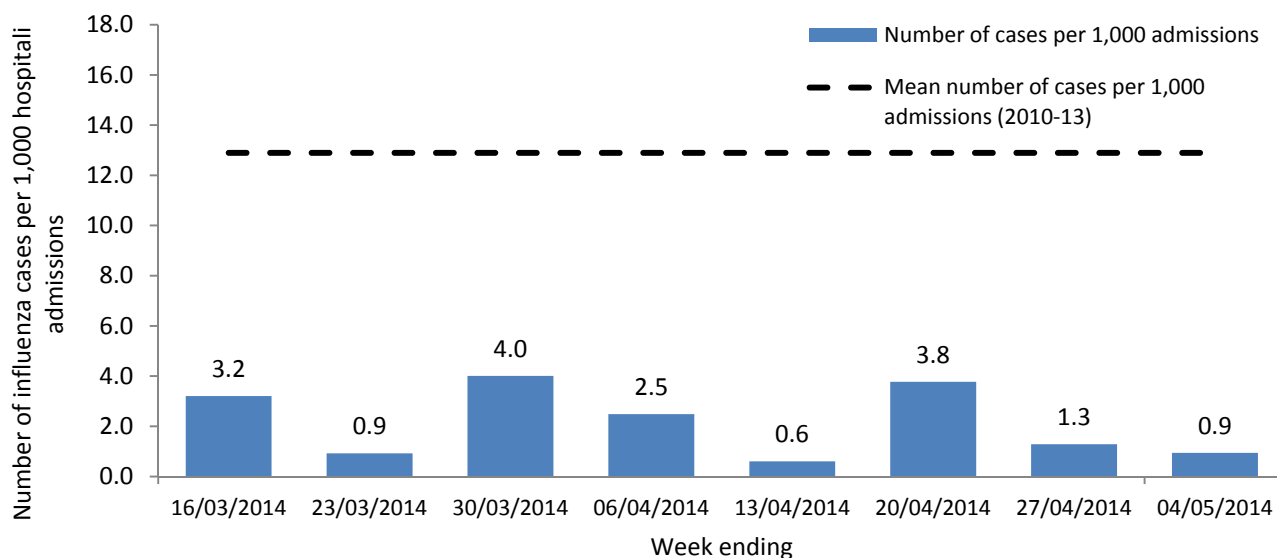
The graph is a summary of all influenza notifications received by the DoH, Western Australia to the end of the current reporting week, for which cases had date of symptom onset or specimen collection between 28/04/2014 and 05/0405/2014.

### Number of influenza cases hospitalised



**Four notified influenza cases were hospitalised in the past week, all of which were influenza A/unsubtyped infections.**

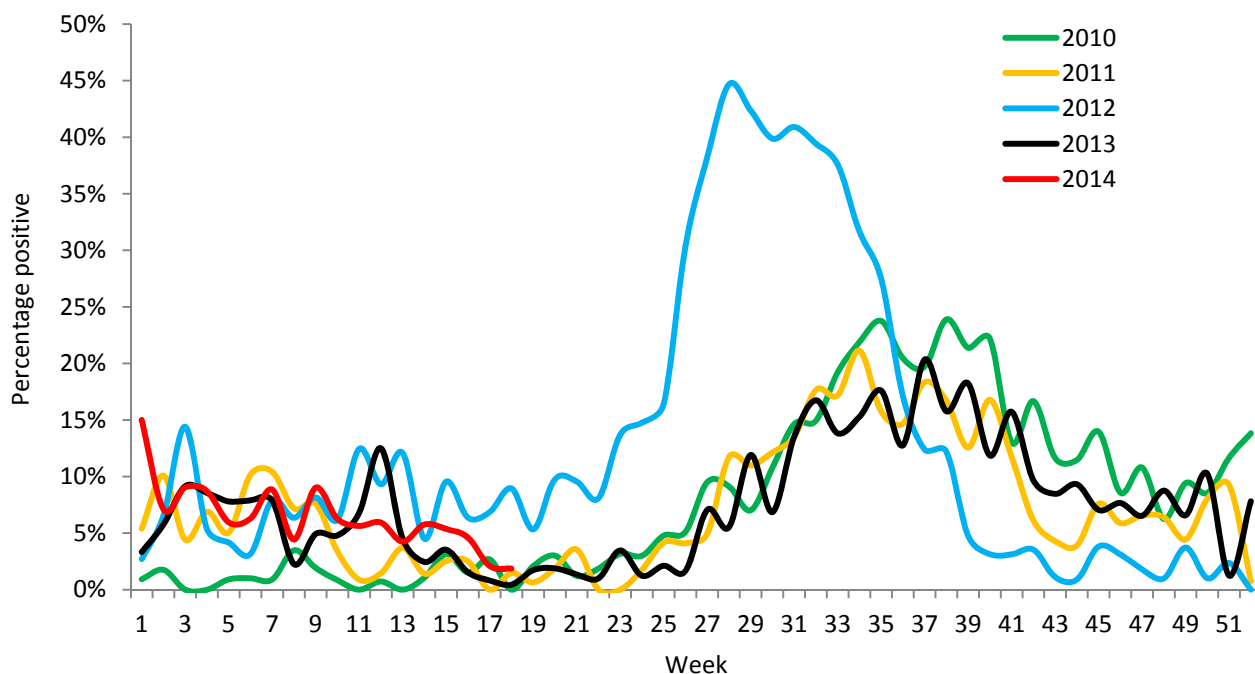
## Influenza cases per 1000 hospital admissions



**The proportion of hospital admissions notified as having laboratory-confirmed influenza remains well below baseline level.**

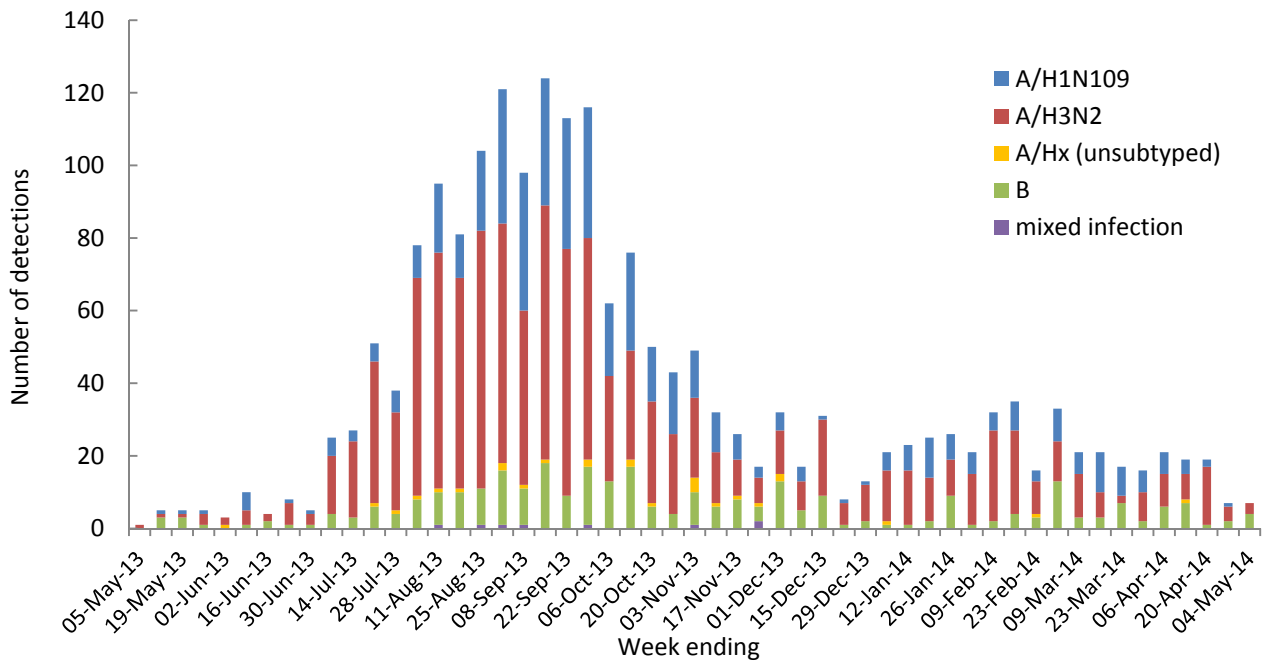
The graph is a summary of influenza notifications received by the DoH who were recorded as having a hospital admission, expressed per 1,000 admissions.

## PathWest-QEII-PMH influenza percentage positive 2010 - 2014



**Among samples tested at PathWest-QEII-PMH this week, 1.5% tested positive for influenza virus, which is in the mid-range of levels observed at this period in recent years.**

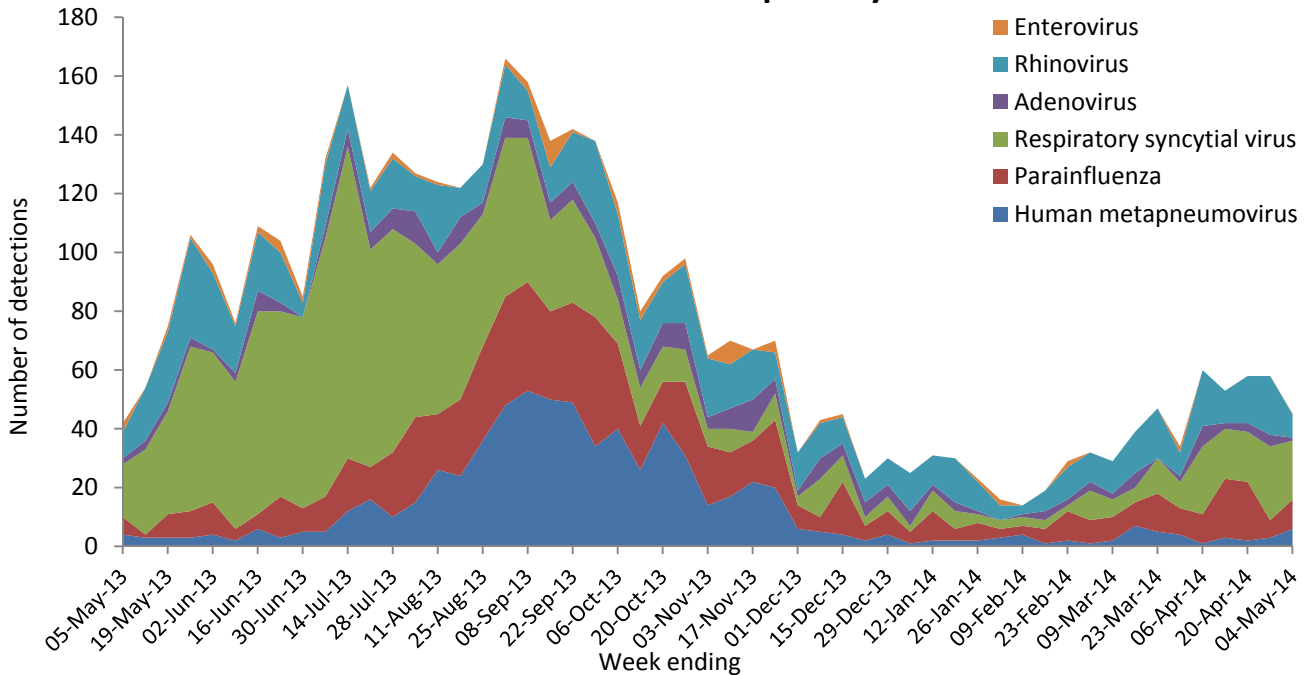
### PathWest-QEII-PMH 2013-2014 Influenza subtypes



**Seven influenza viruses were characterised by PathWest, QEII and PMH during this reporting week, comprising 3 (43%) influenza A/H3N2 and 4 (57%) influenza B.**

The graph is a summary of all samples that have been recorded as subtyped at PathWest QEII as of 12.01am Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and may differ from numbers described in the above figure.

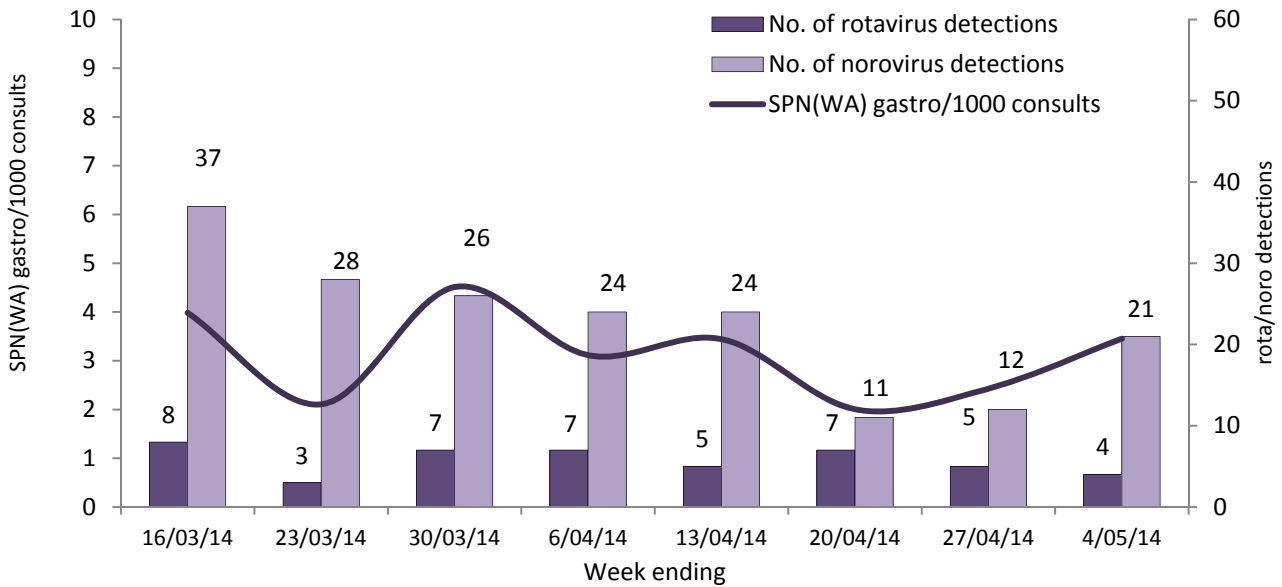
### 2013-2014 Non-Influenza respiratory viruses



**Detections of respiratory syncytial virus and human metapneumovirus were relatively stable this week. Rhinovirus and adenovirus detections decreased, and parainfluenza virus detections increased slightly.**

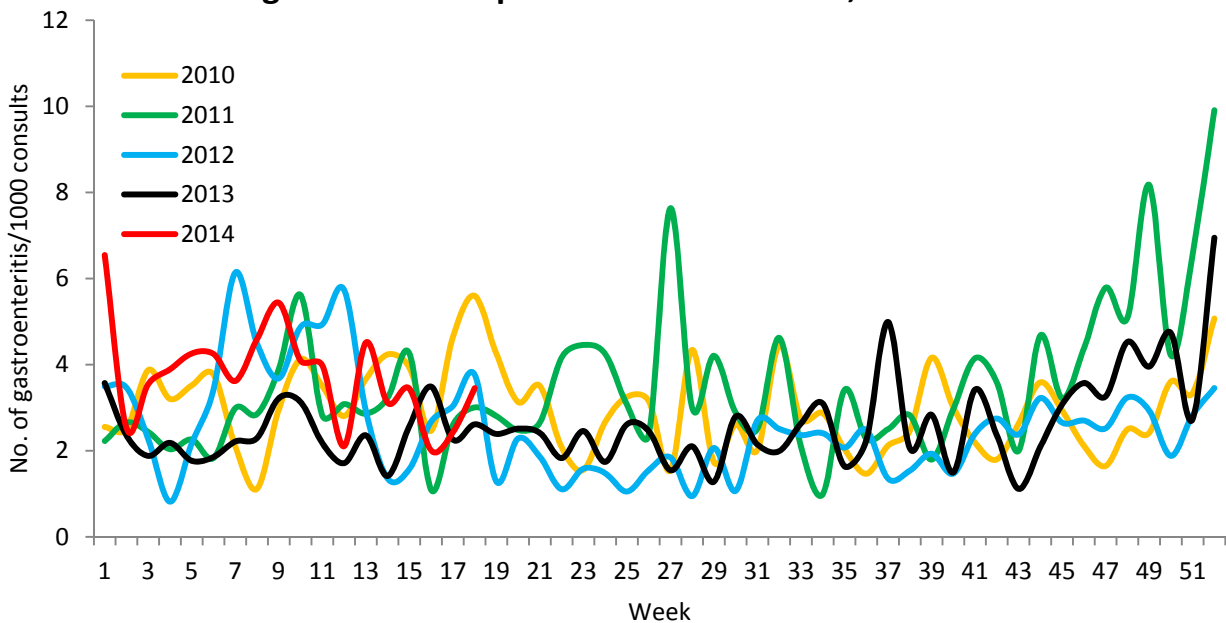
# Gastroenteritis

## Gastroenteritis



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs continue to fluctuate between 2-5 cases per 1000 consultations. Norovirus detections increased.

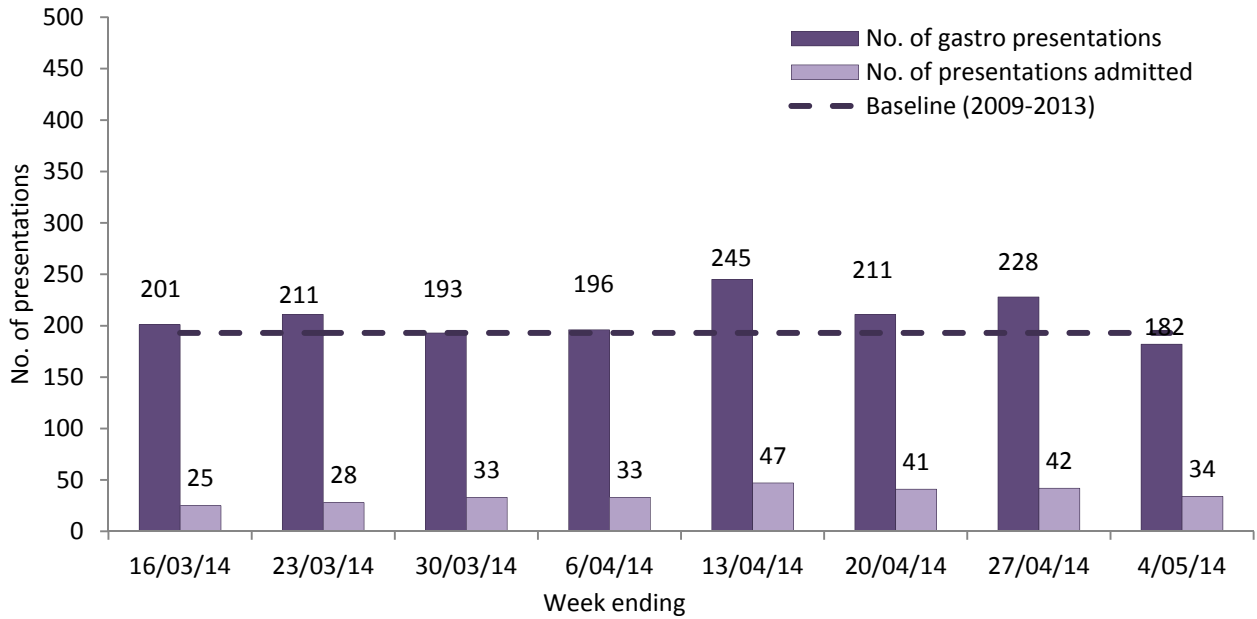
## Sentinel Practitioner's Network of WA SPN(WA) - GP surveillance Rate of gastroenteritis per 1000 consultations, 2010 - 2014



The rate of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel GPs continues to fluctuate within the range of levels experienced at this time in recent years.

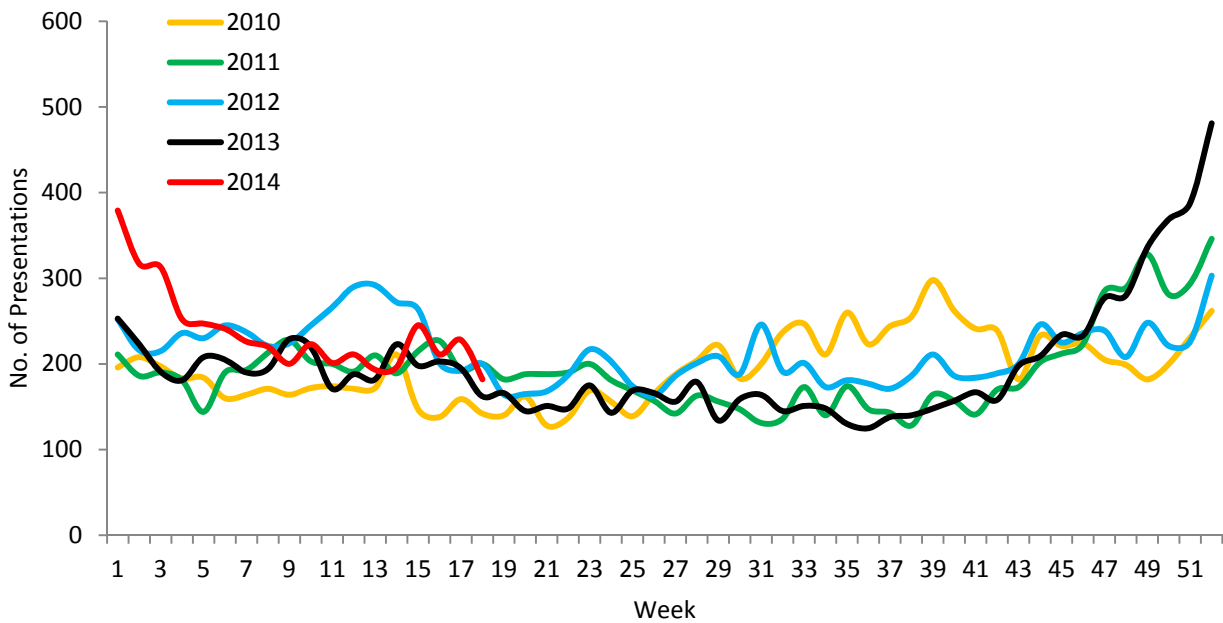
The following is a summary of current Emergency Department Sentinel Surveillance (EDSS) data for gastroenteritis presentations. Baseline levels for gastroenteritis presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

### Gastroenteritis ED Presentations



Gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs declined below baseline this week.

### ED Gastroenteritis Presentations 2010 - 2014

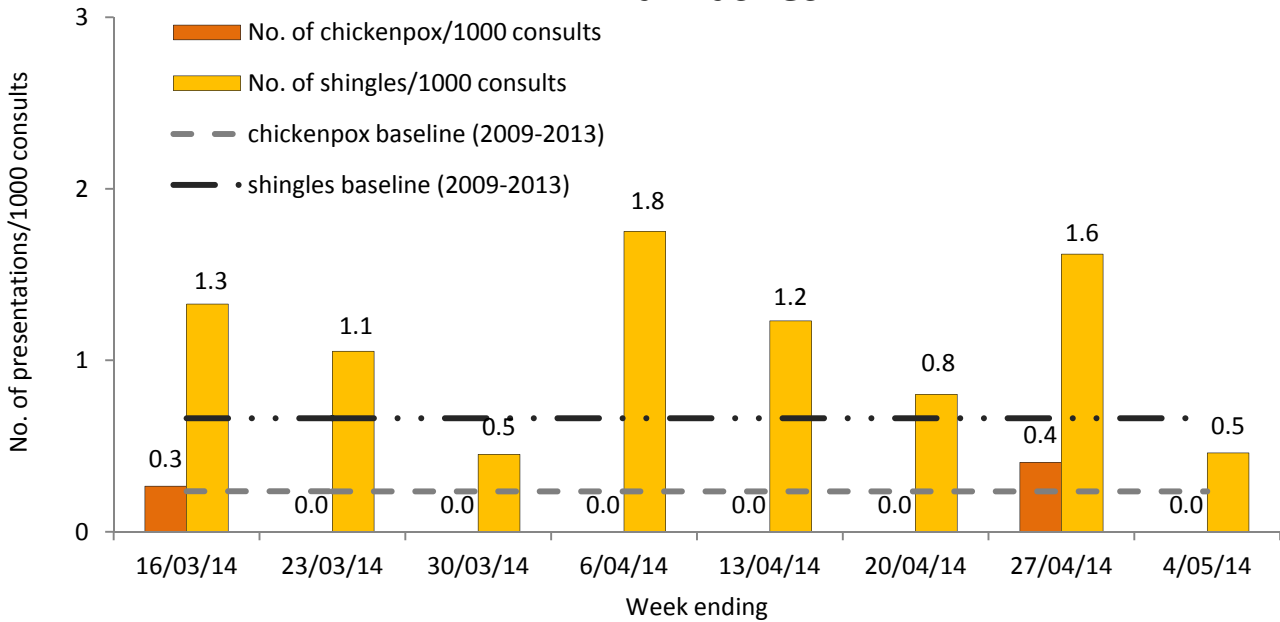


The number of gastroenteritis presentations to sentinel EDs decreased this week, reaching the mid-range of levels seen during this time period in previous years.



# Viral Rashes

## Viral Rashes

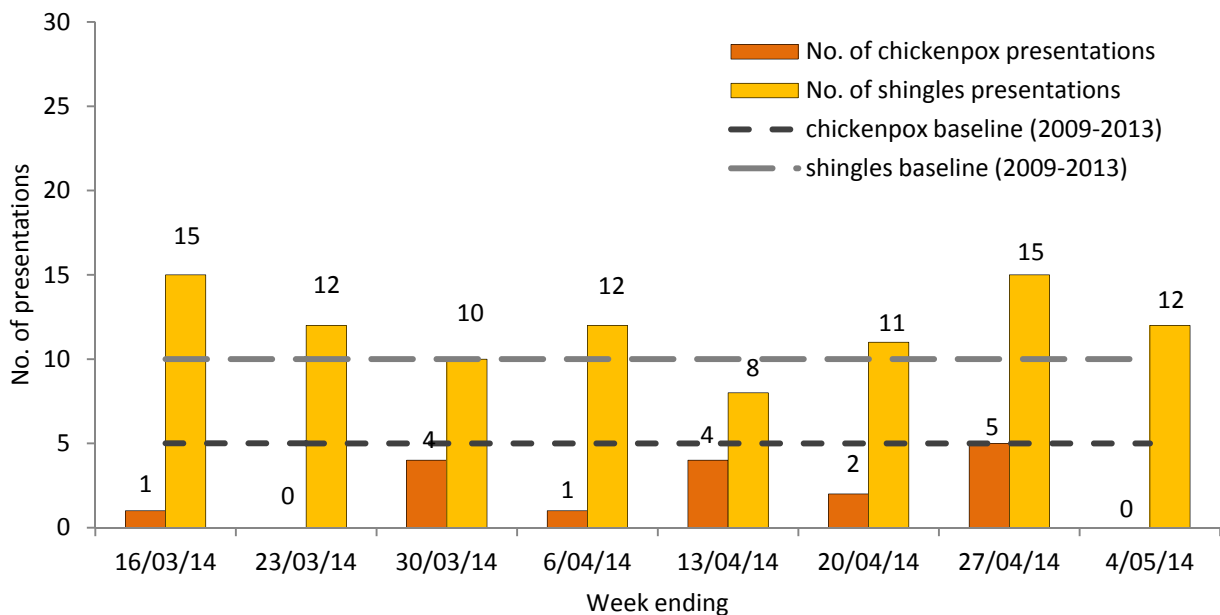


**The rate of shingles presentations to SPN(WA) GPs decreased below baseline level this week. No chickenpox cases were seen at sentinel GPs. No cases of measles, mumps, or rubella were reported this week.**

Baseline levels for chickenpox and shingles presentations to SPN(WA) GPs per thousand consultations were calculated using the mean of weekly WA ASPREN data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

The following is a summary of current Emergency Department sentinel surveillance (EDSS) data for varicella-zoster virus presentations. Baseline levels for varicella-zoster virus presentations were calculated using the mean of weekly EDIS data from week 1, 2009 to week 52, 2013.

## Varicella-Zoster virus ED Presentations



**Shingles presentations to sentinel EDs remain near baseline. No chickenpox cases were seen at sentinel EDs this week.**